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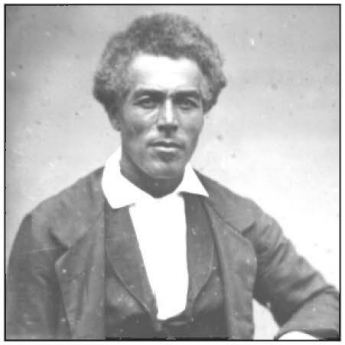
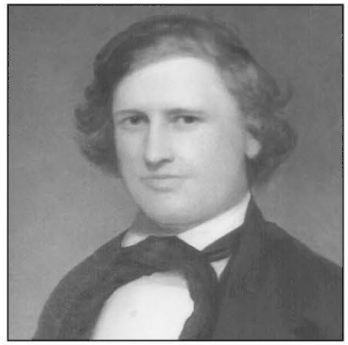


An Introduction to the History of Columbus, Georgia

by Roger Harris

With the sponsorship of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation,
the Historic Columbus Foundation, the Junior League of Columbus,
the Muscogee County School District and Trust Company Bank of Columbus

Almost one hundred years after General James Edward Oglethorpe's arrival on the coast of Georgia in 1733, pioneer settlers were gathering on the other side of the state — on Georgia's western frontier — to buy small parcels of land in a settlement that the Georgia Legislature had named "Columbus."

The year was 1828, and the setting was the banks of the Chattahoochee River.

In 1827, five commissioners had been appointed by John Forsyth, the Governor of Georgia, to come into this region and to assist with the establishment of the new trading town.

Even in Columbus's infancy, area citizens realized the importance of the river's waterfalls — a natural resource used to generate power for a grist mill as early as the city's first year. These pioneer Columbusites also understood and valued the significance of the Chattahoochee's navigable waterways, which would be used as a primary means of transporting people and cargo as far south as the Gulf of Mexico.

In addition to its role concerning power and transportation, the Chattahoochee River would serve as an important boundary between the "pioneer population" of the state's western region and the Creek Indians, descendants of Native Americans who had been in this territory thousands of years before the birth of the town of Columbus in 1828.

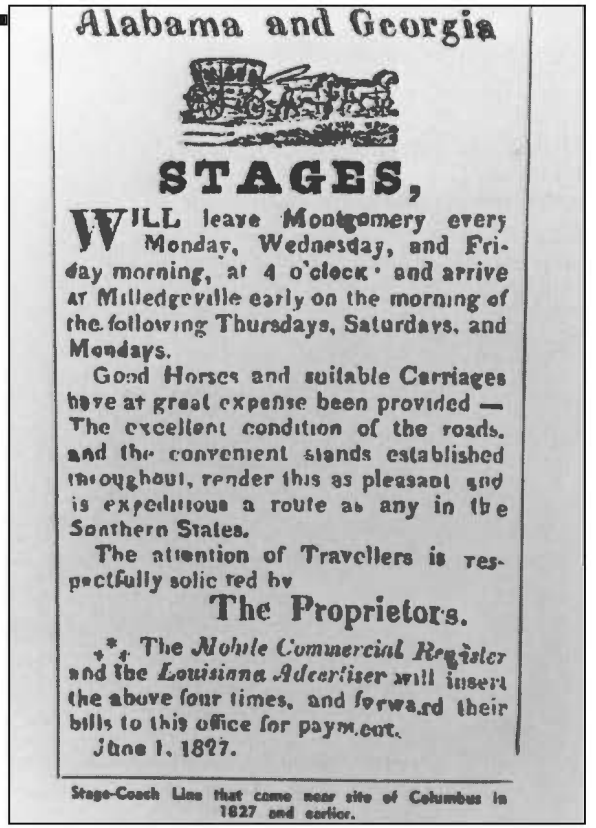
The white men and women who came in great numbers to the banks of the Chattahoochee in the late 1820s and the early 1830s were certainly not the first "non-Indians" to come to this region. Historians believe that Spanish monks were the first Europeans to arrive in Creek territory (present-day Columbus) in the late 1600s. These Spaniards arrived here by boat, coming up the Chattahoochee River from Florida, with their primary mission being the introduction of Christianity to the Indian population.

English settlers, who had come to live in the present-day Charleston, South Carolina area, came to the banks of the Chattahoochee not far behind the Spanish. There were even French visitors to the area (coming from Mobile and Biloxi) in the early 1700s, the most prominent of whom was the "great and good" Jean Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville, a former Governor of Louisiana.

After years of strong competition between the Spanish and the English in this part of the country for control of Indian interests, English dominance over the Spanish in the region was finally won when Florida was awarded to the English in 1763.

One can only speculate about the arrival of the first black men and women in the vicinity of what is now Columbus. It is likely that a limited number of blacks entered this region in the company of Spanish adventurers in the late 1600s and the early 1700s. By 1830, however, there were some 1,200 blacks in Muscogee County, representing over one-third of the county's total population: some 3,500 people.

