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.

\[ \text{Thomasville History Center Word Search} \]

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

D H M X U M G L U H D T D I S C O V E R  
B Y I O A R X Q Z O I A H O O X Y C M B  
C V T S N G O P F O U N T A I N C M P  
V O V D T Q G K H V W F U Q A U X N I R  
I Z U A A O G U C S S L A C H S P T Z E  
J E L R V E R Z I G R V T W R Q N E G S  
X D D W T M X I V J Z F T B V M E R K E  
J L R P O H A B C M E D A G J U X S B R  
F Y D W K E O I F D E A A Z Q S P C O V  
B L L Y B T J U V U I W I E S E E L O W A  
D L C X H H E P S U R S O I N U O M L T  
S O A C I O Z Z T E C O T I A M R M I I  
T G H S X M U T Y B P N Z R O E E U N O  
O H Q Z Z A B H N Q Z S W Q I S T N G N  
R O J L K S Q X H I S T O R Y C H I A X  
Y U P K H V S S W A H R L B L M T T L M  
L S Q Y I I E G X V B E F Y E N M Y L I  
K E T O Q L A P S C H E A K G R N P E M  
P X D A Z E Y Z M E A A R P N W F E T R
The U.S. practiced isolationism, the policy of staying out of World War Two from 1939-1941. However, the United States supported Britain and the other Allied powers financially and with weapons. When Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, causing many to die and many naval ships to sink, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared war on Japan. This began the Pacific Theater part of WWII. Germany was Japan’s ally and declared war on the U.S. The United States declared war back. This began the Western Front or European Theater of World War II.

**Causes of World War II**

- **Japanese Expansion**: Like Germany, Japan wanted to expand its influence and power over more territory and expand their access to natural resources to support its growing population. It invaded Manchuria (1931) and China (1937).

- **Great Depression**: In the 1930’s, many countries around the world were experiencing an economic depression. Many people were unemployed and were struggling to pay for their basic needs like food and shelter. Governments became unstable and dictatorships took advantage of the situation to gain power and influence.

- **Nazism**: Led by Adolf Hitler, the Nazi Party gained power and influence and offered Germans hope for relief from the economic depression caused by the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler’s government rebuilt Germany’s army and entered into an alliance with Italy. The Nazis looked for ways to expand Germany’s territory.

- **Fascism**: Dictators gained power and influence in countries like Germany and Italy that were experiencing economic depressions. Fascist governments called for nationalist policies that would expand the countries’ empires to new territory.

- **Treaty of Versailles**: The treaty ended World War I and forced Germany to pay reparations to the Allies. This was a factor in breaking the German economy and led to growing anger among the German people.

- **Appeasement**: After the trauma of World War I, countries in Europe were not willing to engage in a new conflict. As Germany and France tried appeasement: keeping Hitler happy instead of trying to stop him did not work. It only made Germany bolder and more determined. British and French leaders appeased Germany and Italy became more aggressive. Countries like Britain and France became more willing to engage in a new conflict. As a result, Europe was not willing to support the United States against Japan.
YESTERDAY, December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that Nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor, looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.

Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in the American Island of Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to our Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. And while this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or of armed attack.

You can listen to President Roosevelt’s speech or read the excerpt above and react to his message. How do you think the American public felt on December 8, 1941?

Decode the Message
The United States military has intercepted a message from Japan to Germany in December 1941. Use the substitution method to break the code. The substitution method is when you replace each number with its place in the alphabet: for example, A=1, D=4, and K=11.

23|5 23|9|12|12 1|20|20|1|3|11 9|14 4|5|3|5|13|2|5|18

"A Day that Will Live in Infamy"
Japan attacked the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on the morning of December 7, 1941. This triggered the United States’ entry into World War II.
**In the Fight**
The American military fought the Axis Powers (Germany, Japan, and Italy) in two parts of the world, the European Theater and the Pacific Theater. Soldiers from Georgia and Thomas County fought in both. Georgia and Thomas County sent many men and women to the war effort, some estimates put the number close to 320,000.

Some soldiers were drafted and some volunteered. Not all of them returned home safely. Enlistment in Thomas County and across the nation began in 1941, in the months leading up to the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. After the attack, enlistment in the armed services skyrocketed.

**Frieda Patterson: Army Nurse**
Frieda Patterson was a registered nurse in New York City when Pearl Harbor was attacked. A Thomasville native, Frieda joined the Red Cross who supplied nurses to the Army. In April 1942, she and her unit received top-secret orders that they were headed overseas. For a long time, the nurses couldn’t even put the words “South Pacific” in their letters home.

