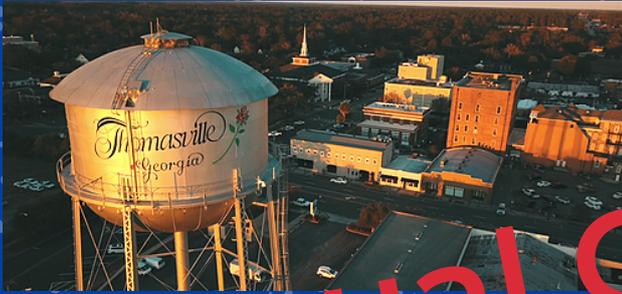


Winter 2021/2022

gam *essenger*

Georgia Association of Museums



Annual Conference
February 6 - 9, 2022
Thomasville, GA

Stay at the Conference Hotel

Courtyard by Marriott
207 South Dawson Street
Thomasville, GA 31792
(229) 264-4300
\$164.00 per night plus taxes and fees.

Or at the:

Hampton Inn
1950 Georgia Highway 122
Thomasville, GA, 31757
229-227-0040
\$124.00 per night plus taxes and fees.

Call either and ask for the Georgia Association of Museums group rate.



From the President

See You Soon in Thomasville!



Thomasville is excited and ready to host GAM2022. The Courtyard Marriott is a new and beautiful hotel, one of their first new concept hotels designed to blend in to the existing architecture of the city. The session/workshop rooms are equipped with all latest technology. Great restaurants, bars, and shopping are all

within a couple of blocks. The meet-and-greet cocktail party on Sunday night at the Three Toms Tavern will give a great view of the city in a beautifully renovated building. Be sure to register for one of the day tours on Monday – Thomasville has beautiful historic churches and a great downtown – or sign up to see Pope’s Store Museum, an eclectic and fascinating one-of-a-kind site! On Monday night, enjoy wine and cheese at Pebble Hill, appetizers at Jack Hadley’s Black History Museum, dinner at Thomasville History Center, then walk across the street for aperitifs and desserts at the Lapham-Patterson House. On Tuesday night, the MUSE auction will be at the Thomasville Center for the Arts, located in a 1915 elementary school built by acclaimed architect Frank Galliher. Dinner there will be a sampling of some of Thomasville’s best restaurants. We can’t wait to see you and hope you can’t wait to get here!

Finally, thank you all for your continued support of GAM. It’s been a challenging two years, but we’re very much still here, and the best is yet to come.

Thanks again,

Ephraim
GAM President



The Thomasville History Center, housed in the 1923 Flowers-Roberts House

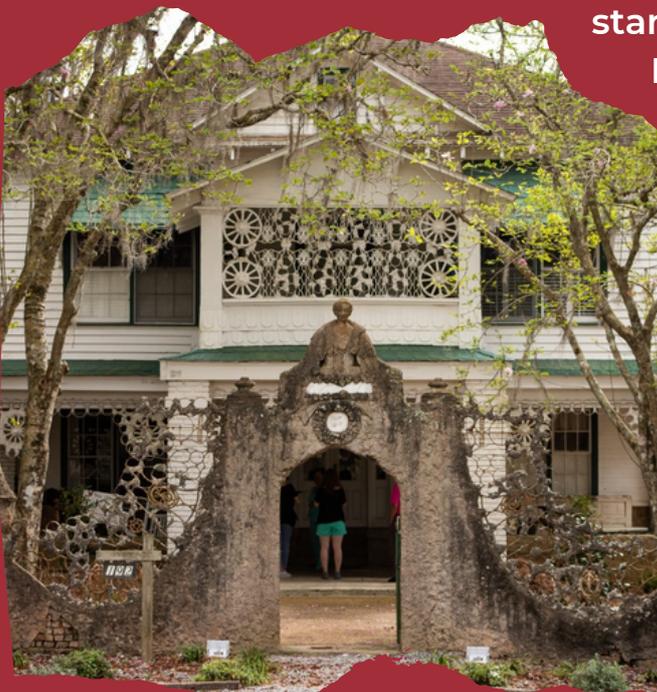
EPHRAIM DECLARES THE CONFERENCE FOOD WILL BE DELICIOUS, BUT LET'S HAVE A TASTE OF THOMASVILLE'S MUSEUMS .

