

**CLASSIFIED**  
**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL**  
**DIRECTORY**

**THOMASVILLE and THOMAS COUNTY**

**AS COMPILED BY**  
**SILVERSMITH,**  
**FARNSWORTH**  
**and ASSOCIATES**

**FOR**  
**THOMASVILLE**  
**TIMES-ENTERPRISE**

**DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT**  
**THOMAS COUNTY**

**AS A PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA**

## PREFACE

### The Thomasville Times-Enterprise

Thomasville and the neighboring communities have been served for many years by the Thomasville Times-Enterprise, a daily afternoon newspaper published Monday through Saturday at plant headquarters on N. Madison Street.

E. R. Jerger is editor, Lee E. Kelly general manager.

Forerunners of the present newspaper include the Georgia Watchman (1853), the Wiregrass Reporter (1857), the Southern Enterprise (1855-1889), and the Thomasville Times (1873-1888). All of these were weeklies, until the Thomasville Times became a daily in 1888. The Southern Enterprise merged with the Times in 1889, to become the Thomasville Times-Enterprise. Until 1910 it was a morning paper; since that time it has been an afternoon publication.

Featuring Associated Press news, market news, cartoon comics, editorial and sports departments; and news photos of local, state, national and world-wide events, the newspaper has a circulation in excess of 6,500. It is the only daily within a radius of 30 miles.

A weekly newspaper is published also. Commercial printing is another service rendered.

The Thomasville Times-Enterprise has always taken an active part in civic events of the community and of all South-west Georgia, and has followed the industrial and agricultural progress of the region with considerable interest. This Business and Professional Directory is presented as a community service in the belief that householders, farmers, business offices and industrial plants will find it of great value in their daily activities.

## THE CITY OF THOMASVILLE

Thomasville, Ga., situated in the Southwestern part of the state, 12 miles from the Florida border, 50 miles from the Gulf of Mexico and 150 from the Atlantic Ocean, is popularly known as the "city of roses among the pines." It is a town of unusual beauty and distinction, with attractive homes and gardens and a large number of magnificent 1,000 to 30,000 acre estates, winter residences of many of the nation's celebrities. Flowers bloom most of the year and the streets are colorful with roses and flowering shrubs; dogwood, redbud, magnolia, pine and oak trees grow abundantly throughout the region.

Located in the heart of the yellow pine belt and in the midst of vast game preserves that make it a sportsman's paradise, Thomasville is 273 feet above sea level, and enjoys a mild average temperature of 67.5 degrees (winter, 62 degrees; summer, 84 degrees). A 260-days-per-year growing season makes possible a year-round program of garden and agricultural activities.

The annual Thomasville Rose Festival, held the last Friday in April, attracts more than 30,000 visitors from all parts of the country.

Industrially the city has diversified interests; lumber and agriculture are the basis of the greater part of the community's business, but naval stores, dairying, fertilizer production, livestock, food processing, and the manufacture of garments, textiles, furniture, brick and concrete are assuming an increasing importance commercially. The tourist industry is also expanding rapidly. It is an active distribution center for the general trade area of a 50-mile radius.

The city is traversed by three major U. S. Highways—19, 84 and 319—and one state road, 122. It is served by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, National Trailways Bus System (Modern Coach Corporation), the Great Southern Trucking Co., and other motor freight lines.

Estimated population is 17,500.

It is the county seat of Thomas County.

## HISTORY

Hernando de Soto, famed Spanish explorer, spent the winter of 1539-40 near what is now Tallahassee, Florida, and in the spring of 1540 marched northward, crossed the Ochlochnee River, and proceeded through the general area that is now Thomas County.

Nearly three hundred years later (1814-1818), following a period of Indian wars, General Andrew Jackson was instrumental in having the Creek and Seminole Indians cede to the state of Georgia a tract of land north of Florida, lying between the Chattahoochee River on the West and certain organized counties on the East, which was to serve as a buffer area between the Creeks and Seminoles.

In 1825, Thomas County was created by act of Legislature from this territory, part of which had been previously designated as Decatur and Irwin counties. It was named for General Jett Thomas, a hero of the state militia who had distinguished himself in the war of 1812.