Frieda worked in hospitals in Tongatapu and India. The nurses were responsible for caring for the soldiers and sometimes in tents using vintage World War I medical supplies. In February 1945, Frieda and the nurses received word that they were to go home. She arrived back in Thomasville in May 1945. When she arrived home, she began work at Finney General Hospital. She was released from active duty in November 1945 after three years of service.
The Holocaust was the genocide of the European Jews during World War II. Between 1941 and 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered some six million Jews, around two-thirds of Europe’s Jewish population.

A genocide is the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group or nation.

The Holocaust was a horrific and truly evil time in our world’s history. Unfortunately, though, genocides continue to happen around the world. Genocides never happen by accident. They are planned, coordinated, and deliberate.

You can help end genocide around the world by knowing its signs and stages. The Pyramid of Hate was created by the Anti Defamation League to help prevent genocide. The Pyramid of Hate illustrates that genocide is built upon the acceptance of hateful behaviors described in the lower levels of the pyramid. If countries accept the hatred shown on the lower levels, they risk the danger of eventually accepting a hatred that leads to genocide.
The Holocaust

The Ten Stages of Genocide diagram was created by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust to educate the world about the warning signs of genocide. It uses examples from different genocides in the world.

**THE TEN STAGES OF GENOCIDE**

**Stage One: Classification**
The differences between people are not respected. There’s a division of “us” and “them,” which can be carried out using stereotypes, or excluding people who are perceived to be different.

**Stage Two: Symbolisation**
This is a visual manifestation of hatred. Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe were forced to wear the yellow Star of David. In Cambodia, the Khmer Rouge forced people from the Eastern Zone to wear blue scarves. From 1991, in north-west Bosnia, all non-Serbian citizens were forced to wear white armbands.

**Stage Three: Discrimination**
The dominant group denies civil rights or even citizenship to identified groups. The 1933 Nuremberg Laws stripped Jews of their German citizenship, made it illegal for them to do many jobs or to marry German non-Jews.

**Stage Four: Dehumanisation**
Those perceived as “different” are treated with no form of human rights or personal dignity. During the Genocide in Rwanda, Tutsis were referred to as “cockroaches,” the Nazis referred to Jews as “vermin.”

**Stage Five: Organisation**
Genocides are always planned. Regimes of hatred often train those who go on to carry out the destruction of a people. The Sudanese Government supports and arms the Janjaweed (Arab militia) in Darfur to carry out the violence and killings.

**Stage Six: Polarisation**
Propaganda begins to be spread by hate groups. The Nazis used the newspaper Der Stürmer to spread and incite messages of hate about Jewish people.

**Stage Seven: Preparation**
Perpetrators plan the genocide. They often use euphemisms such as the Nazi phrase “The Final Solution” to cloak their intentions. Acts of genocide are disguised as self-defense if there is an ongoing armed conflict or civil war, such as in Bosnia.

**Stage Eight: Persecution**
Victims are identified because of their ethnicity or religion and death lists are drawn up. People are sometimes segregated into ghettos, deported or starved and property is often expropriated. Genocidal massacres begin.

**Stage Nine: Extermination**
The Nazi group murders their identified victims in a deliberate and systematic campaign of violence. Millions of lives have been destroyed or changed beyond recognition through genocide.

**Stage Ten: Denial**
The perpetrators or later generations deny the existence of any crime. Evidence is destroyed and witnesses are intimidated. There has been an increase in Holocaust denial online in recent years.

Want to Know More?

Sometimes the best way to learn about history is to watch it. We recommend these movies and documentaries about the Holocaust.

"The Boy in Striped Pajamas" (PG-13)
"La Vita E Bella" (PG-13)
"The Book Thief" (PG-13)
"Escape from Auschwitz" (PG-13)
"The Diary of Anne Frank" (Approved)
Now that you know about genocides like the Holocaust what will you do with that information?
The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African-American military pilots who fought in World War II. They formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Forces.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
1. The Tuskegee airmen once shot down three German jets in a single day!
2. Thurgood Marshall, the future Supreme Court justice, got his start defending Tuskegee bomber trainees.
3. First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt was instrumental in the forming of the Tuskegee Airmen.
4. Three Tuskegee airmen went on to become generals: Daniel James, Benjamin O. Davis Jr., and Lucius Theus.

**Racial Discrimination**

Being a Tuskegee Airman was not easy. In addition to being pilots, navigators, bombardiers, maintenance and support staff, and flying instructors, the airmen faced racial discrimination inside the military and in the United States.