Pope's Store Museum

Born in a rural area of South Georgia, Laura Pope Forester combined her gifts and her convictions to create an environment that demonstrated both superior artistic genius, and a message that was rarely heard in the early 20th century-that women provided a varied and vital role in Georgian and American society. While she lived her entire life in Georgia, the outsider artist environment that she single-handedly created boasted of having visitors from 48 states and every continent except Antarctica. Pope's Museum, also known as Pope's Store Museum, was toured by citizens throughout the nation and continues to be so, seventy years after her death.

Today her artwork continues to inspire with both its beauty and its message. Laura Pope Forester was not trained formally in her craft. Officially she was a landowner, store owner/operator, postmistress and wife and mother. Yet these titles linked her to the land, while her vision continued to soar. Using common concrete and sand from the local creek, she created over 200 sculptures and dozens of murals to build an emporium highlighting the achievements of notables such as the first woman U.S. Senator (from GA incidentally), the first female ambassador to Denmark, and the literary heroine Scarlet O'Hara, who valued and fought for her beloved Georgian home Tara. There were hundreds of others. It is important to note that these female statues are

standing beside males such as General Eisenhower and Pilot Colin Kelly. The message being one of equality and unity, not superiority. Mrs. Pope Forest honored people for their contributions, turning the viewer toward a point of view of equality. She was a woman of the 20th century who paved the way for our generation to embrace this ideal.



Thomasville History Center

2022 marks several special anniversaries for the Thomasville History Center: it is the 100th anniversary of the start of construction of our main building (the Flowers-Roberts House), the 70th anniversary of our founding, and the 50th anniversary of our opening as a museum and research center.

The Thomasville History Center's campus extends across two sites in the Dawson Street Historic District, close to the bustling downtown area. In addition to our extensive artifact and archival collections located in the 1923 Flowers-Roberts House, the History Center's property features seven historic structures that tell the story of the life, work, and play of Thomas County residents.

Visitors can do everything from exploring a 19th century homestead, to voting in a historic Courthouse, and even bowling a frame in our 1896 Ewart Bowling Alley. Over the last year and a half, we've researched, renovated, and revitalized the exhibits inside the Flowers-Roberts House. Few corners of the History Center remain untouched by the project.

Following our theme, "Thomasville: a part of place, a place apart," we wrote, edited, designed, and installed more than 4,300 square feet of new exhibit text panels featuring stories of Thomas County's growth and adaptation. We're proud to say that more than 85% of the funds spent on this project were spent locally. These changes mark a new chapter in our interpretation and storytelling that we believe will help set the course for the organization's next 70 years!

The History Center, in partnership with the state of Georgia, also operates the historic Lapham-Patterson House. Built in 1885 for Emma and Charles Lapham, the Queen Anne style home is an iconic landmark of Thomasville's Resort Era and is open for tours and events.



The 1885 Lapham-Patterson House

We look forward to celebrating the return of GAM to Thomasville and welcoming you to our community in February!



Jack Hadley's Black History Museum

Mr. James "Jack" Hadley is a retired United States Air Force, Chief Master Sergeant of 28 years, and a retired United States Postal Letter Carrier of 2 years. Hadley started his collection while on duty in 1979 at Lindsey Air Station in Wiesbaden, Germany with his wife, Christine Jackson Hadley, his two daughters, Jackie Hadley and Cathy Hadley Wilson, and his son Jim



Hadley. His son came home one day complaining that his school was not celebrating Black History Week. Hadley, listening to his son's desire to celebrate black history, began to create exhibits out of Ebony and Jet magazines, and the collection was born. Hadley's first-ever exhibition was hosted at Jim's School, where the teachers and students loved learning about African American History. Then, an exhibit was hosted on base at Lindsey Air Station. From there, Hadley continued to collect and create exhibits throughout his military career.

