



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

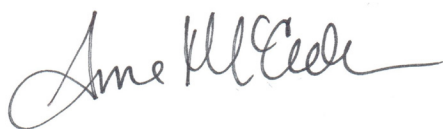
On the cover: Camp Dawson experienced the wonders of Gentian Creek Preserve this June including the zinnia fields.



As we approach the halfway mark for the calendar year, we are excited about what we've accomplished and what's to come. We are deep in the throes of planning for our usual fall fundraisers, so look for opportunities to support both Crate to Plate and Pilau as they come along. We are also excited about hosting 60 educators from across the country in July. They will join us for two week-long workshops geared towards using our unique locations to learn about the long civil rights movement in Thomas County (and beyond). There will be public lectures associated with this grant as well, so look for that announcement so you can join our educators and scholars for an evening of learning.

As always, please read up on what we're doing and please do reach out to us if you have any suggestions or ideas as we are always working to be more relevant and broaden our reach. We are working on various components of planning, and the community's input is invaluable.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anne McEde". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and elegant.

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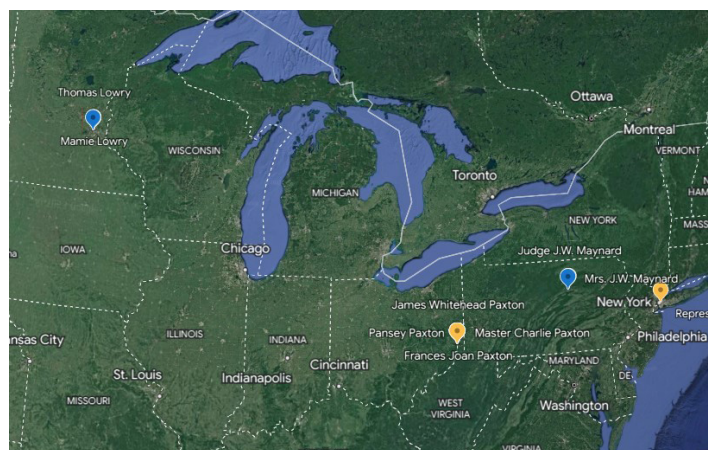
## Volunteer Project Spotlight

### MAPPING VISITORS

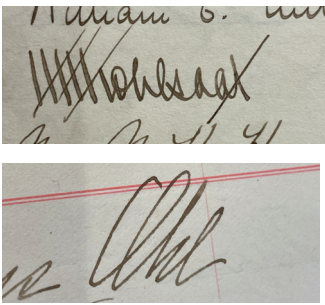
You may remember hearing about our ongoing project to map the hometowns of Thomasville's winter resort vacationers. A volunteer has recently finished transcribing a hotel ledger from The Willows, a boarding house and banquet hall, which includes guest and visitor names, cities and states of origin, and the location they were staying in town.

Some entries were clear and easy to read, and others' penmanship left much to be desired. All of the information has been compiled on a spreadsheet that Dhruket Patel is working to add to a Google Earth project.

This visual map will help us to note the patterns of visitation amongst a sample of Resort Era visitors. Additional visitors can be included in the spreadsheet in the future as we continue to add visitor information from local newspapers.



Eventually, it is our hope to conduct additional research on these visitors to learn more about their lives and what may have brought them to Thomasville just as we did with the mystery visitors profiled on the next page.



## MAPPING VISITORS

Recently, the volunteer transcribing the ledger encountered a couple of entries that were very difficult to decipher. We called in reinforcements in the form of our social media followers. We posted the tricky names to our Instagram page and within a day or so, had correct identifications for both names. They were H. H. Kohlsaak and M. Ohl. Here’s a little of what we’ve been able to learn about them:



Herman Henry Kohlsaak (1853-1924) was an Illinois business man and newspaper publisher from Chicago, Illinois. He became involved in the newspaper business in the mid-1890s and at the time of his visit to Thomasville, was the editor and publisher of the CHICAGO EVENING POST and TIMES HERALD.

He visited Thomasville in March 1895 and listed himself in the guest register of The Willows Boarding House & Banquet Hall as staying at the Hanna House, likely referring to the home on Dawson Street. He was in town as a part of future president McKinley’s campaign strategy session.

