



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

Mission Statement Strategic Planning

In the fall of 2019, the Board took the opportunity to examine the current mission statement adopted in 2017. The group workshopped a new mission statement that encompasses the goals, purpose, and objectives of the History Center and its work. The new statement was adopted at the January 2020 Board Meeting.

This simple statement, combined with the vision statement developed during the re-branding campaign, projects our organization's intent to the public and will be central to the planning and implementation of our new strategic plan.

The Thomasville History Center enriches the community through the exploration and discovery of its history, people, and stories.



Above: Board and staff identified the four primary goals and brainstormed strategies to fulfil those goals using sticky notes. Photography by Claire Timm



Board working with Alyce Lee to identify goal areas. Photography by Claire Timm

In early January, the Board and staff gathered at Greenwood Plantation to complete the next phase of the strategic planning process. Under the direction of facilitator Alyce Lee Stansbury, the group spent time brainstorming areas of strength and areas for us to improve upon. From that, four goals were outlined that will drive the History Center's work over the next three years.

Board and community members will be organized into four committees to direct the implementation of these goals and will work to develop strategies to address needs in each category.



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Upcoming Events

Slides of March Series Set

MARCH 17:

OVERSHOT: THE POLITICAL AESTHETICS OF WOVEN TEXTILES FROM THE ANTEBELLUM SOUTH & BEYOND
Professor Jessica R. Smith, Savannah College of Art & Design

Professor Smith will share her research findings on a unique and meaningful type of southern textile that have evolved from functional items into art pieces. Smith's research was conducted in partnership with fellow SCAD professor Susan Falls.

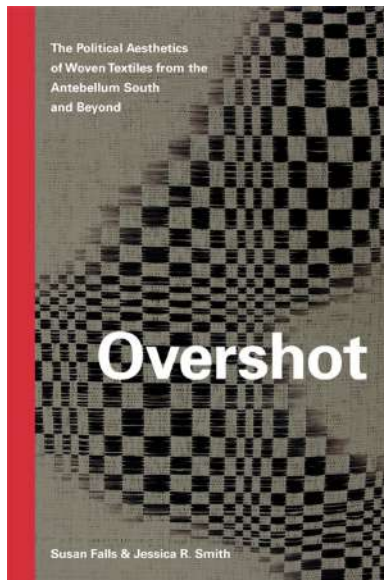
Falls and Smith's research explores the symbolism and craftsmanship of overshot coverlets and their significance to the African American experience from the antebellum period through the twentieth century.

Overshot coverlets were made from plain un-dyed cotton warp (vertical threads) woven into repeating geometric patterns using dyed woolen weft (horizontal threads).

These folk textiles required tremendous skill and creativity to produce and were items of conformity and dissent.

The University of Georgia Press will publish the manuscript for *Overshot* this March. Copies of the new publication will be available for purchase at the event.

Jessica R. Smith is a professor of fibers at the Savannah College of Art & Design whose work has been exhibited at Design Miami, Cooper Hewitt, and the Walker Art Center. She is the author of *Textiles of the Lowcountry: Charleston and Savannah-Collecting, Preserving, and Narrating*.



Cover of *Overshot*, courtesy of the University of Georgia Press



March 3: Thomas County: 101, Lecture, 7:30pm, free and open to all



March 14: Handcrafted Drop In Session, 10am-Noon, free and open to all for crafting and conversation



March 17: Overshot: The Political Aesthetics of Woven Textiles from the Antebellum South & Beyond, Lecture, 7:30pm, free and open to all



March 19: Spring Equinox Celebration, Lapham-Patterson House, 3:30pm-5:30pm, Free & open to all, watch the "light show" and make a tissue paper stained glass window.



March 21: Hands-On Heritage Workshop: Double Bottom Baskets, Thomasville History Center Patio, 10am-3pm, Members: \$35, Non-Members: \$40, Snacks & drinks provided, Registration required.