Because of conflicting interests that existed between the Indians of this region and the pioneer settlers who came to the area in the 1820s and 1830s, the Creeks would be put to the ultimate test by white "intruders" for control of their native land. In 1836, after numerous violent incidents that meant the loss of countless lives, the United States Government forced the Indians to leave this region and to go into territory west of the Mississippi River.


Alabama and Georgia

STAGES,

WILL leave Montgomery every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning, at 4 o'clock · and arrive at Milledgeville early on the morning of the following Thursdays, Saturdays, and Mondays.

Good Horses and suitable Carriages have at great expense been provided — The excellent condition of the roads, and the convenient stands established throughout, render this as pleasant and is expeditious a route as any in the Southern States.

The attention of Travellers is respectfully solic ted by

The Proprietors.

*** The *Mobile Commercial Register* and the *Louisiana Advertiser* will insert the above four times, and forward their bills to this office for payment.

June 1, 1827.

Stage-Coach Line that came near site of Columbus in 1827 and earlier.

PHOTO 1 (Top): An 1827 advertisement for the stagecoaches that travelled between Montgomery, Alabama and Milledgeville, Georgia. Passengers took three days to make this journey and found themselves crossing the territory of present-day Columbus.

PHOTO 2 (Bottom): The Chattahoochee River as its waters tumbled through the Georgia wilderness in the early 1800s.

James E. Oglethorpe (b.1696-d.1785), the founder of Georgia, left his native England in November of 1732 and arrived in Charleston harbor in January of 1733. Within two weeks of his arrival in South Carolina, Oglethorpe had made his way to an Indian village on the Savannah River and there negotiated a treaty with Indians that would result in the founding of the colony of Georgia.

In 1739, Oglethorpe crossed the Chattahoochee River at a point immediately south of present-day Columbus and negotiated a famous peace treaty with the Indians at Coweta Town.

A marker to commemorate Oglethorpe's arrival in the Columbus area was erected in 1922 by the Oglethorpe Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. This marker is located in the Founder's Area of the Chattahoochee Promenade (between Broadway and Front Avenue, at Fifth Street), along the banks of the Chattahoochee River.

PHOTO 3 : James Edward Oglethorpe, founder of Georgia, as a young man.

The somewhat unlikely friendship between Tomochichi and James Oglethorpe was truly one of the most important relationships of its kind in the history of the state.

Indeed, it was with the cooperation of Tomochichi, a leader of the Yamacraw Indian Tribe, that Oglethorpe was able to make his initial peaceful Indian treaty in January of 1733 — an agreement which marked the official founding of the thirteenth British colony, Georgia.

The following year, Oglethorpe sailed for England with Tomochichi and several other Indian companions aboard. While in London, this portrait of Tomochichi and his nephew, Tooanahowi, was painted.

In 1739, just days after Oglethorpe's return to Savannah from his journey to the Columbus area, Tomochichi died at age ninety-seven. Oglethorpe, as one of the pallbearers, assisted in the burial of his great Indian friend in Savannah's Wright Square.

PHOTO 4: Tomochichi and his nephew, Tooanahowi, as they appear in a portrait painted in 1734, during their visit to England in the company of James Edward Oglethorpe.

The Spanish were not the only early white men in Georgia who tried to convert Indians to Christianity. John Wesley (b.1703-d.1791) is depicted in this drawing with Indians on the Georgia coast. His meetings with these Native Americans began shortly after his arrival from England in 1736. John Wesley, an ordained minister in the Church of England, became the founder of the Methodist Church in Great Britain and America.

PHOTO 5: John Wesley greeting the Indians shortly after his arrival in Georgia in 1736.

Among the most prominent figures in the regional Indian community of the early 1800s was Chief William McIntosh (b.1775(?)-d.1825), who was a native of the Chattahoochee Valley. The son of a British army captain and a full-blooded Creek Indian, McIntosh endorsed the idea of the removal of the Indians from Georgia and was instrumental in making the last Indian territory in Georgia available to the state legislature.

The plan to make Indian land accessible to white settlers had been initiated as early as 1802, when Georgia and the federal government stipulated that the Indian claims on land in the State of Georgia would be "extinguished."

The Treaty of Indian Springs — the most famous treaty ever negotiated by the Creek Indians — was signed in 1825 and provided that the Indians give up all rights to their last land holdings in Georgia. In return for their vast land holdings, the Creeks received from the United States Government an equal amount of property west of the Mississippi River and $400,000.

The treaty's acceptance was not popular with many Creeks still living in the area. In fact, William McIntosh was killed on May 1, 1825 by Indians who resisted the idea of releasing their land to the state government for use by white settlers.

