



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

On the cover: Wallpaper sample found in the attics of 725 N. Dawson Street from the Roberts Family (owners from 1941-1968).



Well, here we go starting another activity filled year of programs, events and institutional work. It's funny how I used to think that the beginning of the year was a time for us to slow down, take a breath, and get our thoughts together, but it seems we've done it to ourselves once again... Somehow we've made January as busy as October – but that's a good thing, it's a sign of that exciting “growth.” I always go on about it and it shows that the work that the staff does is “working” and that we need to stay on our toes.

Enjoy, and thanks as always for being a supporter of the History Center.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne McCudden".

Anne McCudden

Executive Director, Thomasville History Center

Volunteer Spotlight

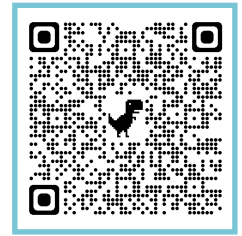
LAINA LESLIE

Laina is an undergraduate student at Florida State University and is part of the university's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP). UROP students are required to be part of a mentor/mentee relationship. The program provides high-achieving students an engaging community with the flexibility and funding opportunities to explore their full range of interests. Laina is conducting a photographic inventory of historic structures around Thomasville and Thomas County for the History Center.

She has photographed over 100 structures and counting. This project was designed by Ephraim and Meme to document as many of the historic houses and buildings as possible before they are lost or altered in such a way as to lose their historical context. We maintain a robust photographic archive here at the History Center, and these images will only add to our repository of images.



Let's Wander



Enjoy an afternoon wandering through a curated collection of historic homes in the Tockwotton and Warren Avenue Historic districts!



Photograph by Vann Martin, Love-Warren Historic District from *Thomasville: History, Homes & Southern Hospitality*. A joint publication of Landmarks and the Thomasville History Center.

Begin your self-guided tour with a brief presentation by Charles Olson at All Saints Episcopal Church.

At 6:00 p.m., join us at The Paxton House for a cocktail party! Complimentary cocktails and wine will be provided by The Juice Box Co.

This event is brought to you by Abode Fine Furniture, Thomasville History Center, Thomasville Landmarks, and Rubio Studio. Proceeds benefit the Thomasville History Center and Thomasville Landmarks. Purchase your tickets using the QR code above.

Show & Tell

On February 5th we held our annual business meeting and elected new board members and officers. The meeting coincided with the Georgia Historical Society's Super Museum Sunday, and more than 50 community members attended. By combining the two events, we were able to share the behind-the-scenes content with our visitors and share the visitors' perspective with the Board, a win-win all around.

The staff did an amazing job of designing a unique experience for guests and making sure all of our usually hidden areas were open, clean, and accessible. The annual meeting is our way of sharing financial and institutional information with our members. Please read our Annual report online at [Mission & Publications – Thomasville History Center](#).

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the History Center, please let us know. We are always looking for folks to join our team, and we welcome the opportunity to chat with you about what we do and how we operate.



New (Old) Stories

This year we're celebrating 100 years of the Flowers-Roberts House! As part of the celebration, we thought it only fitting to tell the story of the house and the property it sits on. This is one of our most frequently discussed topics with guests. So why tell them when we can show them? For years we talked about having an exhibit dedicated to telling the history of the property and its owners. We finally landed on the long stretch of hallway being the perfect spot to tell this story.



Ruins of the Ewart House foundation.

With several artifacts and photographs at our disposal, we began the research process – with a few twists and turns along the way. Specifically, in the attic and the basement. Over the years, past inhabitants used these crawl spaces to discard unwanted items or as play areas, making them treasure troves of artifacts. We found items ranging from broken glass bottles to vintage toys to Victorian appliances. But the biggest surprise of all? Locating the original foundation from the previous Ewart mansion! Each artifact, when combined with written records, helped us put together the story of the property's history.

After dusting off from our trip to the basement, it was time to sit down and turn a pile of objects and records into a story. Writing over one hundred years of history is trickier than it seems. Whose stories would we tell? What details would we share? Where is the fine line between telling an interesting story and a hostage situation? With editing we were able to develop a narrative that gave our characters their time in the spotlight without overwhelming visitors.