When Hadley retired from the military, he returned home to Thomasville, Georgia. His collection grew, and he began to create exhibits in local churches, schools, the Thomasville Cultural Center, the local masonic lodge, and other non-profit organizations. In 1995, Hadley's collection was incorporated into a non-profit organization, The Jack Hadley Black History Memorabilia, Inc. In 2006, the collection gained its permanent home at the site of Douglass High School. Douglass High School, (1902 – 1970), was the all-black city high school in the days of segregation. When integration took place, it lived on as a middle school, then eventually an elementary school. In 2002, the city Board of Education sold the complex to the Douglass High School Alumni, and in 2006, renovations began on the museum's current space. On December 3rd, 2006, The Jack Hadley Black History Museum officially opened, and today it currently houses over 5,000 artifacts of African American History, spanning over 300 years, and features over 30 exhibits in 3 gallery spaces.

The Museum is also home to the book collection of Mrs. Bell. Mrs. Perra S. Bell (1919 – 2014) was a lifelong educator, mother, and avid reader. She taught European History, American History, and African American History at Towson State University for over 20 years. She was a vocal advocate for the Civil Rights Movement, and through her actions convinced the



continued from pg. 5 ~ Jack Hadley

Chairman of the history department at Towson State University to allow her to teach African American History. Her interest in African American History is reflected in her collection of close to 4,000 books on various topics of African American history. Mrs. Bell willed her collection to the Jack Hadley Black History Museum and was pleased with the thought that after her death, the books that meant so much to her in life will be used and read by the next generation of students and teachers.

In addition to the Museum, the organization also is in the process of restoring the historic Imperial Hotel. The Imperial Hotel is the only listing in The Negro Motorist Green Book for Thomasville, Georgia. Thanks to the efforts of Thomasville Landmarks, and the Williams Family Foundation, the Jack Hadley Black History Museum acquired the Imperial Hotel in 2018. Working with the Georgia Center for Non-profits, a business plan has been created to turn the Imperial Hotel into a space for rotating museum exhibits on the bottom floor, and 4 period correct Airbnb rental rooms on the top floor.



Pebble Hill Plantation

From the time of Pebble Hill's beginnings, the people who lived and worked here have had a profound impact in shaping this estate. Their contributions and the stories they left behind add to our understanding of this property.

The earliest inhabitants of the Thomas County area were the lower Creek and Apalachee Indians. Then settlers came. In 1825, Thomas Jefferson Johnson established Pebble Hill, and crops such as cotton, sugar cane, corn, and tobacco were grown here. Like most plantations in the region at the time, Pebble Hill was worked by slave labor. Johnson's daughter and her husband, Julia Ann and John William Henry Mitchell, were later the owners and saw the property through the Civil War and post-war depression.

The next era in Pebble Hill's history began in 1896 when Howard Melville Hanna of Cleveland, Ohio purchased the property and changed the plantation from a working farm into a winter home and sporting estate.

Mr. Hanna gave Pebble Hill to one of his daughters, Kate Hanna Ireland (later Harvey), in 1901. Mrs. Harvey restored the existing house, but in 1934, fire destroyed that house. By 1936, a new house was built. Upon Mrs. Harvey's death in 1936, the property passed to her daughter, Elisabeth "Pansy" Ireland (later Poe), who continued to enjoy the property as a country estate until her death in 1978.

Mrs. Poe willed that the property be opened to the public following her death. Her desire was to share the property that she loved so dearly and to preserve it as a tangible glimpse into the 20th century lifestyle that her family once enjoyed.

The plantation is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and has been open to the public since October 1983.



NOW HOW 'BOUT SOME WORKSHOPS WITH YOUR CONFERENCE?

A Community-led Future: A Workshop on the Process of the LP Future Project

In this session, we will dive into the LP Future Project, an effort to gather a shared community vision for the adaptive reuse of the Lapham-Patterson House. Learn how the process is almost more important than the product, tools to better help you evaluate your community engagement efforts, and participate in an interactive section where attendees will directly aid in the next steps of this project and learn how to apply the some or all of the process to historic properties at home.

“Who Did You Vote For?” Using Living History to Approach Difficult Topics

Controversy and debate seem to be synonymous with the 21st century, but perhaps reflecting the problems of today in the recreated past can help people reconcile the world they live in. With the cooperation of the Thomasville History Center, this workshop will present a recreated spectator experience involving the election of 1868 as we grapple with concerns of our modern electoral process. The workshop will be held at the Metcalfe Courthouse on the Thomasville History Center Grounds and will be followed by a discussion annotating the activity, exploring best practices and brainstorming further applications.