April 2: Volunteer Appreciation Reception, 5pm-7pm, 803 N. Dawson Street. RSVP's appreciated.



April 23: Do You Remember? Rose Festival Parades, Thomasville History Center, 10am-11:30am, Community conversation, free and open to all.



APRIL 25: TRUSTY SIDEKICK WALK

Bring your "Trusty Sidekicks" along for a special walking tour on Saturday, April 25 (1pm-3pm) through the Dawson Street Historic District. The walk will end with a gathering in the History Center's backyard. This program is open to "Trusty Sidekick" pet members for free, and to the public (pets and humans) for \$12 per family. Reservations required. More details to come!

Sign your furry (or scaly) friend up as a pet member at the "Trusty Sidekick" level (\$10) or the "Stay at Home Pal" (\$5) level. Your "Furry Friend" membership can be purchased at thomasvillehistory.org.

Camps Registration Open

We are gearing up for another summer of adventure at the Thomasville History Center! Campers will be immersed in the stories of our community through games, crafts, and excursions. Registration for Camp Dawson (June 1-5) and Camp LPH (June 16-18) is now open!




CALLING ALL TEENAGERS!

We are accepting applications for camp counselors and junior counselors to help with Camp Dawson. Counselors must be at least rising high school Sophomores and junior counselors must be at least rising Freshmen. Counselors should be available for the entirety of camp as well as three days during prep week, May 25-29. This is a great way to complete service hours!

Camps Information

CAMP DAWSON

JUNE 1-5



June 1-5
9am-4pm
Rising 3rd-Rising 6th Grade
Thomasville History Center
Community Excursions
\$125, Members
\$150, Non-Members

CAMP L.P.H

JUNE 16-18



June 16-18
9am-4pm
Rising 3rd-Rising 6th Grade
Lapham-Patterson House
\$100 Members
\$125 Non-Members



Thank You, Volunteers!

Much of what we are able to do throughout the year would not be possible without the help of volunteers. From scanning collections, to giving tours, and serving Pilau, the History Center relies on the support and helping hands of our community!

In appreciation for the more than 1,100 volunteers hours given to the History Center and Lapham-Patterson House last year, we are hosting a special Volunteer Appreciation Reception on Thursday, April 2 at the residence of Elva Rubio, 803 N. Dawson Street. Drop in for drinks and light bites with your fellow volunteers between 5:30pm and 7:30pm. Invitations will be sent by email in early March and RSVP's are appreciated by March 26.



We can use your help!

Do you have a particular historical interest, skill, or handicraft you would like to share with our visitors? Do you enjoy helping with hands-on projects like gardening or painting? Would you like to be on-call for special events and programs? We invite you to get in touch and discuss volunteer opportunities with us. Call 229-226-7664 or email Anne, anne@thomascountyhistory.org to learn more about the History Center's opportunities and join our growing roster of volunteers.



Do You Remember? Rose Festival Parades

The Thomasville History Center is returning to the Rose Show and Festival as the subject of our next Do You Remember? conversation. The next edition will occur on Thursday, April 23 at 10am. This special day-time Do You Remember? will compliment the community's slate of events for the 99th Annual Rose Show and Festival.



Ed Kelly Collection: Rose Festival Parade, 1967

Part viewing party, part conversation, the program will feature footage from early Rose Festival Parades that were recently digitized as a part of a 2019 Digital Library of Georgia Grant. Though silent, the films convey the community's excitement for the first several parades and the growth of the event in the 1960s. The film footage was donated to the History Center by Joe May in 2005.

We want to hear from you! Save the date on your calendar to join us for the conversation. If you have any special insights- you marched in the band, waved from a float, or helped organize the parades, we'd love to have you join our informal panel to help start the discussion. Contact us at 229-226-7664 or email amelia@thomascountyhistory.org.