Then came the HGTV montage. With a fresh coat of paint and a few upgrades, the hallway now reflects our branding and acts as a guide for guests from the Orientation Room to our other exhibits. As soon as the paint was dry, it was time to redecorate. Using our collection of artifacts related to the property and our new signage, we styled the hallway to act as a timeline, taking visitors back in time to the early days of the property.

With work on this exhibit soon to be completed, we hope you'll come take

a look. Connect with the families of this property as they faced both success and failure. Examine their treasured and discarded possessions. Find your own place in the long history of our property and our community.



The main hallway before and during the transformation.

It's not historic... yet.

The Thomasville History Center received its first official donation in 1955: a booklet with a transcription of the 1850 census for Thomas County from Folks Huxford, the Homerville-based preeminent historian of Southwest Georgia history during the mid-twentieth century. At the close of 2022, the History Center has received a total of 2,008 donations since 1955, which averages to be 30 donations a year. By this metric, 2022 was a well-above average year for our collections, adding 39 new donations, each contributing to the preservation of Thomasville and Thomas County in its own unique way.

Some of the donations relate directly to the county and county towns: Anita Cooper Meisen's donation of furniture, clothing, photographs, and documents related to the White and Cooper families of Meigs and Ochlocknee significantly increases the History Center's collection about these important county towns, as does Doris and Grady Davies' donations of photographs from the Davies family of Boston. Bill Edwards' donations of items from the MacIntyre and Hjort families contribute to our understanding of early county history, and those from the Edwards family enhance our original decorations of the Lapham-Patterson House. New photograph collections from Boxhall Plantation, the Steyerman family, and Neel family further advance our visual holdings.

Not all donations are considered historic, yet. But they will be, which is why we add them to the collection: "new" item donations include the Thomasville Center for the Arts' "Thomopoly" board game and DVDs of the 2018 and 2019 Rose Queen Pageant from the Junior Service League. Sharing and preserving the history of a place requires an impossibly broad spectrum of material, visual, and written evidence, and we strive to collect things that tell all parts of the story, from families who can trace their presence here back to the founding of the county in 1825 through people who only may have been here for a short while but left an impact on this place, which in turn left an impact on them.



Jinright Scrapbook Quilt, c. 1940
Jinright Collection, donated by Leiann Orr
2022.031.0001

THOMAS COUNTY CENSUS, 1850

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Instead of giving page number, the Order Number of the family given. This is the number given by the Enumerator in making the census at the time. The name of the wife in each instance is given also, and the age of both husband and wife, this being done on account of duplication of names; by giving names of both husband and wife, identification is made easier.

The use of asterisks (*) after a name, denotes that the person was not the head of the household not his or her own. This includes such as orphans, apprentices, employees, boarders, etc.

Order No.	Husband (or wife-name)	Age	Wife (or other)	Age
46	Adams		Nancy*	14
81	Alderman, Matthew	22	Caroline	21
125	Abbot, Bennett	19	Arjane	37
130	Abbot, Ezekiel	36	(no wife)	
145	Allen, Isaac	63	Esther	50
157	Adams,		Elizabeth*	78
201	Altman, Sampson	50	Sarah	49
214	Altman, William	19	Mary	24
220	Arledge,		Lavinia*	13
293	Atwell, William	23	Helen	30
301	Adams, Thomas	68	Catherine	65
310	Altman, John	22	Nancy	20
309	Alderman,		Eliza (widow)	37
375	Atkinson,		Mary (widow)	70
372	Atkinson, Daniel R.	37	Elizabeth	22
382	Anderson, E. L.*	23		
394	Allgood,		Mary widow	26
409	Allen, Henry	24	Sarah	19
410	Alderman, Timothy	41	Mary	26
416	Austin, Samuel	35	Hannah	27
424	Atkinson,		Mary A. E. widow	57
431	Amigan?		Emilly*	16
436	Allen, Lark B.	31	Sarah	25
455	Adams, S. S.	36	Mary	28
454	Adams, Thomas	31	Georgia	24
539	Alford, William	22	Gatsy	29
542	Aikins, Job P.	27	Martha	22
569	Anderson, Moses	50	Rachel	50
570	Anderson,		Sarah alone	80
577	Alderman, Samuel	38	Sarah	31
587	Allen, General J.	20	Mary	23
636	Adams, Albert J. alone	41		
654	Archer, William*	30	Georgia	24
673	Allen, James	27	Martha	19
677	Allen, David?	25	Evelina	27
678	Allen,		Mary	68
692	Alderman, James	26	Mary widow	22
777	Archer, John E.*	28	Jane	28
786	Anderson, Henry	56	Mary (wife?)	26
797	Arnold, George W.	39	Martha	25
798	Arnold, John	46	Nellie	16
799	Albritton, George W.	35	Jane	30