In 1976, some 150 years after the Treaty of Indian Springs, Chief W.E. Dode McIntosh, a descendant of Chief William McIntosh, wrote: "McIntosh sought the survival and prosperity of his Indian brothers, but he also foresaw their inevitable fate at the hand of his own white comrades if they did not sell their land. Some of McIntosh's followers shared his vision and agreed to find a new home farther west. Others did not. McIntosh was killed in that struggle — accused of betraying the Creeks, of selling out to his white ancestry. In his years of pleading, of dividing his own heritage for the good of all people, William McIntosh lived a remarkable life."

PHOTO 6: William McIntosh, who lost his life in 1825 over the Treaty of Indian Springs.

Leading the band of Creek warriors responsible for McIntosh's death — as well as the deaths of McIntosh's followers — was Menawa, one of the most tireless Creek chiefs in his fight against Indian removal to the West. Like McIntosh, Menawa was born in the vicinity of present-day Columbus.

Despite Menawa's determination and even his attempts at negotiations in Washington, D.C., with the Secretary of War in 1826, the plight of the Creeks was not to be altered. In 1836, after conflict that had continued to grow more and more violent over the preceding ten years, the Indians and the white pioneers found themselves involved in a full-fledged war — a period of bloodshed known as the Creek War.

From that year until 1840, the Creeks who survived the war made their *forced* journey into the West — many going as far into the lands beyond the Mississippi River as Oklahoma and Texas.

This "Trail of Tears" meant the permanent removal from the Southeastern United States of what one historian called "a nation that is proud, arrogant and haughty, brave and valiant in war." The Creek Indians had been forced, finally, from their ancient homeland to the West.

In 1859, almost twenty years after the removal of the Creeks from Georgia and Alabama, only 13,537 Creeks remained alive in the West; that figure is contrasted dramatically with the number of Creeks living in Georgia and Alabama in 1832 — 21,792.

Many Creeks who did not die during the Creek War *did* die while on the "Trail of Tears." Others reached the West only to lose their lives from fever, influenza, cholera, smallpox, pneumonia, or starvation.

Despite the absence of well-defined Indian culture in modern-day Columbus, the city's mark of strong Indian influence is present in many of the area's best-known placenames: *Cusseta* (the community south of Fort Benning for which Columbus's Cusseta Road is named), *Muscogee* (the county of which Columbus is the "seat" — named for the ancient Muscogee Nation, which was made up of various Indian tribes in the Chattahoochee Valley), *Chattahoochee* (the river that forms a natural boundary between the states of Alabama and Georgia), *Weracoba* (the city park that is also known as "Lakebottom"), *Cherokee* (the avenue running alongside Weracoba Park), and *Mohina Woods* (the subdivision made up of streets named for places and tribes associated with Indian culture in the region).

In the 1950s and 1960s, Rozell Fabiani, a well-known local television personality, and Dr. Joseph B. Mahan, Jr., a prominent Columbus historian, initiated efforts to re-establish contacts with Indian tribes that inhabited the Chattahoochee Valley prior to their removal in the 1830s. Their efforts resulted in numerous visits to Columbus by Native Americans living throughout the region.

In October of 1990, the first annual Indian Cultural Festival was held at Columbus College. Indians from more than forty tribes participated in the event, marking what organizers of the festival hope will be the beginning of a new era of understanding and appreciation for American Indians.

PHOTO 7: Menawa, the Creek Indian chief who refused to accept the Indians' removal to the West.

1492	*1584*	*1620*	*1775*	*1812*	*1828*
Christopher Columbus sails from Spain to the New World	*Sir Walter Raleigh accepts the Virginia territory from Queen Elizabeth I for colonization by the English*	*Pilgrims sail from Plymouth, England in the "Mayflower"; arrive at New Plymouth, Massachusetts to found Plymouth Colony*	*American Revolution against British crown begins; Declaration of Independence signed next year*	*United States of America enters into War of 1812 against British*	*Columbus, Georgia is founded on the banks of the Chattahoochee River*

Even in its earliest days, Columbus had civic leaders who were interested in seeing that the city's development would progress as effectively and efficiently as possible.

In 1828, Edward Lloyd Thomas came to Columbus, spent months clearing away trees and brush, and finally managed to survey a total of 1,200 acres. The result of his work was a "grid-pattern" map that showed the location of lots designated for private and public use.

His plan of the *original city* was comprised of 614 building lots of one-half acre each, twenty-five gardening lots of ten acres each, and twenty gardening lots of twenty acres each.

One of the most prominent lots in the *original city* was set aside for the construction of a courthouse. Still serving its original function, the lot contains the city's Government Center — the fourth courthouse on the site since 1828.

Thomas's map even revealed the location of one of the city's oldest cemeteries, Linwood Cemetery (called "City Cemetery" on his map), where Thomas buried his young son during the winter of his survey project in Columbus. His son's burial in 1828 is generally regarded as the first that took place in the cemetery, although Columbus historian W.C. Woodall suggested years ago that the cemetery might contain unmarked Indian graves which could pre-date the unmarked grave of Thomas's son.

