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!

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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

D H M X U M G L U H D T D IS CO 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 E 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 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 R P N W F E T R
Life Under Jim Crow
Thomas County was segregated by both culture and state law. Public venues like theaters and stadiums maintained separate seating, and all accommodations from restrooms to listening booths at music stores were built in pairs to avoid race mixing. Despite the rights granted to African-Americans with the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments. Lawmakers across the South, and in Georgia, put in place strict Jim Crow laws that ruled day to day life for all citizens.

What did each amendment do?
What year was each amendment issued?

13th Amendment: Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

14th Amendment: All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

15th Amendment: The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.
Jim Crow Laws in Georgia
No colored barber shall serve as a barber [to] white women or girls.

The officer in charge shall not bury, or allow to be buried, any colored persons upon ground set apart or used for the burial of white persons.

It shall be unlawful for a white person to marry anyone except a white person. Any marriage in violation of this section shall be void.

All persons licensed to conduct a restaurant, shall serve either white people exclusively or colored people exclusively and shall not sell to the two races within the same room or serve the two races anywhere under the same license.

All persons licensed to conduct the business of selling beer or wine...shall serve either white people exclusively or colored people exclusively and shall not sell to the two races within the same room at any time.

It shall be unlawful for any amateur white baseball team to play on any vacant lot or baseball diamond within two blocks of a playground devoted to the Negro race, and it shall be unlawful for any amateur colored baseball team to play baseball within two blocks of any playground devoted to the white race.

Disenfranchisement: Obstacles to Voting

Poll Taxes
Fees that had to be paid before a citizen could vote.

Did You Know?

Literacy Tests
A test used to keep people of color and some poor whites from voting; Officials in charge of voter registration were allowed to ask you a series of questions to find out whether you could read or had an understanding of government. If the official wanted someone to pass, they could ask the easiest question on the test, while the same official might make a person of color answer every single question correctly.

Grandfather Clause
In the late 1800’s, to vote, some citizens had to prove that they had an ancestor who voted in an election before the Civil War. Since African-Americans weren’t citizens and couldn’t vote before the war, they would not be allowed to vote.
Could You Pass a Literacy Test?

1965 Alabama Literacy Test: this is just a small sample of the questions asked. In all, there were more than 60 questions on the original test. Use this link to see the complete test: shorturl.at/cjvU6

1. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?
   - Public Education
   - Employment
   - Trial by Jury
   - Voting

2. The federal census of population is taken every five years. True False

3. If a person is indicted for a crime, name two rights which he has.
   1. __________________________
   2. __________________________

4. A U.S. senator elected at the general election in November takes office the following year on what date?

5. A President elected at the general election in November takes office the following year on what date?

6. Which definition applies to the word "amendment?"
   - Proposed change, as in a Constitution
   - Make of peace between nationals at war
   - A part of the government

7. A person appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court is appointed for a term of __________.

8. When the Constitution was approved by the original colonies, how many states had to ratify it in order for it to be in effect? ________________

9. Does enumeration affect the income tax levied on citizens in various states? __________

10. To serve as President of the United States, a person must have attained:
    - 25 years of age
    - 35 years of age
    - 40 years of age
    - 45 years of age

Plessy vs. Ferguson (1896): "Separate But Equal"

The Supreme Court case Plessy vs. Ferguson resulted in the ruling that the principle of "separate but equal" was constitutional. Homer Plessy, an African-American man in Louisiana, was arrested for sitting in a train car designated for whites in 1892. He fought the charge using the argument that it was unconstitutional to refuse him equal access to public accommodations on the basis of his race. The Supreme Court ruled that as long as those accommodations were equal, it was legal to segregate the races.

“We consider the underlying fallacy of [Plessy’s] argument to consist in the assumption that the enforced separation of the two races stamps the colored race with a badge of inferiority. If this be so, it is not by reason of anything found in the act, but solely because the colored race chooses to put that construction upon it.”- Justice Henry Brown

Word Search

Read the quote from the Supreme Court case above. Find the synonyms in the text for these words:

Untrue          Segregation          Lesser
Brown vs. The Board of Education (1954)
"Separate Is Not Equal"

The Supreme Court case Brown vs. Board of Education was actually a collection of 5 different cases dealing with segregation in public education that was argued by Thurgood Marshall of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The case is viewed as the start of the modern Civil Rights Movement.

Marshall argued that separate schools for African American children were "inherently unequal" to those for whites and violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. The ruling did not include instructions for how states were to go about desegregating. More than a decade and a half passed before desegregation was complete across the country and especially the South.

"It follows that with education, this Court has made segregation and inequality equivalent concepts. They have equal rating, equal footing, and if segregation thus necessarily imports inequality, it makes no great difference whether we say that the Negro is wronged because he is segregated, or that he is wronged because he received unequal treatment..." - Thurgood Marshall

https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/history-brown-v-board-education-re-enactment

Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993)

"Thurgood Marshall was born in Maryland in 1908 and was the grandson of an enslaved man. Marshall attended Lincoln College and graduated from the Howard University Law School. He had applied to the University of Maryland Law School but was denied entry on the basis of race; the school was still segregated.