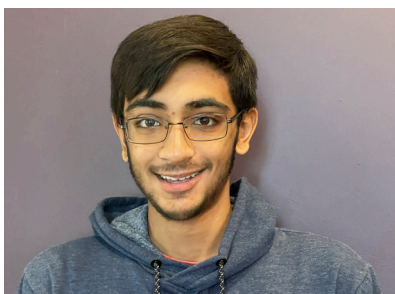
Kohlsaak was a friend and confidant of 5 sitting US Presidents including McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft, Wilson, and Harding. He helped draft the gold standard policy of the Republican Party’s 1896 national convention.



Maude Annulet Andrews Ohl (1862-1943) was a Georgia writer, journalist, and world traveler. Maude was the first female reporter for the ATLANTA CONSTITUTION. She was born in Taliaferro County, GA and raised in Washington, GA.

She published poetry as a child and entered the larger field in 1889 when letters she sent from New York City to the Constitution were published. She married Josiah Kingsley Ohl, whom she met at the CONSTITUTION, in 1889. She was the society editor, and he was the city editor. She visited Thomasville in March 1895 with her husband who signed the register separately.

She served as a “lady manager” of the Cotton States & International Exposition in 1896 and president of the press committee. She contributed to periodicals in London and Paris and co-founded the Georgia Women’s Press Club in 1891.



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DHRUKET PATEL

I am an intern at the Thomasville History Center working on two projects. The first project is researching and cataloging historic microscope slides and the documents that go with them from the 1940s and 1950s; the second project is plotting the locations of visitors from Thomasville’s Resort Era. I am a rising sophomore and go to the Scholars Academy.

# CRATE TO PLATE KISTEN FEST

OCTOBER 5

Each “kiste” or crate contains a complete meal for 2 plus a few surprises from local businesses and artisans. Proceeds from Crate to Plate directly fund our ongoing operations and programs. Remember, sponsors are guaranteed (at least) one crate and we’ve sold out each year. Reserve yours before the rush, sponsor today!

## SPONSOR LEVELS

All packages include recognition in print and digital platforms prior to the event.

### PROST - \$3000

CHEERS!

Presenting Sponsor

5 Crates, 5 Bottles of White Wine, 5 Bottles of Beer  
Recognition on Menu Card & Beverage Tag  
(Serves 10)

### LEDERHOSEN - \$750

A TRADITIONAL COSTUME

2 Crates, 2 Bottles of White Wine, 2 Bottles of Beer  
Recognition on Menu Card  
(Serves 4)

### SCHUHPLATTLER - \$1500

A BAVARIAN FOLK DANCE

4 Crates, 4 Bottles of White Wine, 4 Bottles of Beer  
Recognition on Menu Card & Beverage Tag  
(Serves 8)

### SPÄTZLE - \$500

A COMFORT FOOD

1 Crate, 2 Bottles of White Wine, 2 Bottles of Beer  
(Serves 2)

### BOCKBIER - \$1000

A STRONG DARK LAGER

4 Crates, 4 Bottles of White Wine, 4 Bottles of Beer  
Recognition on Menu Card & Beverage Tag  
(Serves 8)

### CORNFLOWER - \$250

A GERMAN NATIONAL FLOWER

1 Crate, 1 Bottle of White Wine, 2 Bottles of Beer  
(Serves 2)

Please pledge your support of Crate to Plate by Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup> to ensure inclusion on all printed materials.

Visit [thomasvillehistory.org/cratetoplate](http://thomasvillehistory.org/cratetoplate) to pledge online.

Crate reservations will open to the public on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

# The Quest for Freedom: Public Lectures

Join us on the journey as we learn about the long Civil Rights Movement in Thomas County through THE QUEST FOR FREEDOM. Scholars from across the nation will join us to share their expertise.

**July 12, 2023**

## ***The Life & Times of Henry O. Flipper***

Professor Le'Trice Donaldson will be presenting a lecture titled "The Life and Times of Henry O. Flipper" on Wednesday, July 12, 2023 at the Thomasville Center for the Arts.

No reservations are necessary for this free event that will begin at 7:00 p.m., a reception and book signing will follow the lecture.