Because of pronounced racial divisions that existed at the time of the 1828 survey, black residents in Columbus were given their own burialground in the new city. In fact, Thomas's map shows the locations of *two* "colored cemeteries": one that was later named "Porterdale" (located at the intersection of present-day Victory Drive and Tenth Avenue) and one that is a little-known graveyard in which some of the city's oldest tombs are overgrown with grass and trees (located on the east side of present-day Sixth Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets).

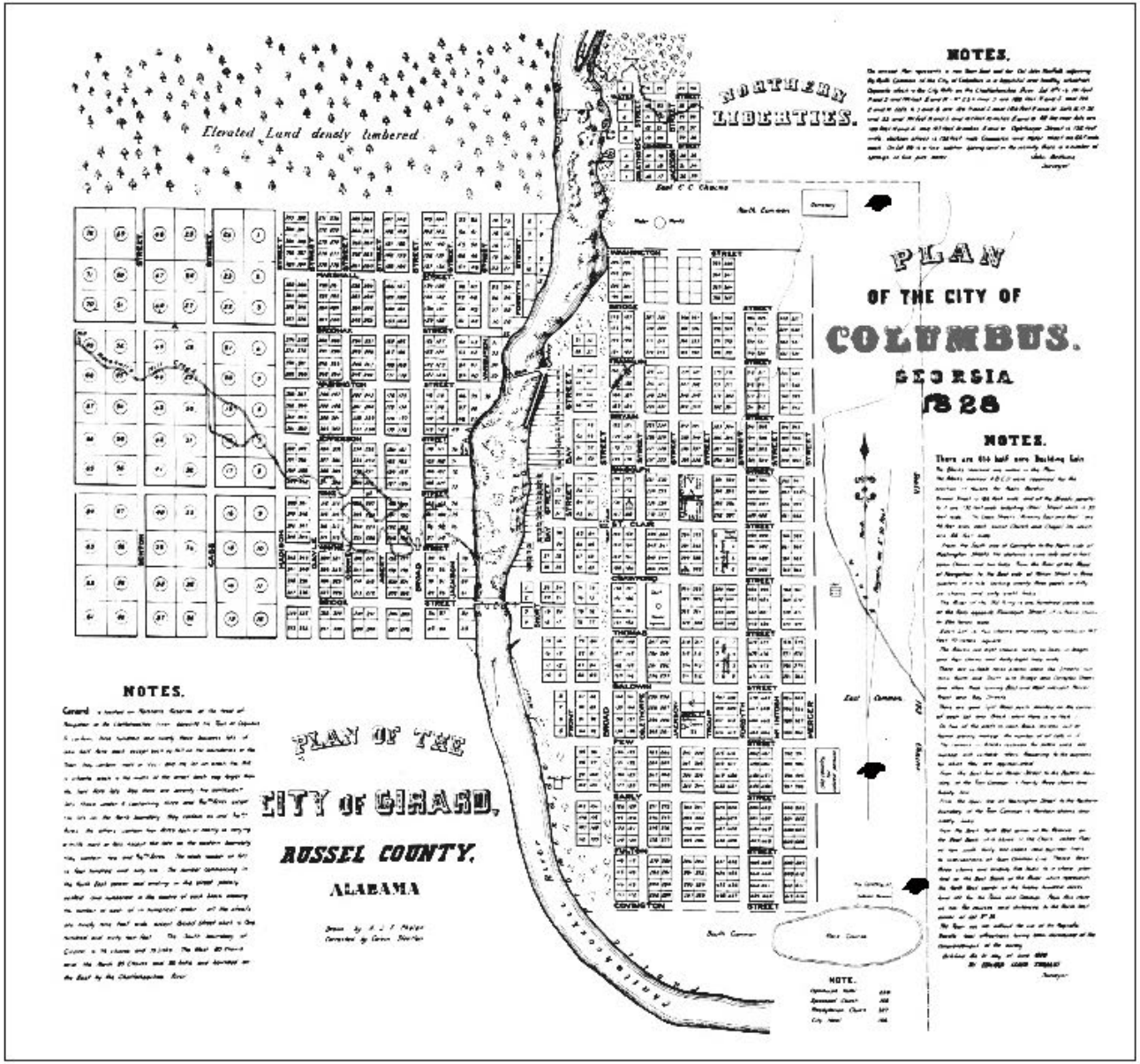
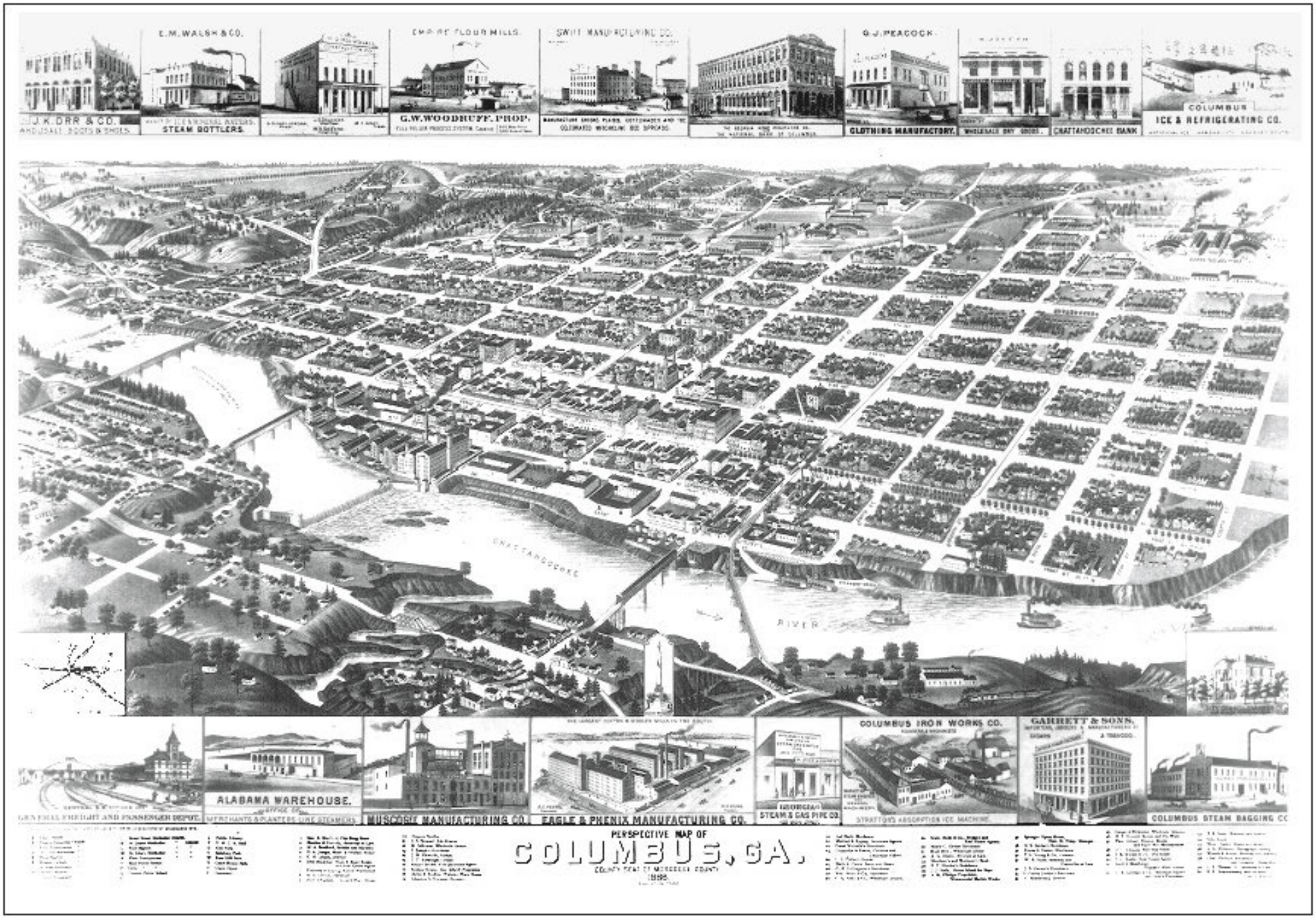