Marshall went to work for the NAACP in 1936 and was quickly named their chief legal counsel. Marshall argued many cases relating to segregation. He famously argued the Brown vs. Board of Education case in front of the Supreme Court. He was asked during the trial "what did he mean by equal," and he replied "Equal means getting the same thing, at the same time, and in the same place." Marshall is described as the "legal architect" of the modern Civil Rights Movement. At one time, he was overseeing more than 450 cases.


https://www.naacpldf.org/about-us/history/thurgood-marshall/
Education was segregated in Thomas County for decades. The first formal education of African American students began with the Freedmen's Bureau after the Civil War. Over the next century, several schools were designated at the City and County level for African-American students for elementary through high school under the “separate but equal” rules of the time.

### Segregated Schools in Thomas County

- **1901**: Clay Street School, Thomasville City's first public school for African Americans opens.
- **1925**: Fire destroys Clay Street School, 2 new schools open: Normal Park Elementary (renamed Susie Dunlop Elementary in the 1960s) & Dewey City Public School (renamed Frederick Douglass High School in the late 1920s)
- **1937**: Fire destroys Frederick Douglass High School and a new building is built on the same property
- **1958-1959**: County high schools consolidated, Central High School opens for white students and Magnolia High School opens for black students
- **1970-1971**: First full year of integrated education at City and County Schools. Douglass High School becomes the City middle school and Magnolia High becomes the County middle school.
For 13 months, an organized group of Montgomery, Alabama’s African American citizens conducted a peaceful, non-violent protest under the leadership of Martin Luther King, Jr.. The Boycott ended with the Supreme Court’s ruling that segregation on public transportation was unconstitutional. The community members wanted the following changes:

- no one standing over empty seats
- a decree that black individuals not be made to pay at the front of the bus and enter from the rear
- a policy requiring buses to stop at every corner in black residential neighborhoods just like they did in white communities.

Rosa Parks' protest has become one of the most well-known acts of resistance during the boycott. Parks refused to give up her seat on the bus for a white passenger. As a result, she was arrested. Rosa Parks was a longtime member of local social justice organizations and involved in the city’s civil rights movement. Later, Dr. King said that the reason Mrs. Parks’ arrest mobilized the black community was that her "character was impeccable and her dedication deep-rooted." The respect that the community had for her encouraged them to rally behind the cause. Parks became an icon of the movement.
During the 1956 Georgia Legislative session, lawmakers agreed to a change in the design of Georgia's state flag. This change was likely in response to growing anti-segregation feelings and a negative reaction to the Brown vs. Board of Education ruling. The new flag featured elements of the Confederate Battle Flag which came to have associations with white supremacy after the Civil War.

"The raising of the battle flag over the capitol is clear intimidation of those who would enforce integration and a statement of firm resolve to resist integration."

http://www.senate.ga.gov/sro/Documents/StudyCommRpts/00StateFlag.pdf
The Albany Movement, Fall 1961-Summer 1962
Following the model of non-violent protests, African-American citizens of Albany, Georgia began protesting the continued segregation of the interstate bus terminals even though the Interstate Commerce Commission banned segregation on November 1, 1961.

The Movement began when 9 African-American students from Albany State College conducted a sit-in. None were arrested but their peaceful protest inspired a partnership between several local organizations with support from SNCC and the NAACP. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the SCLC (Southern Christian Leadership Conference) were also involved.

Dr. King was arrested 3 times while protesting in Albany. The City went back on its promise to free protesters in jail and to follow the ICC’s ruling. Protests and arrests continued for several months. After Dr. King left the city, the Albany Movement was over. The Movement influenced some of the practices that Dr. King and other organizers used in Birmingham the following year.

Opinion: How did the protesters stand up for equal rights? If you were their lawyer, what arguments would you use to defend them?
March on Washington, August 28, 1963

More than 250,000 people attended the 1963 March on Washington, organized by a network of Civil Rights organizations and featuring the now iconic speech by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have a Dream." Marchers gathered at the base of the Lincoln Memorial to listen to the speakers. The speeches were also broadcast across the country on television, bringing the message of the Civil Rights Movement into the homes of millions of Americans.

Rights Leaders See March As 'Merely A Beginning'

“We have also come to this hallowed spot (My Lord) to remind America of the fierce urgency of now. (Mhm) This is no time (My Lord) to engage in the luxury of cooling off or to take the tranquilizing drug of gradualism. [applause] (Yes, Speak on it!) Now is the time (Yes it is) to make real the promises of democracy. (My Lord) Now is the time to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice. Now is the time [applause] to lift our nation from the quicksands of racial injustice to the solid rock of brotherhood. Now is the time (Yes) [applause] (Now) to make justice a reality for all of God’s children.” - Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "I Have a Dream"

Listen to Dr. King's full speech: shorturl.at/hwO34

Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee

One of the organizations that helped to organize the March was SNCC. Founded in 1960, the members were mostly college students who used nonviolent protests to call attention to the inequality of segregation. Over time, the group’s peaceful methods became more radical. They were involved in the Freedom Rides in Mississippi in the later 1960s. John Lewis, a noted icon of the movement was a leader of SNCC.
Design a sign for marchers in Washington

John Lewis
A current member of the United States House of Representatives representing Georgia's 5th District. John Lewis is an icon of the Civil Rights Movement and was arrested and beaten several times during protests. He was an early leader of SNCC and went on to serve in several positions in the government. At age 23, he was one of the architects of the March on Washington and was a speaker on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. With Dr. King, he helped organize and lead the march from Selma to Montgomery that became known as "Bloody Sunday," after marchers were attached by law enforcement trying to stop their peaceful protest.

