Thomasville Treasures

Our History Begins Here. Let Us Start You on the Journey.

Share your completed coloring pages with us! Tag @thomasvillehistory on Facebook and Instagram and use #ourhistorybeginshere!
Hello, from Thomasville History Center!

Pleased to meet you, friends! This is your guide to discovering all of Thomasville’s treasures at home and across the community.

When you see a that means there’s something you can find!

When you see a that means there’s something you can color, a question you can answer, or an activity you can complete!

When you see a that means you’re about to learn something new!

When you see a that means there is something you can make!

Remember, some items with a don’t have to look exactly like the picture. Use it as inspiration to explore something new, find things that are alike, and things that are different.

Thomasville History Center Word Search

Can you find all of the words that describe the History Center? Words may be horizontal (left to right), vertical (top to bottom), or diagonal (across).

Thomasville
History
Center
Museum
Dawson Street
Fountain
Bowling Alley
Courthouse
Log House
Story
Explore
Discover
Community
Preservation
Historic District
World War I 1914-1918

World War I began in Europe in summer 1914 with the assassination of Austria-Hungary’s Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife. What followed was a domino effect of war declarations fueled by alliances between countries. The United States stayed neutral until 1917 when it entered the war on the side of its allies, the Entente, which included Great Britain, France, and Russia. The Entente was fighting the Central Powers made up of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire. Young men from Thomas County volunteered and were drafted into the fight and were a part of the American Expeditionary Forces, or doughboys, that traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to fight in Europe. The War ended November 11, 1918 and the Treaty of Versailles was signed in 1919. That document laid the foundation for the rebuilding of Europe and planted the seeds for World War II.

“Isms” & Alliances: the Causes of World War I

Match the cause to its definition by drawing a line.

- Militarism
- Alliances
- Imperialism
- Nationalism

A. Practice of European countries creating colonies in other parts of the world
B. Extreme and dangerous pride in one’s country
C. Build up of armies and weapons
D. Agreements and secret pacts between countries to offer support

Dominoes Fall

Step 1: Arrange 10 dominoes in two parallel lines. Place 1 domino by itself at the end of row, spaced far enough that it would not fall if the line in front of it was pushed.

Question 1: What do these two rows represent?

Question 2: Why is there 1 domino by itself? Which country does it represent?

Question 3: Which countries were members of the Entente and the Central Powers?

Step 2: Knock down the first domino in each row. What happens?

Describe how this mirrors what happened in World War I:

Answers:

- Belgium
- Serbia
- Japan
- Italy
- United States (1917)
- Ottoman Empire
- Austria-Hungary
- Germany
- Russia
- France
- Entente
- Central Powers

Question 1: Which country was neutral in 1914?

Question 2: The domino by itself represents the countries that supported the major powers. Count the other colonies and other independent alliances included in the major world powers of Entente & Central Alliances. These alliances included Germany, Austria-Hungary, and the Ottoman Empire.

Question 3: The Entente & Central Alliances. These alliances included the major world powers of

Answers:
The Sinking of the Lusitania

The Lusitania was a British ocean liner operated by the Cunard Company which was traveling from New York to England in May 1915. Despite warnings from the German Navy that any British vessel would be a target of submarine warfare, the British ship sailed with more than a thousand people on board, including many Americans.

One of those Americans was a man named Thomas Silva who had ties to Thomasville; his wife, Ethel Dekle Silva was a Thomasville native and was staying in town with her children while her husband traveled for work. Sadly, Thomas Silva did not survive the sinking of the Lusitania. Politicians and citizens cited the sinking of the Lusitania as a reason for entering the War. It took another year and a half before the U.S. joined the conflict.

DID YOU KNOW? Morse Code consists of spaced dots and dashes to represent letters, numbers, and punctuation. It can be transmitted as long and short sounds when used for audible or visual signals.

Ships, like the Lusitania, used Morse Code to transmit messages during voyages. After the Lusitania was struck by the torpedo, the crew issued an SOS signal, a call for help.

Morse Code

Below is a chart of American Morse Code. Follow the prompts to the right to put messages into Morse Code!

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<th>Letter</th>
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Translate these words into Morse code:

Lusitania

Torpedo

1915

Write a simple sentence in Morse code:
Johnny, get your gun, get your gun, get your gun.  
Take it on the run, on the run, on the run.  
Hear them calling you and me,  
Every Son of Liberty.  
Hurry right away, no delay, go today.  
Make your Daddy glad to have had such a lad.  
Tell your sweetheart not to pine,  
To be proud her boy’s in line.

Johnny, get your gun, get your gun, get your gun.  
Johnny, show the “Hun” you’re a son-of-a-gun.  
Hoist the flag and let her fly  
Yankee Doodle do or die.  
Pack your little kit, show your grit, do your bit.  
Yankee to the ranks from the towns and the tanks  
Make your Mother proud of you  
And the old red-white-and-blue

“Over There” by George M. Cohan, 1917

Design a songbook cover for “Over There”

Over there, over there,  
Send the word, send the word over there  
That the Yanks are coming, the Yanks are coming  
The drums rum-tumming everywhere.  
So prepare, say a prayer,  
Send the word, send the word to beware –  
We’ll be over, we’re coming over,  
And we won’t come back till it’s over, over there.

“Over There” by George M. Cohan, 1917

Library of Congress, “Over There,” shorturl.at/lwDW3

Did You Know? Lt. T.L. Spence, Jr.

Tommy Spence graduated from Thomasville High School and attended Georgia Tech University. He volunteered to serve in the military in 1917 and was trained as a pilot. Spence served in France and survived the War.

Just after the Armistice, the peace agreement on November 11, Spence died in an airplane crash. The Thomasville community mourned his death. An airfield and the local American Legion was named in his honor.