Born enslaved in Thomasville, Georgia on the eve of the Civil War, Henry O. Flipper became the first African American graduate at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

*Dr. Donaldson is an Assistant Professor of History at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and author of DUTY BEYOND THE BATTLEFIELD: AFRICAN AMERICANS SOLDIERS FIGHT FOR RACIAL UPLIFT, CITIZENSHIP, AND MANHOOD, 1870-1920 (Southern Illinois Press).*



Learn more about Dr. Donaldson at [letricedonaldson.com](http://letricedonaldson.com)

**July 27, 2023**

## ***The Black Veteran Returns Home, 1945***

Dr. Jennifer Brooks will present a lecture titled "The Black Veteran Returns Home, 1945" at the 1st Missionary Baptist Church. The church is located at 110 W. Calhoun Street.

No reservations are necessary for this free event that will begin at 7:00 p.m. A reception and book signing will follow the lecture.

*Dr. Brooks is the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of History at Auburn University. In 2004, she published her book DEFINING THE PEACE: RACE, WORLD WAR TWO VETERANS, AND THE REMAKING OF SOUTHERN POLITICAL TRADITION (UNC PRESS), the first in-depth examination of the role played by black and white World War Two veterans in southern postwar politics.*



Learn more about Dr. Brooks at <https://cla.auburn.edu/directory/jennifer-brooks/>

These events have been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH): Democracy demands wisdom. K-12 educators from across the nation will be attending these lectures as part of a one-week funded NEH Landmarks in American History workshop, The Quest for Freedom, examining the Long Civil rights movement. As part of the workshop teachers will engage in place-based learning and will visit such sites as the Thomasville History Center, Tall Timbers, the Jack Hadley Black History Museum, Pebble Hill Plantation and Museum, and the First Missionary Baptist Church.

# What's the Vision?

We talk a lot about planning and strategic thinking here at the History Center and that's because it's a vital component to any business, let alone a non-profit such as ours. Without planning and thoughtful reflection about where we've been and where we want to go, we will only spin our wheels. So in 2022 (and a little of 2023) we took some time to sit down with staff, volunteers and board members to come up with a shared Vision for the Center. The process was slow at times (as it should be) but thoughtful and honest. After a year of discussions and "word-smithing" we arrived at a Vision that will lead our work going forward.

Keep in mind, arriving at this Vision is NOT the end of the process but the beginning. With it in hand we can now work on a Long-Range Strategic Plan that will guide what projects we work on (and which ones we don't!) for the near future.

It may seem like this planning talk is never ending and that we never "finish" the process. In a way that's true...planning work is never done, it's a process. And although we will produce a final document, it's not the document that will drive us, it's the process to get there that will. As always, we encourage you to share your thoughts with us about our Vision and ask questions if you have them about how we arrived at it and what it will mean for the future.

## THOMASVILLE HISTORY CENTER VISION STATEMENT

The Thomasville History Center will be the gateway for the history of the Red Hills region. We are uniquely positioned to provide historical context to the past, and we aim to be a vital part of the unfolding future of this storied and distinctive geographic and cultural region. We will connect regional historical resources and ensure that they are relevant, dynamic, diverse, and accessible.



# House (History) Hunting

When I (Meme) was in graduate school, one of the books in our required reading was *THE PAST IS A FOREIGN COUNTRY* by David Lowenthal (which is not exactly a page turner even for the most passionate historians). He described our ways of thinking of the past as creating a place that was removed from our own experience of life. How many times do we compare the past to now and try to distance ourselves in some way? “Can you believe they dressed like that? What were they thinking? And look at what they did! I would never do that if I lived back then!” But what about the history of Thomasville and Thomas County? We live here, so surely our past can’t be that foreign? Or can it?

Back in 2009, the History Center received its first request for what we now call “House Histories.” Since then, we’ve completed 47 and counting. This year is looking to be our busiest house hunting season yet with ten requests so far. It seems everyone wants to know a little more about the places they live and work in. There’s been a lot to uncover, and I don’t just mean what’s under the vinyl siding. New research has led us to completely rewrite the stories of well-known structures in this community, dispelling or proving urban legends along the way. For those who are interested, here’s a look at how we do that.



Hansell Watt Collection: Burbank Cottage, 1906 1972.012.05 (colorized)

The first step is a visit to the Thomas County Probate Court where property deeds go back to the early 1820s before we were even called Thomas County. So begins an exercise routine: pick the heaviest and largest book from the very top shelf above your head and bring it down to the table. Find that your next record is in the smaller but still heavy book across the room and crowd up your table with it. Locate your next record in the big heavy books in the next room on the bottom shelf and lift those up to the counter top – don’t hit your head on the edge of the table. Run back to the other room and balance precariously on your toes as you put the other book back on the top shelf in the other room. Repeat.