The 1850 United States Census of Thomas County, Georgia Demographics Collection, donated by Folks Huxford 1955.01.01

Do you have something relevant to the history of Thomasville and Thomas County you would like to donate, or maybe have something but you're not sure? Please, do not hesitate to call me at the History Center at 229-226-7664 ext. 103 or email me at ephraim@thomascountyhistory.org.

And as always, thank you for your continued support of Thomasville and Thomas County history!

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? Reach out to Amelia to confirm your email address and we'll get you back in the loop!

Email amelia@thomascountyhistory.org

February 24: Digital Series: The Flowers House Fire; follow along on our socials through the day of the devastating fire at 725 N. Dawson in 1923...

March 1: Camp registrations open! Current members of the History Center receive a discounted rate.

March 11: Wander: Tockwotton & Love-Warren Historic Districts, 2pm-6pm. Tickets available now. \$100 per person. See page 3 for ticketing link.

March 20: Equinox: Lapham-Patterson House, 3:30pm-5:30pm; Explore the Lapham-Patterson House and watch the light show (sunny skies permitting). Make a miniature "stained glass" window craft to commemorate the day. Free & open to all.

March 31: History Center Hangout; 6-8pm: B.Y.O. dinner and drinks and enjoy a picnic in the backyard, make s'mores by the fire, and spend a relaxing evening with your neighbors. Free, but donations are appreciated.

April 29: Apprentice Open House, 1pm-3pm. Meet the History Center's Apprentices, and chat with them about their Capstone projects.

June 5-9: Camp Dawson, 9am-4pm. Registration open to rising Kindergarteners through Rising 5th graders.

June 5-9: Camp LPH, 9am-4pm. Registration open to rising 6th through Rising 8th graders.

"Want Ads"

Interested in joining the History Center Board?

We are always looking for individuals to join the Board and help the Center meet its mission and financial goals. Please contact Anne if you would like to talk more about what this work would entail. We encourage everyone who has an interest in the work that we do to consider becoming a part of the team that leads us!

Tool Wishlist

With all the buildings we have to take care of we're always in need of small tools and landscaping equipment. If you have any of the following items sitting around cluttering up your garage that you'd like to pass along we'd really appreciate it!

Our current needs are:

- pitchfork
- hose sprayers
- wheelbarrow
- straight metal rake
- loppers



If you're able to assist with any of these "wants" and "wishes" or know of someone who may be interested, please email anne@thomascountyhistory.org, or call 229-226-7664 ext. 101

Applications Open for N.E.H. Workshop

The History Center received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to host two week-long teacher workshops in the summer of 2023. Applications are being accepted until March 3rd, and they can be submitted by a K-12 educator from anywhere in the country.

Each week-long workshop will take place in and around Thomasville at various historic locations such as Pebble Hill Plantation, the Jack Hadley Black History Museum, and the Thomasville Regional Airport. The focus will be on the Black experience in Southwest Georgia from Reconstruction through Civil Rights. Educators who are accepted will receive a \$1,300 stipend for the week to off-set expenses.

Please encourage any and all educators that you know to apply at www.thomasvilleneh.org. Visit the website by scanning the QR code below. If you have any questions about the application process please email Anne at anne@thomacountyhistory.org



c.1900
African American History Collection
2008.069.0001

Meet Jada



Jada Fulton

The Thomasville History Center is excited to welcome Jada Fulton as our new part-time Membership Associate. Jada is a student at Thomas County Central High School and is a participant in the Work Based Learning Program. Through this program, Jada will be joining us weekly to help process your memberships, track renewal statistics, and complete other elements of our membership program.

The program offers students crucial work experience in different sectors including retail, food service, and administration. Jada began working with us in late January, and so far, she is a pro at Past Perfect! We are happy to have her as part of the team! Should you have any questions regarding your membership, please continue to direct those questions to Amelia, and she and Jada will help you as soon as possible.

