

Thomas County Museum of History
Grade Five Field Trip Topics

SS5H1 The student will explain the causes, major events, and consequences of the Civil War.

e. Describe the effects of war on the North and South.

Local History Link: *Thomas County voted against secession the first time. Twelve military units from Thomas County went to fight. Some saw little action, but others participated in dozens of battles and suffered heavy casualties. Life on the home front was often difficult and women found themselves in unfamiliar roles.*

SS5H2 The student will analyze the effects of Reconstruction on American life.

b. Explain the work of the Freedmen's Bureau.

c. Explain how slavery was replaced by sharecropping and how African-Americans were prevented from exercising their newly won rights; include a discussion of Jim Crow laws and customs.

Local History Link: *Thomasville was the site of the Freedmen's Bureau headquarters in this area. The Freedmen's Bureau's mission was to help newly freed slaves integrate into the society. The agent often helped to negotiate sharecropping contracts and served as a mediator in cases of disputes. A Freedmen's School was established in Thomasville soon after the war.*

At the close of the war, people in Thomas County found that the railroad which had connected them to Savannah had been damaged by Gen. Sherman's men. In order to reconnect to the rest of the state, Thomasville held its first integrated vote for the railroad bond.

Educated African-American Mack Davis made a speech at the first meeting of the newly formed black political association in Thomas County. He reminded listeners of their rights and also their responsibilities to act as good citizens and participate in politics.

SS5H3 The student will describe how life changed in America at the turn of the century.

b. Describe the impact on American life of the Wright brothers (flight), George Washington Carver (science), Alexander Graham Bell (communication), and Thomas Edison (electricity).

Local History Link: *The completion of the railroad to Albany, Georgia and repair of the railroad from Savannah had long-ranging consequences to the history of Thomas County. The Resort Era and the changes to Thomas County brought by influx of wealthy people from the north began with the railroads and Thomasville's eagerness to improve the local economy by what was a groundbreaking method. The Resort Era drew to a close as Florida began to attract visitors, thanks to improved transportation and the better control of malarial mosquitoes.*

In 1889, a group of businessmen bought an electric generator and opened the first electric power plant in Thomasville. By the end of 1889, power lines ran along Broad Street and power was supplied to businesses there.

On February 8, 1912, Robert C. Fowler, first aviator to fly across the United States west to east, made a stop in Thomasville before completing his flight from Pasadena, California to Jacksonville, Florida. The trip took him 115 days.

In 1915, the first boll weevil found in Georgia was found in Thomas County.

SS5H4 The student will describe U. S. involvement in World War I and post-World War I America.

Local History Link: *Local people worked to raise money for the war effort. They welcomed troops traveling through Thomasville on trains with food and watermelon. Both white men and African-American men from Thomasville were drafted into the military.*

John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital was founded in 1925 by John F. Archbold. Mr. Archbold had inherited money from his father, the former Chairman of Standard Oil, John D. Archbold.

SS5H5 The student will explain how the Great Depression and New Deal affected the lives of millions of Americans.

Local History Link: *Local people experienced the Great Depression like so many others did. Banks and businesses closed and people lost their jobs. Only one bank survived the Great Depression, the Commercial Bank. Some families who lost their homes moved into the homes of other family members, creating multi-generational households.*

SS5H6 The student will explain the reasons for America's involvement in World War II.

e. Describe the effects of rationing and the changing role of women and African-Americans...

Local History Link: *The Thomasville Army Air Base was built on the site now occupied by the Thomasville Municipal Airport. The Air Base brought jobs to the community.*

Local people wanted to do more for the war effort. They petitioned the Army on behalf of Thomasville while decisions were being made about where to build hospitals for wounded and sick soldiers. Thanks to the citizens of Thomasville's efforts, the Army decided to build Finney General Hospital in Thomasville. The hospital provided many job opportunities for civilians and treated almost 24,000 soldiers. Some of those who moved to Thomasville to work at Finney General Hospital stayed and became permanent residents.

SS5H7 The student will discuss the origins and consequences of the Cold War.

Local History Link: *The decision to locate the Civil Defense Region 3 headquarters for Civil Defense in Thomasville was made on October 4, 1954. Thomasville was thought to be a safer location than Atlanta, the originally proposed location. Region 3 consisted of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama and Mississippi. Work began in 1970 and in 1972, an underground bunker at the site was occupied. The 37,733 square feet of underground building was designed to house 317 Federal Agency personnel. The Center had its own emergency water and electrical equipment and was equipped to house, feed and supply all assigned personnel for 30 days under "buttoned up" conditions without any outside assistance. The Civil Defense became Federal Emergency Management Agency in 1979, which left Thomasville about 10 years ago.*