**DID YOU KNOW?**
In 2021 the U.S. Mint will issue an America the Beautiful quarter commemorating the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site. The coin depicts a Tuskegee Airman suiting up with two P-51 Mustangs flying overhead and the motto “They fought two wars.” This motto represents the Tuskegee’s Airmen’s commitment to fighting in World War Two and fighting racial injustice in the United States.
Thank you, Tuskegee Airmen!

Write a letter thanking the Tuskegee Airmen for their service and sacrifice during World War II.

Roger Terry (center) at Tuskegee Army Air Field, Dec 1944. Source: National Archives.
D-Day

June 6, 1944

Under the code name Operation Overlord, the Allied Powers joined forces to plan and execute an invasion of German-occupied France at Normandy in June 1944. A combined attack from the air, sea, and on land turned the tide of the War in favor of the Allies.

"The eyes of the world are upon you..." General Dwight D. Eisenhower

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Extra, Extra! Read All About It!

Newspapers and radio were the main ways that people got updates on the War because their was no television. In most communities, the local newspaper ran a morning edition and an evening edition that had updates on battles, casualties, and national news in addition to local news. Using the newspaper front page above, fill in the blanks:

Headline (attention grabber) ____________________________________________

City & State: _________________________________________________________

Date: ________________________________________________________________

Masthead (newspaper name):___________________________________________
The Battle of Iwo Jima

February 19 – March 26, 1945

The Battle on Iwo Jima was fought for more than 3 weeks. A photographer on the island captured the now famous photograph of Marines raising the American flag on the top of Mt. Suribachi.

Dr. Julian Neel

Dr. Julian Neel, a Thomasville native, was still in medical school when Pearl Harbor was bombed in 1941. After finishing his training at Emory University in late 1944, he entered the Navy. Neel left the States for the Pacific Theater in early 1945, just in time for the Battle of Iwo Jima. Dr. Neel saw the invasion of the island from the ship saying

“In the darkness, I witnessed the most magnificent fireworks I had ever seen in my life.”

Neel and his fellow medics landed on the beach while fighting was still going on around him. He and his unit followed behind the front line giving medical care to the injured Marines and soldiers. Working out of old Japanese foxholes, the medical team treated the minor wounds and sent the troops back to the front and provided medical care to stabilize those wounded more seriously. The Battle of Iwo Jima was the first time that chilled blood was used for transfusions; it was shipped from Guam and saved lives.
Thomasville in World War II

Thomasville Army Air Base
The new Thomasville Municipal Airport was leased to the US government for $1 per year to be used as a military reservation and air base. The Thomasville Air Base trained fighter pilots in the newest planes developed for warfare: P-39 AirCobra, P-40 Curtiss Warhawk, P-51 Mustang.

Pilots arrived in Thomasville to begin training at the Air Base in March 1943 but news of their arrival and their training was highly secret. Even Mrs. Virginia Ball, a local woman who provided food for the base, did not know what her customers were up to! Pilots at Thomasville’s Air Base practiced flying in formation, flew long flights to the Gulf Coast, and practiced night flights. To condition their eyes to night flying, pilots wore special goggles with bright red lenses for thirty to forty-five minutes before their flight. The Base had its own newspaper called the "Air Puffs" that kept everyone informed. The Air Base was also important in transporting patients to and from Finney General Hospital in Thomasville. Very little of the Base is still visible but the property now functions as the Thomasville Municipal Airport.

Air Puffs Editorial
Write a brief article about the training that pilots experienced at the Thomasville Air Base using the photo in the box as inspiration.

North American P-51 Mustangs
The primary, long-range fighter escorts for Allied bombers headed to Berlin and other German cities. The first U.S. heavy bombers struck Berlin in March 1944. The formations were enormous: On that first mission, 730 bombers struck, escorted by 800 fighters.

Curtiss P-40 Warhawk
As the fighter of the Flying Tigers, painted with a shark’s mouth on the air scoop under its long snout; it could out-dive most adversaries.

Bell P-39 Airacobra
Smallish, low-wing fighter with rounded wings and tail. Pretty in profile and hugely effective in the hands of Soviet pilots.

Check out the plane spotter sheet from the Air & Space Museum that describes World War II Planes:
Thomasville in World War II

Finney General Hospital

Finney General Hospital, named in honor of Brigadier General John M. T. Finney, who pioneered taking medical care to the front, was dedicated June 16, 1943, on a large property on S. Pinetree Blvd. Finney was one of sixty Army hospitals built across the country to care for sick and wounded WWII soldiers.

At its peak, Finney included two hundred buildings linked by nine miles of covered walkways. In addition to hospital wards, a theater, gymnasium, chapel, bowling alley and barracks for German prisoners of war were parts of the compound. Numerous celebrities visited to entertain patients and staff. Citizens of Thomas County provided support through the Grey Ladies Corps, plantation picnics, use of the YMCA, and lodging for soldiers’ families in private homes.