Learn More:
johnlewis.house.gov

Southern Christian Leadership Conference
The SCLC was established in 1957 with the goal of "redeeming the soul of America" through nonviolent and peaceful protests. The organization helped to coordinate many local action groups across the South and was led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The organization grew out of the Montgomery Bus Boycott. The SCLC is still in operation today.

Learn More:
shorturl.at/wGHW6
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr & His Legacy

The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was the leader of the modern civil rights movement from 1955 until his assassination in 1968. Dr. King was an advocate of nonviolence and used peaceful protests, grassroots community organizing, and civil disobedience to achieve the movement’s goals. Dr. King acted as the spokesman of the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-1956), President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (1957-1968), leader of the Birmingham Campaign (1963), featured speaker at the 1963 March on Washington where he delivered his "I Have a Dream Speech," 1964 winner of a Nobel Peace Prize, and organizer of the 1965 March from Selma, AL to Montgomery, AL which was a direct factor in the passage of the Voting Rights Act. Between 1965 and his death in 1968, Dr. King focused on economic justice and international peace. Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee. After his death was announced, a wave of violence broke out across the country; riots caused more than 40 deaths and widespread damage to property in more than 100 American cities. President Lyndon B. Johnson called for a national day of mourning on April 7, 1968 in King’s honor. Dr. King’s fight for civil and human rights continues.

https://thekingcenter.org/about-dr-king/

Thank you, Dr. King

Write a note thanking Dr. King. How has his work impacted your life?


The Civil Rights Act, 1964

After the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in late 1963, the new president, Lyndon B. Johnson, worked with civil rights leaders to pass the Civil Rights Act. Before his death, Kennedy gave a live speech on television describing the bill before submitting it to Congress. The bill passed the House of Representatives on February 10, 1964 after lengthy debate and the addition of more than 100 amendments meant to weaken the bill. The real challenge to bring the Civil Rights Act to reality would be in the Senate because of fears over expanding federal powers and the mixed opinions of the general public. Republican Senators who opposed the bill launched a 57 day filibuster; finally, a compromise was reached. President Johnson signed the bill into law on July 2, 1964.

What did the Civil Rights Act do?

- Enforced right to vote for all citizens
- Desegregated schools
- Updated Voting Rights Act

Recommended Reading

The Thomasville History Center recommends the following books to learn more about voting rights and the civil rights movement.

- "Martin's Big Words"
- "March" Graphic Novel Series
- "We Are the Change: Words of Inspiration from Civil Rights Leaders"
- "The Story of Ruby Bridges"
- "Malcolm X: A Fire Burning Brightly"
- "Voice of Freedom: Fannie Lou Hamer - Spirit of the Civil Rights Movement"
- "Civil Rights Then and Now: A Timeline of the Fight for Equality in America" (currently free on Kindle)
- "One Votes, Two Votes, I Vote, You Vote: Voting with Cat in the Hat"
In the year following the passage of the Civil Rights Act, it became clear that the existing federal laws against discrimination were not good enough. A wave of violence and terrorism against those who were working to register voters and remove obstacles to voting had to be addressed. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 forced states to uphold the 15th Amendment.

Voting Rights Act, 1965

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Declaration of Human Rights

Did You Know?

In 1948, the United Nations drafted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It was drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from different countries in the world. There are 30 articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

You can see a larger version of the document here: https://tinyurl.com/ycdn8zly

Why is it important for ALL humans to have rights?
Civil Rights Crossword Puzzle

Down:
1. A southern minister and activist in the modern civil rights movement
2. To avoid a business or service in protest
3. The murder of a prominent person or political figure
4. Laws and practices that established separate but equal
7. The lawyer who argued the Brown vs. Board of Education case in front of the Supreme Court
9. 1965 legislation that outlawed racial discrimination in voting
10. Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee
12. A voting fee imposed on African Americans to discourage them from voting

Across:
5. 1964 legislation that outlawed discrimination, required equal access to public places and employment and enforced desegregation of schools and the right to vote
6. An American civil rights icon who was involved in the Montgomery Bus Boycott
8. An American political and civil rights leader from Georgia
9. The action of casting a ballot in an election
11. America’s 36th president who signed into law the Civil Rights Act
13. Forced separation of two racial groups
14. The process of ending the forced separation of two racial groups