PHOTO 8: This 1840s map shows Edward Lloyd Thomas's 1828 plan of Columbus, as well as the plan of the City of Girard — which was later named Phenix City.

PHOTO 9 (overleaf): An 1886 map of Columbus, which shows in great detail the "grid pattern" that Thomas employed in doing his survey in 1828.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STEAM BOTTLERS.
G.W. WOODRUFF, PROP.
G.J. PEACOCK
CLOTHING MANUFACTORY.
COLUMBUS
ICE & REFRIGERATING CO.
CHATTAHOOCHEE
RIVER
ALABAMA WAREHOUSE.
COLUMBUS IRON WORKS CO.
GARRETT & SONS.
PERSPECTIVE MAP OF
COLUMBUS, GA.

Although life on Georgia's western frontier would not have appealed to many people of that day, there *was* considerable activity and growth in the area during Columbus's first years.

According to 1830 federal census figures, there were just over 3,500 individuals residing in Muscogee County, of which some 1,200 were living in the town itself. (The city and county governments were not consolidated until 1970.) In the young city, there were already three churches, eighteen stores, eleven doctors, twelve lawyers, and one bank. There was also a city newspaper, *The Columbus Enquirer*, which was started in 1828. In addition, there were four steamboats operating regularly on the Chattahoochee River.

