



J. Ben W. Fortson, Jr., Secretary of State of the State of Georgia, do hereby certify, that

"THOMAS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC."

was on the 7th day of June, 1952,
duly incorporated under the laws of the State of Georgia by the Superior Court of
Thomas County for a period of thirty-five years
from said date, in accordance with the certified copy hereto attached, and that a certified copy
of the charter of said corporation has been duly filed in the office of the Secretary of State and
the fees therefor paid, as provided by law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
and affixed the seal of office, at the Capitol, in the City of
Atlanta, this 23rd day of June in the year
of our Lord One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-
Two and of the Independence of the United States
of America the One Hundred and Seventy- Sixth.



Our history begins here. Let us start you on the journey.



Welcome to 2022, our anniversary year for so many things! This year we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Historical Society (1952), the 50th anniversary of the museum itself (1972) and the 30th anniversary of Pilau (1993). So we've got lots of things to commemorate and yet we still have so much to do...

In addition to our regular programs and activities and all these fantastic anniversaries, we will be taking some time in 2022 to dig deep into long range planning for the Lapham-Patterson House so look for opportunities to join us in those conversations. Thank you to our members for your continued support as we celebrate all our milestones!

All the best,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Anne McCudden". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Anne McCudden
Executive Director, Thomasville History Center

A (Brief) History of the History Center

The Thomas County Historical Society- now the Thomasville History Center- grew out of Bob Mary Lindsay Watt's concern that the history of Thomas County be written. A meeting of local citizens was held in January 1952, and W. W. Alexander was elected president of the newly organized Society. Bessie Hopkins had previously been engaged to write the history, and in 1951 the County began paying her a salary of \$200.00 per month to proceed with the work of gathering data related to the history of Thomas County. Mitchell Davenport devoted many hours to visiting older citizens and recording their recollections for the Society.

Two rooms were made available in the jail annex for the safe housing of the Society's collections but the Society suffered a great loss in 1957 with the death of Bessie Hopkins. In 1960, Dr. William W. Rogers, Professor of History at Florida State University, signed on to write the official county history. Dr. Rogers completed the first volume of this history entitled ANTEBELLUM THOMAS COUNTY, 1825-1861, in 1963. Three volumes followed in the next several decades.

The estate of Mitchell Davenport and his sister Julia gifted the Society with funds in 1968 that became the nucleus of a permanent endowment. In 1969, the Society acquired its permanent home through the gift of Elizabeth Ireland "Pansy" Poe in memory of her grandparents, Mrs. and Mrs. Howard Melville Hanna, and her mother, Kate Hanna Harvey. The museum at Flowers-Roberts House at 725 N. Dawson Street opened to the public in 1972 with Curator C. Tom Hill at the helm. Since then, our staff, collections, and programming reach have grown more inclusive of the many stories and experiences of Thomas County's past.

A Milestone Year

70TH

1952

Thomas County Historical Society forms

50TH

1972

The museum opens to the public at the Flowers-Roberts House, 725 N. Dawson Street

30TH

1993

Jasper Davis organizes the first Pilau supper on the grounds of the History Center



Thomas County Historical Society, Editorial. Thomasville Times-Enterprise, October 1953



Curator Tom Hill photographs a display in the newly opened Museum of History, 1972. Your eyes do not deceive you, that is a bathroom! The space (now minus most of its former fixtures, serves as a storage area and workspace.)



The first Pilau dinner at the Thomasville History Center, 1993

Slides of March Returns

This year, we're continuing our hybrid approach to the Slides of March. During this two-part series, we encourage attendees to join us in person or online based on your preference. As always, these programs are free and open to all.