If you’re lucky, you’ll find the chain of title. If not, someone will have died without a will and another owner will change their name, or your record is contained in a lost book (the dreaded Book N that was destroyed in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century under mysterious circumstances). Once we have as complete a picture as possible of the deed records, its time to head back to the History Center. In the comfort of our own files we start to flesh out the story. We look for familiar names to see if we have any records of our own. We also head down the rabbit hole of ancestry websites and online newspaper archives to find as many delicious morsels about the home. The end product is a report, some longer than others, of every map, photo, story, and document pertaining to the property and the people who inhabited it. So are these house histories portraits of a “foreign country” like Lowenthal stated? Yes and no. We know these buildings: they’re our homes, our work spaces, our environment. But they’ve changed over the years, some more than others, in their appearance, use, and level of upkeep. As much as the stories of these past inhabitants are unfamiliar to us, the themes of their lives (birth, death, and all the in between) are familiar, just like the houses we share with those people from so long ago.

# Hangout @ Pilau

31<sup>st</sup> Annual Pilau Dinner  
Tuesday, November 7, 2023

## Takeout & Hangout

Enjoy your meal to go or join us for a picnic  
and live music on the grounds

Tickets available in September!





# Counting On...



Paper Milk Cap, Melrose Plantation Dairy,  
1955  
2002.22.2

Over the past year, the Curatorial Department of the Thomasville History Center has been conducting an inventory of our collection of three-dimensional objects. This process entails not just identifying everything in our collection catalog, and not just recording items that are not listed, but working with alternative records – newsletters, board meeting minutes, newspaper articles, letters and emails sent to staff, and careful inspection of items to discover who actually donated the “Found in Collection” items, so we can integrate them into the collection, and they can be of use to researchers and staff. It also involves photographing, researching, cleaning, and encapsulating each item so they can be easily found and used for research. Along the way, we’ve found some pretty interesting things.

Most of the items in our collections, in one way or another, were designed to be kept – uniforms, commemorative plates, souvenir spoons, dresses, flags, decor, and toys. But one of the parts of our collections that we just completed processing are the ephemeral and promotional items. The ephemera was designed for short-term use or even intended to be thrown away. The promotional items – think of all of those pens, bags, and other items emblazoned with logos and business names – were mostly distributed for short-term promotional purposes.

We have twenty matchbooks and matchbook covers in our collection from various places in Thomasville, including The Rainbow Drive-In, Neel’s Varsity Shop, The Elk’s Club Lodge, and Finney General Hospital. We have a cocktail napkin from the Thomasville High School Class of 1944’s 45th Reunion in 1989, a name tag from Vashti School’s 100th anniversary in 2003, and a paper milk bottle cap from Melrose Plantation Dairy in 1955. There are two hotel room keys from the Three Toms Inn and one from the Tosco Hotel. There are licenses – a 1929 chauffeur license badge, a 1917 dog license tag, and a 1935-1936 hunting license button. Then there are the tokens – 51 from the Thomasville Ice and Manufacturing Company, issued exclusively to the Flowers Ice Cream Company for 1,000 pounds of ice, and one from the Cherokee Trading Company in 1910, the “company store” of the Cherokee Lumber Mill which is the namesake of Cherokee Lake.



Chauffeur License, 1929  
1975.19.1

The History Center truly appreciates all of the larger meaningful, well-built, and impactful items people donate to us – but don’t forget we love the little things, too!

# Calendar Notes

**Add these dates to your calendar!**

Stay updated via our email newsletter. Not a subscriber or have not been receiving updates from us? Scan the QR code below or reach out to Amelia to confirm your email address and we'll get you back in the loop!

Email [amelia@thomascountyhistory.org](mailto:amelia@thomascountyhistory.org)



**July 9-14 & 23-28:** The Quest for Freedom Educator Workshops; funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**July 11:** Book Signing & Author Meet & Greet at The Bookshelf. Meet some of the visiting scholars of the Quest for Freedom workshop and pick up copies of their works. 6pm-7pm, Contact The Bookshelf to RSVP.