During the 1830s, Columbus citizens saw signs of further growth that included a hotel, a theatre, a debating society, mail service, a stagecoach line, and the first covered bridge spanning the Chattahoochee River (at the site of the present-day Dillingham Street Bridge).

The city's first militia group, the Columbus Guards, was established in 1835 and would play an important role not only in the Indian conflicts of the mid-1830s, but also in those that arose between the North and the South during the years of the Civil War (1861-1865).

Columbus's first official mayor, John Fontaine, was elected in 1836. Before Fontaine's election, the fledgling town was led by Ulysses Lewis, who became the city's "intendant" in 1829. According to data on Lewis's tombstone in Linwood Cemetery, he was a "direct descendant of Fielding Lewis and his wife Betty Washington Lewis, a sister of George Washington."

Yes, this George Washington is *the* George Washington, first President of the United States of America!

PHOTO 10: Ulysses Lewis, the man who was elected in 1829 to be Columbus's intendant.

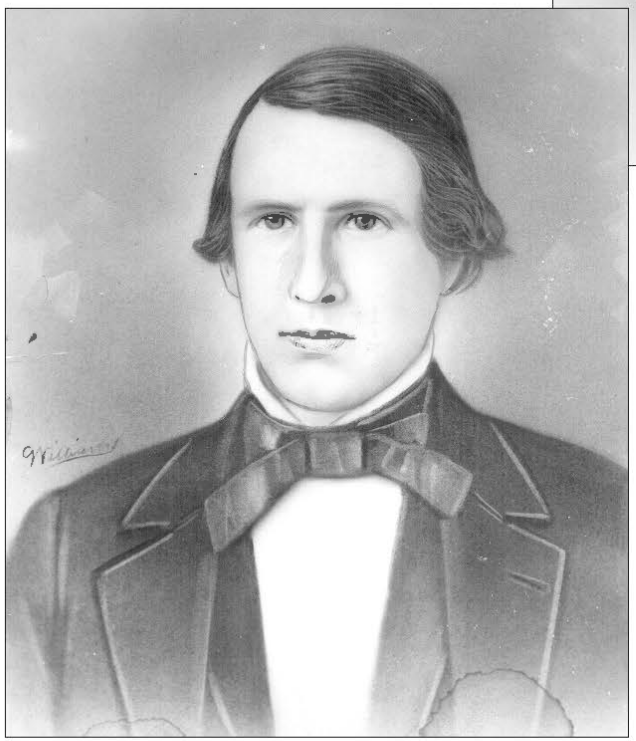


PHOTO 11: John Fontaine, elected in 1836, served as the city's first mayor.

The Walker-Peters-Langdon House, located at 716 Broadway, is traditionally considered the oldest house in the *original city*.

Built in the city's first year (1828), this *Federal cottage* has been the property of the Historic Columbus Foundation since 1967 and is open daily for tours.

Beneath the house is what is believed to be the only "basement" kitchen in the *original city*. Behind the house are outbuildings that include a mid-nineteenth century slave house, a drying house (used for drying fruits and vegetables), and even a "necessary" (used before the convenience of indoor bathrooms).

Only a matter of feet away from the outside door leading to the kitchen is a covered well; the well is situated on the property to remind visitors of days in Columbus when water had to be *drawn* in buckets.

Inside the house, in addition to furnishings of the period, is a jar containing water from both the Atlantic Ocean and the Chattahoochee River. This "wedding of the waters" was performed in 1853, when Columbus and Savannah were connected by the railroad system. Officials from the two cities met in Columbus and celebrated the occasion by symbolically uniting their "native" waters in this jar.

In the mid-1850s, the trip from Columbus to Savannah on the train would have taken the better part of two days to complete; after all, the trains of that period were travelling at an average speed of only twenty miles per hour!

However, travel by train was preferable to travel by stagecoach, which would have taken several days.

Today, this same trip (Columbus-Savannah) can be completed in just over four hours by automobile — or in only one hour "in the air."

PHOTO 12: The Walker-Peters-Langdon House, built in 1828, is considered the oldest house in the *original city* and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PHOTO 14: The mid-nineteenth century slave cabin, situated behind the Walker-Peters-Langdon House, is flanked by a "necessary" (left) and a dovecote (right).

PHOTO 13: At the right, the "Wedding of the Waters," which was performed in 1853 when Columbus and Savannah were linked by the railroad.

This house, located at 13 Seventh Street, is believed to be the oldest *two-story* house in Columbus's Historic District.

Built about 1835, less than ten years after the construction of the Walker-Peters-Langdon House, this dwelling is a fine example of the kind of two-story houses in which many of the city's early settlers lived.

Like the Walker-Peters-Langdon House, this structure is representative of the *Federal* period in American architecture. The buildings of this period are characterized by their small scale and their simplicity.

Dr. and Mrs. Clarence Butler, longtime supporters of the preservation movement in Columbus, added several rooms to the back of the house while in the process of meticulously restoring this once-endangered structure.