Finney General closed December 15, 1945, having treated 23,055 WWII veterans. Several Finney buildings, including the chapel, water tower, power plant, and a few barracks still stand.

DID YOU KNOW?
The Georgia Historical Society placed a state historic marker at the former site of Finney General Hospital in 2006. The sign tells the story of the doctors, nurses, and patients who spent time there during World War II.

Pop Quiz!

How many veterans were treated at Finney General Hospital?

Who was Finney General Hospital named for?

How many buildings were on the property?

How many Army hospitals were built across the country?
The Filter Center at Thomasville opened in early 1942 and was managed by the Air Warning Service of the Army Signal Corps. The Filter Center was a secret military installation that tracked aircraft in flight over the region.

It was located on the upper floor of the Upchurch Building at 125 N. Broad Street. Because radar was not yet in use, the military relied on observation posts manned by volunteers, servicemen, forest service fire watchers, and others to monitor the position, direction, and markings of aircrafts as they flew overhead. The observation towers would report their sightings by phone and these reports would be “filtered” at the center.

The Filter Center tracked the flight paths and sightings on large maps. The Filter Center in Thomasville was staffed by more than fifty volunteers, mostly women. The women worked a 14 hour day shift and local men and high school boys covered the night shift. Some of the women who worked at the Filter Center became among the first Women’s Auxiliary Army Corps officers in the country. The Filter Center closed sometime in 1943.

Fold a Paper Airplane

Supplies:
- paper
- double stick tape
- paper clip

Step 1: Start with a piece of paper and fold it in half vertically.
Step 2: Unfold the paper and fold each of the top corners in to the center line.
Step 2: Fold the top edges to the center line.
Step 3: Fold the plane in half toward you.
Step 4: Fold the wings down, matching the top edges up with the bottom edge of the body.
Step 5: Add double stick tape to the inside of the body.

Give it a throw and see how far it can fly. Try adding a paperclip to the nose and see if that helps it to fly further...

Blackout Conditions

The United States gave instructions for citizens to observe blackout conditions at night before the War even began. Starting in late 1939, citizens were told to cover windows with heavy curtains, cardboard, or paint to prevent the escape of any glimmer of light that might aid enemy aircraft.

The Upchurch Building, 1935
Rosie the Riveter

Rosie the Riveter was the character created to represent the thousands of women across the country who went to work for the war effort in factories. The character of "Rosie" appeared in several different propaganda campaigns to encourage more women to join the war effort. Around 5 million women joined the workforce and helped to produce munitions, weapons, airplanes, and more.

Did You Know?
The famous "Rosie" featured in the "We Can Do It" poster was based on a photograph of Naomi Parker Fraley, a 20 year old factory worker in California whose photograph was taken in 1942 and used in a brief propaganda campaign. The poster gained popularity in the 1990s and has become the image people think of when they hear about the "Rosie's".

As you color the photograph of "Rosie," think about what she and her fellow factory workers accomplished. What words would you use to describe their actions?
V-E DAY

Victory in Europe Day, May 8, 1945, is the day that Germany surrendered to the Allies and fighting ended in the European Theater. After peace was declared in Europe, the focus of the Allied forces turned to the Pacific Theater where years of island hopping and bloody battles had resulted in a stalemate with Japan.

"The most terrible bomb in the history of the world..."

The Manhattan Project & the Atomic Bomb

President Roosevelt died in the spring of 1945 before V-E Day. His Vice President, Harry S. Truman succeeded him as the new President. In addition to inheriting the presidency, Truman inherited the command of the military and the ongoing war effort. For years, American scientists had been working with the government to develop a new nuclear weapon called the atomic bomb. The Manhattan Project was so secret that even Truman, the Vice President, had no idea the program existed!

President Truman had to make a tough decision: drop the new atomic bombs on Japan or prepare to invade Japan which would prolong the war and result in even more loss of life. President Truman decided to drop the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6 to try and force Japan’s surrender. The bomb killed thousands of Japanese civilians and destroyed the city but Japan still would not surrender. Three days later, on August 9, Truman authorized the use of a second bomb on Nagasaki, Japan. Finally, Japan surrendered on September 2. This is known as V-J Day. This officially ended World War II.

What would you do?

List the pro’s and con’s of dropping the atomic bombs on Japan to help you decide what you would do in Truman’s place.

Pros

Cons

Learn More: https://www.nps.gov/articles/trumanatomicbomb.htm