**July 12:** Quest for Freedom Public Lecture by Professor Le'Trice Donaldson titled "The Life and Times of Henry O. Flipper," 7pm, Thomasville Center for the Arts. Free & Open to All.

**August 1:** Applications for the new cohort of Apprentices opens to all current 9th through 12 graders.

**August 10:** 3rd Annual Volunteer Appreciation Party, Courtyard of Imagine Thomasville. Please RSVP to Amelia.

**August 15:** Deadline to pledge support for Crate to Plate and ensure inclusion in printed materials.

**October 5:** 4th Annual Crate to Plate. Crates will be available for purchase starting September 1.

**November 7:** 31st Annual Pilau Dinner; Takeout or Hangout with live music on the grounds.

# Americana Corner

Last year, the History Center applied for the Americana Corner Grant, a grant which provides funds to museums of all sizes to preserve the history of our country, particularly the unique story of its founding extending from the early 1700s to 1865. We are proud to have received funding to aid our restoration of a portrait of Archibald Thompson MacIntyre, an early American settler and frequent legislator from Thomas County.



If you've been by the museum in the past two years, you may have seen this portrait hanging in our MacIntyre Gallery. You may also have noticed he's been looking a little rough, to put it nicely. Then again, we all might look a bit haggard after 150 years.



Long before many of us were born, he proudly hung on a wall in MacIntyre Park school, receiving all the abuse you might expect anyone to receive in a place of education. In the 1960s he was restored by a local member of the public, but years of fluctuating humidity and temperature levels have left their mark on the painting. The exceedingly thin canvas has pulled away from its lining leading to tears and bubbles that are less than attractive or safe for A.T.'s future.

# Restoring A.T. MacIntyre's Portrait



The portrait is currently in the hands of The Conservation Labs, a team of conservation experts located in South Carolina. After initial investigations, they determined a program of conservation that will take part in three stages: removing the ugly, stabilizing the bad, and restoring the good. We recently received an update from Jennifer Bullock, the conservator in charge of our project:

*“When we got Mr. MacIntyre to the studio I wanted to give him time to adjust to the environment of the labs, which is quite a bit different to the environment he has been in for many years now. I then took several images in normal light, raking light, and transmitted light, which tells me different things about the painting and its condition. I removed the painting from its gold frame and took some additional photographs of the tacking margins and edges that were covered by the frame.*”

*I have done some preliminary cleaning (removal of lots of spider webs and dust). And I have begun to stabilize the tears and holes in the canvas so that I can begin addressing the removal of the clear sheeting on the reverse.*

*I created bridges with Japanese tissue that branch over from one side of the tear to the other. Doing this makes it possible for me to move the painting and work on removing the plastic without risking making the tears worse. There will be an overall “facing” applied to the painting later but I have to work very carefully at this stage because I need to be able to remove the plastic sheeting (without causing any further damage or loss). The plastic sheeting must come off so that I can manipulate the canvas more easily and start to see how to address the severe buckling and distortions. I am in a tricky phase.*



*One thing I have discovered is that some of the tacking margins (the edges that go around the stretcher and hold the painting in place) are either gone or torn. Also we will have to replace the stretcher with a new one. The current stretcher is more like a strainer and cannot be keyed out which is important for the painting now and in the future.”*

With special thanks to Jennifer and Mossimo at The Conservation Labs and the kind donation of Tom Hand at Americana Corner, we know that A.T. will return to us in much better shape than when he left.

# Re-Imagining Summer

About two years ago, Meme and Amelia had the realization that they wanted to shake up summer camp. Yes, we know. It's shocking, scandalous even. How could we redesign a 25 plus year tradition at the History Center? The routine of same but different and the frankly overwhelming nature of filling 7 hours a day for 5 days made us realize we were ready for a change, and if we were ready, the campers had to be too, right?

Remembering the fun of a 2021 Fall Break camp where we threw out the schedule and followed our imaginations inspired us to shift our way of thinking. We came up with a few basic principles that guide our planning: "Do" more than listen; Schedule the unscheduled; Busy does not prevent boredom; and sometimes, outside voices belong inside too. Above all, we began to prioritize experiences and activities that only the History Center could provide versus replicating school activities or filling the schedule with crafts and activities that may or may not meet the camper's needs or interests.