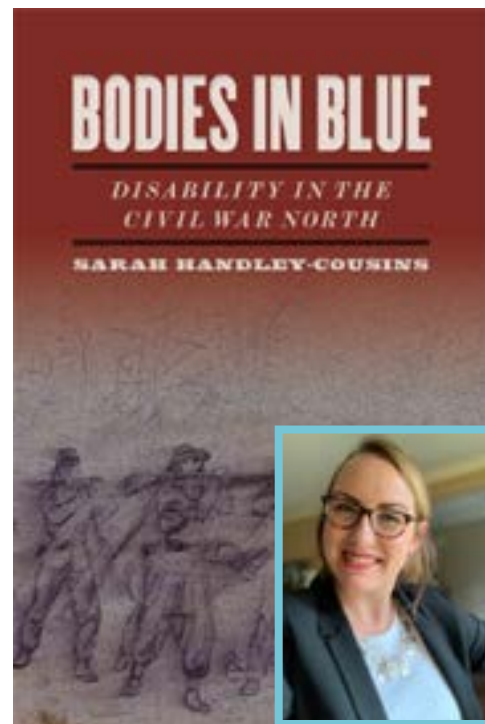
On Tuesday, March 8 at 7:30pm, our own Meme Greitzer will present *TRIED, DIED, SURVIVED* at the History Center. Join Meme as she traces the fate of several Union prisoners of war who were evacuated to Thomasville in advance of Sherman's March to the Sea in December of 1864. The imprisoned soldiers spent about 10 days in Thomasville before the threat of Sherman's forces passed, and they were returned to Andersonville. They and thousands of other Andersonville prisoners faced extreme hardship and illness, and several who survived memorialized those experiences in personal memoirs and letters later in life. Some even returned to Thomasville during the Resort Era. The lecture will also be streamed via Zoom webinar.

On Tuesday, March 15 Dr. Sarah Handley-Cousins will present *DISABILITY & THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR* via Zoom. Attendees are encouraged to attend in person or from home via Zoom. Sarah Handley-Cousins is a clinical assistant professor and associate director of the Center for Disability Studies at the University at Buffalo. In addition to teaching and research, she serves as the executive editor of the online history publication *NURSING CLIO* and is a producer of *DIG: A HISTORY PODCAST*. Dr. Handley-Cousins' work centers on how mental and physical disabilities influenced ideas of masculinity in the Union.

Her book, *BODIES IN BLUE* is available now. We encourage you to shop local and visit our friends at The Bookshelf to order your copy today!



John Foran, c.1862-1912; Imprisoned at Thomasville's camp in December 1864
Courtesy of the New Jersey State Archives, Department of State
National Guard Photograph Collection



Use your smartphone to scan this QR code and purchase your copy of [BODIES IN BLUE from The Bookshelf](#).

Open camera, focus on code, tap link when it appears.

Collections Spotlight

... So Uncle Bob I became and Uncle Bob I'll always be.

In honor of her role in the founding of the Thomasville History Center, we'd like to spotlight the work and contributions of Bob Mary Lindsey Watt, also known as "Uncle Bob." Today, the Watt Family Collection includes several hundred photographs, artifacts, books, and archival records of the Watt Family and Thomas County at large. But that is just a small portion of her story and contributions to our history. The imprint of Bob Watt's passion for local history and documentarian spirit extends into numerous other collections and the existence of the History Center itself. Her leadership in organizing the Thomas County Historical Society and in establishing our museum has had immeasurable impact.

In 1952, Bob and several other local citizens held the first community meeting to organize what became the Historical Society. Their goal was to compile and publish a history of Thomas County. An avid historian herself, Bob led the charge in aligning community support and funding. Later, when the Historical Society continued to grow its collection and scope, Bob once again took on a leadership role as the Board President and helped secure a permanent home for the collection and eventual museum. Soon after, the museum opened in 1972. In effect, Bob Watt was the first curator of the Historical Society's collection. Her handwritten accession notes form our first collection inventory.

Bob Mary Lindsey was born in 1891 in Carrollton, Missouri. An interview with her conducted in 1972 by the Times-Enterprise, shares the origins of her unique name:

Her older brother, who was just talking when she was born, began calling her "Sister Bob." She was christened "Bob" and soon afterwards the brother died with diphtheria. She was so devoted to the boy that the name stuck. The "Uncle Bob" came about because a small nephew had three real uncles already and when she came along with the masculine name "Bob," he decided she would be uncle No. 4, "so Uncle Bob I became and Uncle Bob I'll always be."