Ed Kelly Collection: Rose Festival Parade, 1957

Do You Remember? Rose Festival Parades
Thursday, April 23, 2020
10am-11:30am
Thomasville History Center
Viewing Party & Conversation
Free & Open to All

Salute to Spring

EQUINOX CELEBRATION

Flowers are blooming, days are longer, and it's time for a celebration! All ages are invited to join us at the Lapham-Patterson House for a special weekday edition of *Make History* on Thursday, March 19 for *A Salute to Spring*. March 19 is the vernal equinox, a day marking the start of spring and a day in which there are equal day and night hours. On this day each year, a unique phenomenon occurs on the third floor of the Lapham-Patterson House.



Science, history, and creativity collide for a unique celebration of spring's arrival. To view nature's trick of light and shadow, please visit the Lapham-Patterson House between 3:30pm and 5:30pm. The peak viewing hour for the "Equinox Effect" is 4-5pm.

We will explore the wonders of the equinox through a special experiment and attendees can create their own paper stained glass window like those found in the LPH. This event is presented at no charge and all are welcome.

This event is contingent upon the weather so keep your fingers crossed for sunny skies!

Memberships

This list reflects Personal and Business members who have joined or renewed their memberships between **NOVEMBER 21, 2019 AND FEBRUARY 26, 2020**. Members within that range whose contributions are at the Personal Sustainer or Business Patron and above are listed on the back cover. Thank you for your support! For questions or corrections, please contact Amelia, amelia@thomascountyhistory.org.

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Memorials Martha May

Philip Wertz

Barbara Ann McMillan

Philip Wertz

Did You Know?

Membership dues comprise 15% of our annual operating budget. A generous matching grant from the Jasper & Marthalene Davis Foundation adds \$1 for every \$2 of every donation made for less than \$499.

Strategic Plan In Action

Below are descriptions of our Strategic Plan Goal Committees:

Collections

The purpose of the Collections Committee is to create a long-range plan over the next three years to increase and improve the capacity of the Thomasville History Center to store, exhibit, preserve, and catalog the images, objects, and documents in the Center's permanent collections.

Committee Goals:

- Create a descriptive list of assets and liabilities for storage space, types of shelving, types of boxes and other containers, exhibition space and material, preservation needs and abilities, and cataloging needs and capacity.
- Determine what financial, material, technological, and human expenses will be expended to increase capacity in all areas.
- Ascertain the feasibility of increasing capacity.
- Project needs twenty years into the future.
- Develop solutions to increase capacity in all areas that include both idealistic resolutions to limiting factors and reserve responses that require minimal resources.

Sustainability

“A sustainable non-profit is one that is able to sustain itself over the long term, perpetuating its ability to fulfill its mission”

The purpose of the Sustainability Committee is to draft the wording for a strategic goal focused on institutional sustainability and to formulate the measurements and strategies that allow us to reach the assigned goal across the next 3 years.

Committee Goals:

- The committee will ensure that sustainability across the areas of capital needs, governance, financial and programming are addressed holistically and in a way that ensures the mission of the History Center is being met on a daily basis.
- The committee will establish measurements, strategies and evaluation approaches that will ensure an equitable and appropriate work flow for all involved.

Engagement

The purpose of the Community Engagement Committee is to direct, evaluate, and design the History Center's membership, education, marketing, interpretation, volunteers, and programs strategies.

Committee Goals:

- The committee will ensure that the History Center's public-facing policies and offerings enrich the community through the exploration and discovery of its history, people and stories in relevant and inclusive ways.
- The committee will establish methods to measure and evaluate the organization's impact upon the existing audience, and devise strategies for expanding the audience to include new demographics.

Lapham-Patterson House

The purpose of the Lapham-Patterson House Committee is to draft the wording for a strategic goal focused on the House's long term use and role within the community.

Committee Goals:

- The committee will address all possible long term uses for the House, including adaptive re-use strategies that may involve public/private partnerships
- The committee will address how the house is currently run in regards to its financial and personnel needs
- The committee will ascertain the role of the Department of Natural Resources with the house/property



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

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