From there, we restructured our camp day. Looking at this year's Camp Dawson schedule, you'd see time designated for handling and investigating Indigenous artifacts alongside free play in the backyard; shelling peas on the porch of the Smith Homestead paired with a visit from Fun Sized Farms, a new petting zoo farm in Boston; construction of wooden toolboxes and flower arranging with Mrs. Leiann; a day-long visit to Gentian Creek Preserve with time allocated for watching birds through the big window of the observation room, and much, much more. We spent less on "stuff" and more on skills, experiences, and memory making.

In the unscheduled, we've found time to embrace some small joys and big learning opportunities for the campers and for us. From daily tracking of tadpole growth in the Ethel Flowers Neel fountain on the History Center's grounds, to a daily property walk to see what's blooming and learning more about pollinators, the campers are more engaged with our property. When they return on field trips with school through the year, they're excited to share their knowledge with their teachers and classmates and become mini-ambassadors to the History Center for their families.

This year, we had 26 campers, an increase of 73% over last year. This growth tested our new model in terms of balancing the needs of more campers, but with the help of our amazing teen volunteers and adult volunteers, we pulled it off! So, if you visited the History Center in the first week of June and heard the cacophony of 26 young voices playing and laughing in the backyard, we hope you'll excuse us: fun, and memories were in progress.



# Apprentices: Capstones

On the last Saturday of April, our Apprentices hosted an Open House for the community to share their Capstone projects. Each Apprentice had the chance to share more about their work and what they've learned in the program. The day was especially bittersweet as it was our last event with four of our Apprentices who graduated from high school in the weeks following. We are proud of all our Apprentices and were especially proud of this year's graduating seniors- Jeremy Borman, Mallory Bustle, Parker McCollum, and Savannah Taylor- whose hard work and dedication resulted in amazing Capstone projects. We can't wait to see what they accomplish on their next adventures!



## Camp LPH

Camp LPH continues to grow, and this year set a new record for registrations with ten campers. For the third year, campers learned the basics of architecture and design and constructed a tabletop historic district. Presented in partnership with Nancy Tinker of Thomasville Landmarks, the campers developed a new vocabulary and used their imagination to conceive of a wide variety of residential and commercial building designs. Taking inspiration from the Dawson Street Historic District and the Downtown Historic District, campers consulted with Bill Edwards of Edwards Olson Architecture to refine their ideas. Their exhibit will be on display at Landmarks through July. To visit their neighborhood, please contact Nancy Tinker at Landmarks.



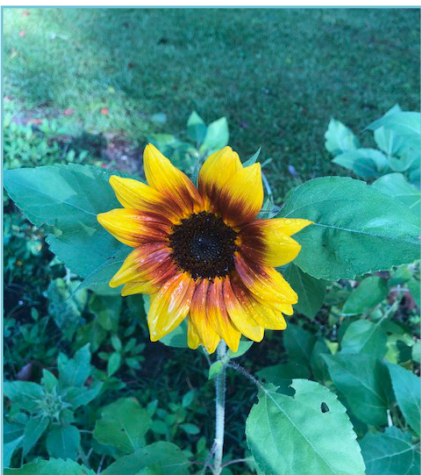
# Transformations

In June, contractors began work on the main floor bedroom wing which in the coming months will be transformed into a hospitality suite available for short-term rental. The area of the House was previously converted into an apartment for the curator in the 1970s.

Work is concentrating on the modern bathroom. Demolition has revealed new details of the wing's original configurations as well as the original lathe and plaster construction. This element was especially informative for the campers at Camp LPH who visited the construction zone to get a behind the scene's look at the 1880s construction methods as inspiration for their own projects.



At right, clockwise from top left: Wallpaper samples salvaged from the Flowers-Roberts attic compliment the new hallway exhibit; Camp LPH explores historic downtown Thomasville in June; A souvenir spoon featuring the Big Oak catalogued during the inventory; Anne admires Apprentice Parker McCollum's Capstone installation of A.W. Moller photographs at The Wright Group; Rococo sconce featured in the new hallway exhibit; A blooming sunflower in the gardens of the Smith Homestead; Campers look for butterflies and other insects in the zinnia field at Gentian Creek Preserve.





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

NON-PROFIT  
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2023-2024

BENEFACTOR, SUSTAINER, & PATRON BUSINESS MEMBERS