Will & Bob Watt in the living room of their home at 714 N. Dawson Street, September 1957
Watt Family Collection, Donated by the Estate of Bob Mary Lindsey Watt
1978.09.137

Bob married William Augustine Watt in 1914, shortly after the start of World War I. The couple had planned a European honeymoon but war, and later children, and community obligations, kept them from that trip for more than 40 years. Bob documented their belated honeymoon in a book entitled, *HONEYMOON ODYSSEY*, published in 1972. The Watts' role in the Rotary Club's Georgia Rotary Student Fund extended their reach and influence across the globe as the program funded international students' education at Georgia colleges and universities.

Calendar Notes

March 5: Tiptoe Through the Tombstones Tours, 10 am & 2pm. Register online thomasvillehistory.org/eventsandprograms.

March 8: International Women's Day

March 8: Slides of March: TRIED, DIED, SURVIVED, Presented by Meme Greitzer, 7:30pm

March 12: Member Excursion to Andersonville National Historic Site, \$30 per person. Must provide own transportation. We will provide lunch. Register online thomasvillehistory.org/eventsandprograms.

March 15: Slides of March: DISABILITY IN THE CIVIL WAR, Presented by Dr. Sarah Handley-Cousins, 7:30pm

March 17: History Mystery with Meme (video)

March 19: Spring Equinox at the Lapham-Patterson House, 4pm-6pm

April 1: 1950 Census release

April 2: Tiptoe Through the Tombstones Tours, 10 am & 2pm. Register online thomasvillehistory.org/eventsandprograms.

April 15-April 30: Rose Show & Festival Exhibit

April 16: Museum of Florida History Annual Children's Day, Tallahassee, Free

May 7: Tiptoe Through the Tombstones Tours, 10 am & 2pm. Register online thomasvillehistory.org/eventsandprograms.

June 4: Tiptoe Through the Tombstones Tours, 10 am & 2pm. Register online thomasvillehistory.org/eventsandprograms.

June 6-10: Camp Dawson, open to Kindergarten-5th graders

June 21-23: Camp LPH open to 6th-8th graders

Thomasville In Bloom

This Rose Show, we will bring back the popular temporary exhibit of gowns, memorabilia, and trophies of Thomasville's Rose Show and Festival. The exhibit will be on display from April 15 through April 30 in the Flowers-Roberts House.

We are also always actively collecting photographs, objects, home videos, etc. of the Rose Show and Festival for our collections. We have a great deal of photograph and film footage from the 1950s and 1960s, but would love to see what you have from the 1970s and beyond. We are also accepting gowns from past Thomasville Rose Queens and Miss Thomasville's. We are grateful to those who have entrusted the long-term care and keeping of your Rose Show memories to us.



Gowns and crowns of former Miss Thomasville's on display in April 2021 for the centennial Rose Show & Festival

Save the Dates: SummerCamps 2022

It's hard to believe, but it is almost time to open registration for another summer of adventure at our annual history camps! We've taken the few years of experimenting with new ages and activities and are excited to offer hands-on and engaging experiences again this summer. Please note the adjustments to the eligible ages for each camp.

Camp registration will open in early March and scholarships applications will be due on May 1.

Spring Equinox at the LPH

Join us Saturday, March 19 from 4pm until 6pm to mark the vernal equinox at the Lapham-Patterson House. Weather permitting, we will view the "light show" created when the sun reaches the point in the horizon to cast shadows onto the 3rd floor from the bargeboard.

Attendees can explore the House in between checking in on the light show. The best time to view the shadows is between 4pm and 5pm. We will have materials on hand for making sun catchers inspired by the LPH's stained glass windows. This event is open to all ages and is presented free of charge. Donations in support of the Lapham-Patterson House are appreciated.



CAMP DAWSON

June 6-10

Open Rising Kindergarten through Rising 5th Graders
9am-4pm daily
(Early drop off and late pickup available)
Members, \$175
Non-Members, \$200

Join us for 5 fun-filled days of museum mischief and discovery. Campers will experience different eras in community history and create an exhibit of their new knowledge for family and friends to enjoy.



CAMP LPH

June 21-23

Open Rising 6th-Rising 8th Graders
9am-4pm daily
(Early drop off and late pickup available)
Presented in partnership with Thomasville
Landmarks
Members, \$130
Non-Members, \$150

Campers will learn the principles of historic preservation and design by collaborating on the construction of a tabletop historic district.