You'll enjoy great food, museums, workshops, sessions, and lots of networking at the Annual GAM Conference, "The New Normal," February 6 - 9, 2022.

Go to www.gamg.org, then click on *Annual Conference* to register and see the full schedule of events.



Look forward to seeing you all in Thomasville!

More News of Note in GA Museums



Collectible & Antique Chair Gallery

Collectible & Antique Chair Gallery, in Stone Mountain, Ga, celebrated its 12th anniversary in May, 2021. During past years, the museum has received local, national, and international recognition. Recently, it was featured in the August, 2021 edition of the Georgia magazine.

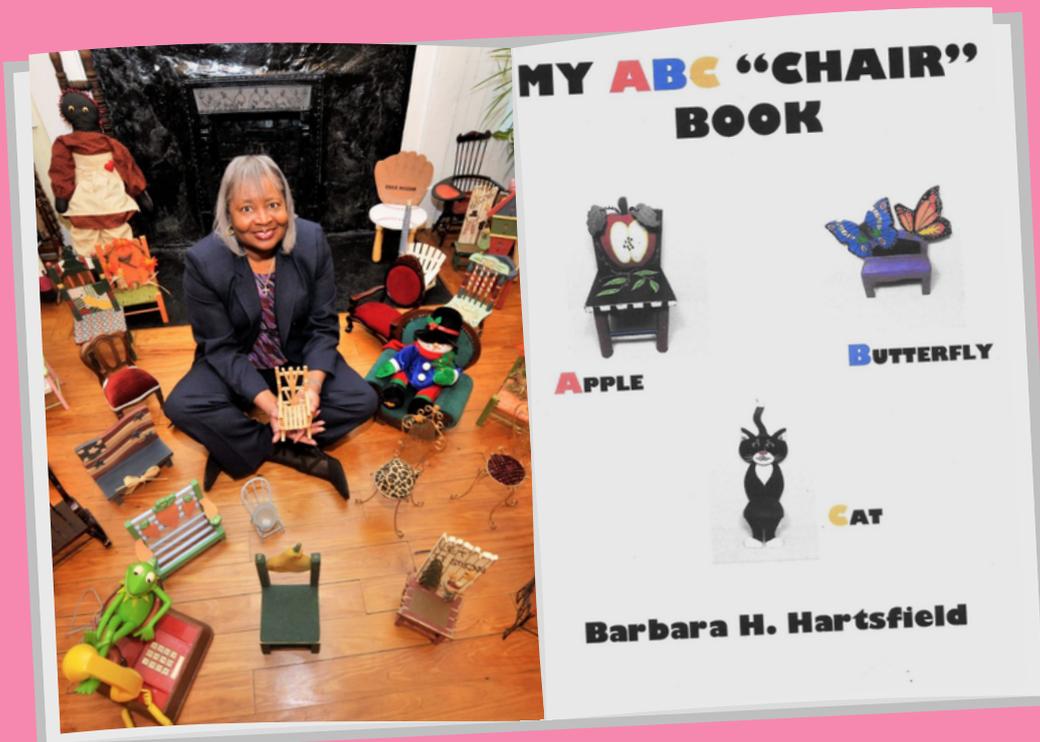
The museum displays a Guinness World Record collection of miniature chairs, (not doll furniture). The record for 3,000 chairs was established in 2008. The collection includes unique and functional chair designs such as: lamps, cookie jars, inkwells, clocks, teapots, major holidays, and much more. Chair sizes range from table top to the smallest, a chair on top of a thimble. Chair exhibits, with exciting background themes, are displayed within three rooms. The building is a renovated historic house constructed in 1850.



To promote the museum, the chairs are used to develop a four-book pictorial early learning series. The first edition, MY ABC "CHAIR" BOOK, was published in 2020. Each alphabet is represented by two different chair designs from the museum. For example, a clock chair for the letter "C." Future books will include holidays, and shelf sitters with animals, fruits & vegetables sitting in

chairs. It's exciting to find a creative method to market the museum.