Mr. and Mrs. A.L. Barker purchased the house in 1971, just after the restoration was completed, and have lived in this home since that time.

The Barkers and their daughter have not only the distinction of living in one of the *original city's* oldest residences, but also the pleasure of living next door to the former home of the originator of the formula for Coca-Cola: The Pemberton House.

PHOTO 15: Built about 1835, this National Register property is probably the oldest two-story house in the *original city*.

1838	*1846*	*1852*	*1860*	*1865*	*1871*
Coronation of Queen Victoria at London's Westminster Abbey; beginning of Victorian Age	*Smithsonian Institution founded in Washington, D.C.*	*Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin is published in book form; the novel becomes a record-setting best-seller*	*Abraham Lincoln is elected 16th President of the United States*	*Last significant land battle of the Civil War is fought in Columbus, April 16, 1865*	*Springer Opera House opens in Columbus; P.T. Barnum opens his circus, "The Greatest Show on Earth," in Brooklyn, New York*

Completed in the early 1830s, just a few years after the birth of the city, "St. Elmo" has been called one of the finest examples of *Classical Revival* architecture in America. Structures of this type show the influence of architectural design in ancient Greece and Rome.

At the time of this mansion's construction, the city limits did not extend beyond the western edge of "downtown" Columbus (the approximate boundary being present-day Tenth Avenue). Because neighborhoods in the immediate vicinity of "St. Elmo" developed rather slowly, this house was for decades at the center of a large country estate.

As years passed, the plantation of which "St. Elmo" was a part became significant not only for the house, but also because of its connection with a number of famous individuals. General Henry Lewis Benning (b.1814-d.1875), for whom Fort Benning was named, married the daughter of "St. Elmo's" first owners and lived for some time in the house.

Augusta Jane Evans (b.1835-d.1909), one of the most celebrated female novelists in American literary history and a native of Columbus, is believed to have written part of her best-selling Victorian novel, *St. Elmo*, while visiting her aunt and uncle, Colonel and Mrs. Seaborn Jones (the father-in-law and mother-in-law of General Benning).

At the end of the nineteenth century and in the first years of the twentieth, the Slade family — owners of the house at the time — ran a private school for girls at "St. Elmo." Privileged young ladies from as far away as New Orleans came to Columbus to attend classes inside this home.

Two Presidents of the United States visited "St. Elmo" in the nineteenth century: James K. Polk (11th President; b.1795-d.1849) and Millard Fillmore (13th President; b.1800-d.1874).

"St. Elmo" has been the home of Dr. and Mrs. Philip Schley and their family since 1966.

If the walls of *this* house could talk, *imagine* the stories that they could tell . . .

PHOTO 16: "St. Elmo," one of Columbus's best-known nineteenth century residences, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

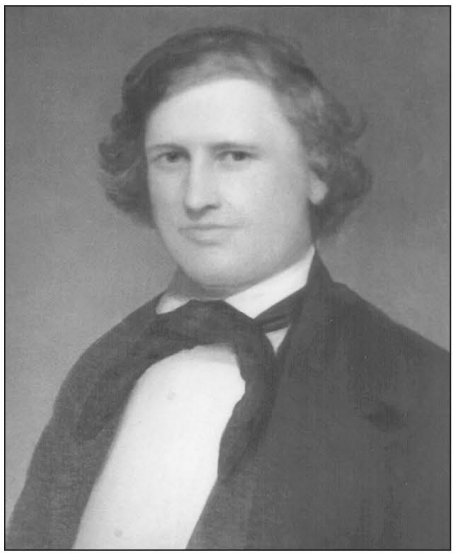


PHOTO 17: Henry L. Benning in a portrait attributed to Edward Mooney. Mooney painted portraits of many of Columbus's most prominent citizens in the 1840s.

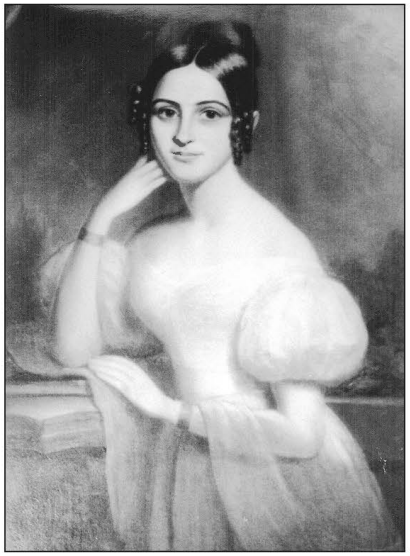


PHOTO 18: Mary Jones Benning, daughter of "St. Elmo's" builder and wife of General Henry L. Benning, in an 1838 portrait.