New Membership Perks

All History Center members who join or renew in 2022 have a couple new perks to enjoy! In addition to the standing free admission at the History Center and LPH, discounts on book and merchandise purchases using code Members2022, and subscription to The Hourglass, our members will now be eligible to participate in reciprocal membership programs. You will also receive a new membership card with your donation acknowledgement. Keep it in a safe place! That is your pass to receive benefits at dozens of reciprocal institutions.

All members are enrolled in SERM- Southeastern Reciprocal Membership- organized by the Southeastern Museums Conference of which the History Center is a member. Visit semcdirect.net/SERM-Participants for a list of participating institutions. SERM recommends that you contact the institution you intend to visit in advance to confirm benefits such as free or reduced admission.

History Center members at the Patron (\$100) level and above are also eligible for NARM- North American Reciprocal Museum Association. Visit narmassociation.org/members/ for a list of participating institutions.



Your Journey Starts Here

There's a new way for visitors to the History Center and Lapham-Patterson House to plan their trip. We've made online pre-sales available for those wanting to get ahead on their admission fees and planning.

Visitors can choose the day and time of their visit and pre-pay. This will help us to anticipate busy days and tour times at both locations. In effect, the advanced system acts as a reservation for that day and time but it does not prevent us from accepting walk-up tours.

We introduced another new pass this fall called the Journey Pass. These are available for those visitors who plan to tour both sites on Fridays or Saturdays. The combined reduced rate admission saves guests a little money and streamlines the check-in process. So far, we've sold roughly 50 Journey Passes.

Memorials

Thomas Black

Mr. & Mrs. Charles McKinnon Jr.

Libba Flowers

Mary Jo S. Beverly

Rebecca Allen

Mary Jo S. Beverly

Philip Wertz

Honors

Barbara Clinebell

Martha Ruth Feland

Martha Crouch

Sherman &

David Sherman

Martha Ruth Feland

A Road-MAP for Engagement

As you will remember, the History Center was accepted into the MAP or Museum Assessment Program in 2021. MAP is a joint venture between the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) and the Institute for Museum & Library Sciences (IMLS) that helps institutions to do a great deal of self-reflection and discussion and provides a peer reviewer to visit each program site and offer their suggestions for moving forward.



History Center Board and staff attended a retreat in January 2020 to draft the current strategic plan.

The History Center participated in the MAP for Engagement- how we identify, connect with, serve, and overall engage with our audience. Our reviewer visited in mid-October and spent two days shadowing staff, meeting with the Board and community partners, and getting a sense of the History Center and how we operate. We recently received their report. It contains many suggestions for the History Center to implement moving forward including a new long-range strategic plan, as well as other foundational documents that will guide our daily work and future goals. The History Center will embark on the process to write a new strategic plan in 2023 and will rely on your feedback to help us set our intentions for the next few years.

We are incredibly grateful to our MAP Engagement committee members, Kha McDonald, Susan Vann, and Elisa Carter, who stepped in and stepped up to help us think critically about our work. We are also appreciative to those who gave their time during the reviewer's visit.

2021-2022 BENEFACTOR, SUSTAINER, & PATRON BUSINESS MEMBERS



Take a Deep Dive

During the pandemic, we introduced a new educational program that educators can use to compliment their curriculum. Each game is aligned to state Standards of Excellence and often exceed the standards in their scope. Our Deep Dive games mimic escape room challenges in that students have to complete a series of activities based on primary sources, reading comprehension, visual analysis, and more, to advance through the game. We utilize Google Drive to share the materials and build the game in Google Forms. The games are designed to be played either individually or as groups. In most cases, we also have an activity pack that we call the Independent Explorer that contains many additional activities that educators can print off as individual sheets and use to supplement the Deep Dive game or classroom instruction.

Given the unpredictable nature of programming during an ongoing pandemic. These games have been a fun way for us to remain engaged with students in classrooms across the community, even if we cannot be there in person to facilitate. Since their introduction, we've shared Deep Dive games with more than 600 students and educators. This activity, and all of our K-12 educational programming, is available free of charge thanks to the generosity of the Thomasville Antiques Show Foundation.