In 1831, the town of Thomasville was incorporated and given a commission form of government. In 1856, a new charter was granted, providing for a mayor and six aldermen. Effective January 1, 1944, the charter was changed to the City Manager form of government.

Northerners began coming to the city during the latter part of the 1800's. Many purchased large tracts of lands, laying out hunting preserves and building palatial homes; others were more transient visitors. Today Thomasville is known as an attractive healthful winter resort, its mild climate and excellent geographical location enhanced by the civic and personal pride of the citizens in beautifying the community and welcoming visitors with cordial hospitality. One of the show spots is the Great Oak, at the corner of Crawford and Monroe Streets. Estimated to be 250 years old, it has a limb spread of 146½ feet, a height of 49 feet, and a trunk diameter of 21½ feet; it is enrolled as the 24th ranking member of the 47-tree-member National Live-Oak Society.

## CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS

The Thomasville Chamber of Commerce has a membership of 400; Odie A. Johnson is president. The office, located in the Municipal Building, is open from 9 A. M. to 5 P. M., Saturdays to 1 P. M.

Other organizations include Junior Chamber of Commerce, Kiwanis, Rotary, Exchange, Masons, Elks, American Legion (two posts), American Legion Auxiliary, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Kiroy Club, Study Class, D. A. R., U. D. C., Junior Club, Junior Woman's Club, Garden Club, Entertainment Foundation, Red Cross, Junior Red Cross, Y. M. C. A. and Community Council.

The Thomasville Study Class is one of the oldest and most progressive civic groups in the city. Organized in 1905 (federated with state federation 1907,) general Federation 1914) its announced object is "to create and maintain an organized center of thought and activity among its members and to aid in the advancement of education, philanthropy, literature and art, through the interchange of ideas, and a broadening of interest and sympathy." It is non-sectarian and non-political. Through the years this group has taken an active part in every worthwhile civic undertaking, including management of the library. It has permanent headquarters in the Municipal Building.

The Kiroy Club was organized many years ago by a group of young men to help build the community through service. Originally named "Kiro Club," an Egyptian word meaning helping hands, the name was changed to Kiroy in deference to the high principles of Kiwanis, Rotary and the Y. M. C. A. An unwritten law of the club prohibits speakers at the meetings.

The Thomasville Garden Club, an outgrowth of a civic committee of the Study Class, is the official sponsor of the famous Thomasville Rose Festival. It was organized in 1914 "to cultivate flowers, create civic pride, and make Thomasville a more lovely place in which to live." The rose show was first staged in 1922, and has been an annual event since that time.

Among other projects this group engaged a landscape gardener to landscape the grounds of all the city's schools; 1,538 trees were planted, including dogwoods, redbuds and crabapples; camellias were planted as memorials to past presidents.

The local group is a member of the Georgia State Federation of Garden Clubs.

The Y. M. C. A. was organized in 1875 "to promote physical education and spiritual training," but remained inactive until 1903. An attractive brick building, owned by the "Y", and equipped with gymnasium, swimming pool and auditorium, is used as a community center.

## EDUCATION

Thomasville public schools operate under a twelve-year program. H. R. Mahler is superintendent.

There are five school buildings for white students (enrollment approximately 1900) and four for negroes (enrollment 1200); all are of brick, and are characterized by large and spacious grounds. White teachers number 50 to 60; negro 30.

An excellent commercial course is offered, a full-time music instructor supervises band and glee club work; piano instruction is available to students during school hours. There is a physical education teacher for girls, and an athletic coach and assistant coach; an outdoor athletic field is equipped with lighting facilities for night playing.

The Thomas County Vocational School, recently organized, offers eight vocational courses—shops, woodworking, electrical work, plumbing—for GI's. It operates the year-round at the former Thomasville Air Base, the use of which was obtained by a group of private citizens. The school opened in the summer of 1947 with eight instructors and 90 students.

The Vashti School is an industrial school for girls operated by the Methodist Woman's Home Mission Society, with headquarters in Nashville, Tenn. Organized in 1902 by the Thomasville Mission Society of the Methodist Church, it was dedicated in 1903 as the "Vashti Blasingame School for Girls," so named in honor of the mother of Walter Blasingame, whose gift of a house and four acres of property made the institution possible.