Summer Fun

Summer camps at the History Center means letting childhood imagination and creativity run free as campers immerse themselves in the story of Thomasville and Thomas County. Kicking off the summer June 5-9, we have Camp Dawson which returns for its 24th edition! This next chapter will include another amazing schedule of activities and excursions that still leaves plenty of time for play. Camp Dawson is open to rising Kindergarteners through rising 5th graders. We also welcome teen volunteers to help facilitate the fun. Interested teens should contact Amelia for more information.

At Camp LPH, we're building a foundation of design and legacy of ingenuity. Middle school campers, in rising 6th through rising 8th grades, will have the opportunity to design and construct a tabletop historic district inspired by the Lapham-Patterson House's neighborhood. Presented with teaching support of Landmarks, this camp enters its 3rd year of this format with excitement!

Camps registration opens March 1 online at thomasvillehistory.org.



Apprentices: In the Field

The Spring semester has arrived for the History Center's Apprentices and with it, their Capstone Projects! Over the course of the last few months, they explored the world of museums and non-profits, discussing current issues facing the field and learning the basics of public history, collections care, and museum education. Each Apprentice may select their Capstone topic and their choices range from fundraisers, to living history events, to historic landscape plans, and beyond.



Now, we should note that we do not expect the Apprentices to actually hold a fundraiser or implement a new garden design plan at the Lapham-Patterson House. As we describe it to them, they are to do everything but mail the invitations and start digging.

The project is largely theoretical, and we tasked them with creating a detailed proposal and scope of work that could be implemented in the future. Some Apprentices have chosen topics that allow for physical products, and we look forward to sharing that information with you on social media as their projects develop. The public is invited to attend the Apprentices' Capstone Open House on Saturday, April 29 at the History Center. There, you can meet the Apprentices, chat with them about their experiences, and learn more about their projects!

In the meantime, both cohorts continue their regularly scheduled meetings and excursions. In January the 2nd Years visited the Flint RiverQuarium in Albany where they received a private behind-the-scenes tour of the facility including a look at the involved process of filtering the tanks and a training session with the site's resident parrot, Peppa. The 1st Years joined Pebble Hill Plantation Curator Lori Curtis for a look behind the scenes at their collections and archives and got a sneak peek at the soon to open Kennel House.



Apprentices will visit the Georgia Museum of Agriculture at ABAC and the Historic Florida Capitol Museum for tours and hands-on volunteer projects in their respective curatorial departments this spring.

Thank you to our volunteer chaperones, Mercer Watt, and Pamela and Paul Arceneaux for joining us on these excursions!

Row 1, Cohort 1 at the RiverQuarium; Row 2, Cohort 2 at Pebble Hill Plantation

Clearing Out & Making Space

The Young Street property continues to improve as we've completed the additional clearing of vegetation in front and behind the house. Since last fall, we've finalized the "mothballing" of the house, meaning it has (hopefully) been enclosed to a point that no one or anything can get inside. This process took no less than five contractors, and we're grateful to all of them for their help in this process.

In December, we planted three citrus trees purchased from JoNina Farms in the backyard of the Young Street house. The trees are protected by special coverings that will detract pests and offer insulation from freezes through the winter.

At the Lapham-Patterson House, January began with a grading project designed to help with water drainage and access beneath the House. Over time, a great deal of dirt and other debris has built up beneath the House making access to important mechanical functions, like ducts, much harder. In some areas of the House, the built-up earth has actually crushed ductwork, making it harder to moderate the temperatures inside. Bricks from non-original pathways within the courtyard were removed, and the addition of fresh sod and improvements to the beds bordering the House makes for a more appealing view for rentals and visitors.



Above top: Grading of the Lapham-Patterson House courtyard in January; Above bottom: bed improvements along the House.

The Young Street house backyard before and after Acremaker's clearing and grading.

At right, clockwise from top left: Birdwood College sign found in the attics of the Ewart Bowling Alley by Ephraim and Meme in December; Ephraim, Amelia, and Meme at the Savoy Car Museum in Cartersville during the annual Georgia Association of Museums Conference in February; The Lapham-Patterson House in December, photo by Buzzy Hutchings; The Neel Fountain on the History Center's grounds during the historic holiday freeze; Renovations to one of the costume closets in collections in January; Meme preparing the hallway for its redesign in January; Ruthie Pfaff and Leiann Orr at Show & Tell in February.





Thomas County Historical Society
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