Available Deep Dive Games

Prehistory & Indigenous Cultures (Grades 2, 3, 8)
European Exploration (Grades 3, 8)
Colonial Georgia (Grade 8)
Georgia & The American Revolution (Grade 8)
Westward Expansion (Grades 4, 8)
The Civil War (Grades 4, 8)
Thomasville's Resort Era (Grade 5)

Activities on additional subjects and grade levels are completed upon request by Amelia and Meme. Typically, it takes about two weeks to design and construct a new activity. Our remote content reviewer, Dustin, checks it over to give it a teacher's stamp of approval. He makes sure it will work in the classroom and is grade level appropriate.



Want to give one of our Deep Dive games a try? Visit the link below to view our Westward Expansion game for 8th graders and play on!



<https://bit.ly/3s95bAZ>

Tips: Read the questions carefully and have the associated materials printed or pulled up digitally. Some links will be embedded in the Google Form itself. If you enter an incorrect answer, you cannot advance until the correct answer is entered. A complete how-to guide is included in the folder but be warned, it contains all the answers! Stop reading the instructions after the first couple of pages if you want to have the real student experience!



8th graders at Thomas County Middle School playing the 8th grade Deep Dive game about the Civil War in fall 2020. Students had to complete challenges to "escape" Andersonville Prison.

Apprentice Update

The Apprentices started their second semester of the program in January with an excursion to Pebble Hill Plantation. There, they got a first hand look at the operations of



a historic site that includes not only museums and archives, but expansive grounds. Students had a great tour with Lori Curtis and Kitty Spivey. Up next on their excursion schedule is a visit to the Jack Hadley Black History Museum.



Carter Newsome
Thomas County Central



Claire Pope
Thomas County Central

The Apprentices recently submitted their proposals for their capstone projects which they will complete over the next few months. Each Apprentice was encouraged to design a project that met a need or filled a void in the History Center's current operations. Projects could address any area of the History Center including education, collections, marketing, and more. Stay tuned for updates on the students' work and a celebration of their final projects in April.



Anabelle Proctor
Thomas County Central



Maggie Claire
Richardson
Scholars Academy

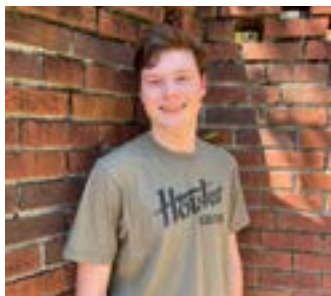
Tyler Kemarly, the Apprentice Program Coordinator, and Amelia have already begun planning for Year 2 of the program and plan to open applications for a new first year class in the early fall. Those Apprentices who choose to continue in Year 2 will experience an expanded curriculum and additional excursions.



Savannah Taylor
Thomas County Central



Ransom Young
Thomas County Central



Parker McCollum
Brookwood School



Tallulah King
Leon High School



Some of our wonderful Apprentices at Pebble Hill Plantation in January.



Thomas County Historical Society
P.O. Box 1922
Thomasville, GA 31799-1922

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
THOMASVILLE, GA 31792
PERMIT NO. 55

KEEP IN CONTACT - SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST!

Subscribe today on our website to receive
bi-monthly updates.

We have experienced difficulty sending to Rose.net
email addresses. If you have an alternate service
provider (Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo, etc.) please use
that address to subscribe at
www.thomasvillehistory.org.



@ThomasvilleHistory
@LaphamPatterson



@ThomasvilleHistory

www.thomasvillehistory.org

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS:

Do you have a particular historical interest, skill,
or handicraft you would like to share with our
visitors? We invite you to get in touch and discuss
volunteer opportunities with us. Call or email Anne,
anne@thomascountyhistory.org to learn more!

WISHLIST

Can you provide an item from our wishlist?
Contact Anne, anne@thomascountyhistory.org

Enclosed Trailer

With space at a premium across our property,
we're in the market to purchase a gently used 12
ft+ enclosed trailer that will hold our folding tables,
chairs, and more.

This will also help us in transporting such shared
items between the Lapham-Patterson House and
the History Center.