Additional information is available on the web, at www.museumofminiaturechairs.com.



Barbara H. Hartsfield

Andalusia Interpretive Center



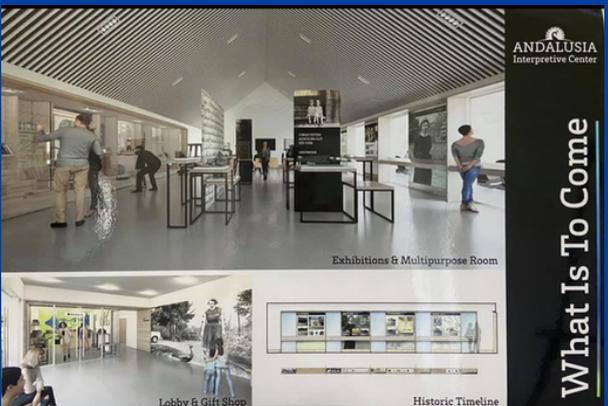
Georgia College celebrated a new state-of-the-art construction project with a ground breaking on Wednesday, September 29.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held for Georgia College's new \$3.4 million Andalusia Interpretive Center at 2628 N. Columbia Street in Milledgeville. Shovels of dirt were turned to commemorate the start of construction for Andalusia's new Interpretive Center. The 4,860 sq. ft. building is designed to blend in with the historic architectural aesthetics of the site. Alumna and author Flannery O'Connor spent her last years at the Andalusia farmhouse, composing many of her short stories, articles and letters.



The center will be used as a point-of-entry for public tours at Andalusia. There will be an exhibition room, research area, gift shop, offices and rental facilities. Outside, there will be a story-telling courtyard and walkway connecting to the rest of the property.

"I'm excited about the opportunities this new center will bring," said Matt Davis, director of historic museums. "From a state-of-the-art exhibition and collection storage facility to research rooms and event spaces, this facility will allow us to better meet our mission and tell a more complete story about the history of Andalusia, Flannery O'Connor, her writing, family and life on the farm."



New & Renewing Members

Since September 2021

Institutional

Augusta Museum of History
Bandy Heritage Center for Northwest Georgia
Booth Western Art Museum
Carter-Coile Country Doctor Museum
Coastal Georgia Historical Society
Douglas County Museum of Art & History
Foxfire Foundation
Museum of Technology
Popes Museum
Robert C. Williams Paper Museum
Roswell Historical Society
Steffen Thomas Museum of Art
Telfair Museum of Art
Thronateeska Heritage Center

Sponsor

UGA Press

Individual / Student

Marcy Breffle ~ Karin Johnston-Dalton
Matt Davis ~ Patty Dees ~ Polly Huff
Michael Lachowski ~ Marty Mulinix ~ Melissa Swindell
Holly Wait ~ Lily Vann-Womack





CALLING ALL VENDORS!

Interested in becoming a vendor or sponsor for the 2022 GAM conference?

Contact Michele Rodgers at gamg@gamg.org to learn more about how you and your services can be highlighted.

Do you have institutional news or notes on happenings in the museum field you'd like to share with fellow GAM members? Submit your items of 100-500 words to Holly Wait, GAM Newsletter Chair, at director@portcolumbus.org



***Full-color ad space
now available!***

***Contact Administrative
Director Michele Rodgers
at gamg@gamg.org
for pricing.***

Board Nominations

Have you ever wanted to do more with GAM?

Are you interested in service and helping museum professionals across the state of Georgia?

Have you ever been curious what it takes to plan a professional conference?

Would you like to meet and work with more members of our state's great museum community?

Then you might be interested in serving on the GAM board!



Nominations are now being accepted for candidates for our 2022 slate. Any institutional representative or individual member in good standing is eligible to serve for a two-year term. GAM board members meet four times a year to conduct business and discuss ways to keep GAM moving forward. They also play a key role in running the annual conference and charting the organization's future.

If you are interested in learning more or submitting a name for nomination, please email Ephraim Rotter at ephraim@thomascountyhistory.org. Self-nominations are welcome.

The nomination form can be found at www.gamg.org under the Committees tab.

We look forward to having you as part of our team!

Board Members 2021



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