Within the same years that the first occupants were moving into the Walker-Peters-Langdon House, the slave house behind the W-P-L House, the Barker House, and "St. Elmo," other pioneer settlers in the area were more than likely building crackling fires on the hearth of this one-room log cabin.

Typical of the kind of rustic dwelling in which many of the early settlers in this region lived, this log cabin was originally located near the intersection of Macon and Schatulga Roads. As a means of saving the structure from demolition, the Historic Columbus Foundation accepted the cabin as a gift from George C. Woodruff, Jr., and moved the dwelling to its present site at 708 1/2 Broadway in 1987.

The cabin is one that was constructed with a clay and straw "filling" between the logs; clay and straw were also used to hold the large stones of the chimney together.

An interesting architectural feature of the cabin is the roof's "overhang," which protects the chimney from the rain and which might have also given shelter to a horse used for transportation purposes.

Another noteworthy detail is the upstairs window (on the right of the chimney), which allowed children sleeping in the cabin's loft fresh air in the spring and summer.

The single fireplace provided heat for the people living in the cabin, and it also afforded those early residents a means of cooking their meals.

Just for fun, the next time that the lights go out in your house — or the next time that your television "goes on the blink" — think about the pioneers in the log cabin, and remember that light bulbs, televisions, automobiles, refrigerators, air conditioners, microwave ovens, and VCRs are a part of life about which these early Columbusites never knew.

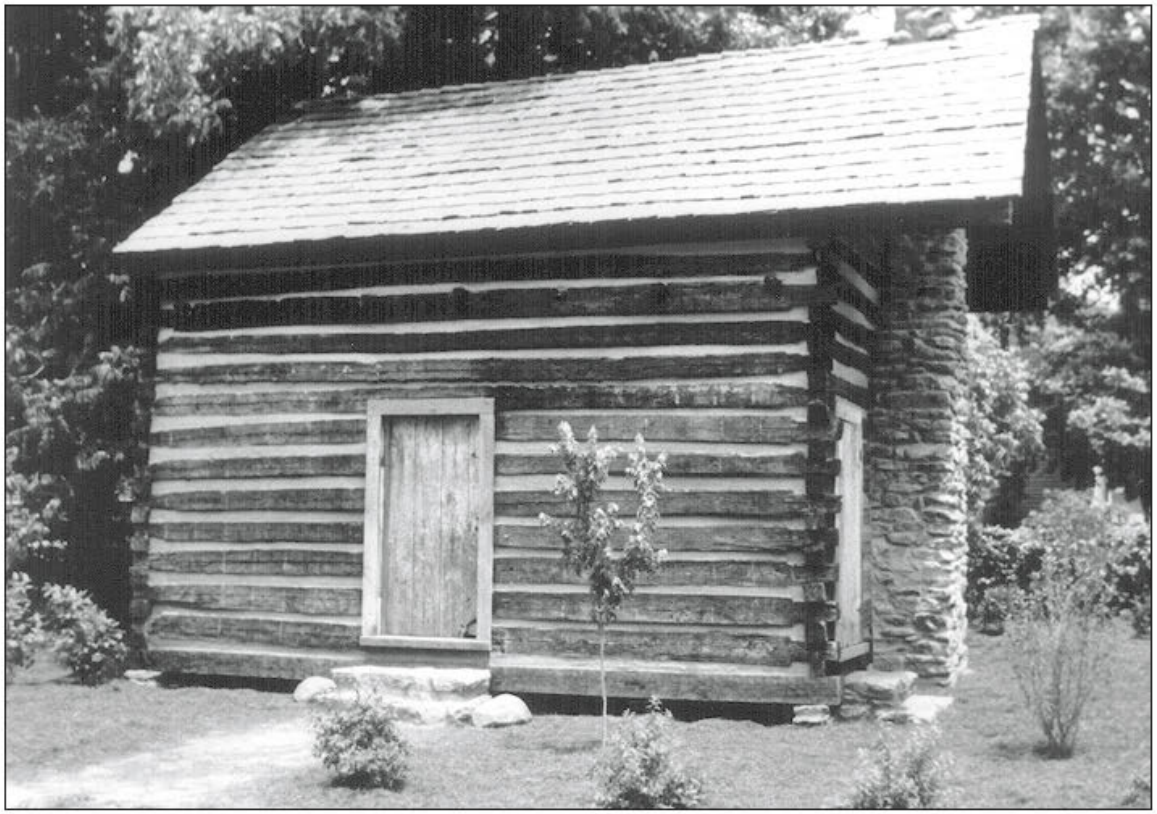


PHOTO 19: Log cabin, once home to pioneers in the Columbus area, as it looks in its location at 708 1/2 Broadway.

1877	*1886*	*1888*	*1890*
Thomas A. Edison invents the phonograph; considered the world's greatest inventor, Edison created the electric light bulb in 1879	*The Statue of Liberty, a gift from the people of France, is dedicated in New York Harbor*	*John Pemberton, creator of the Coca-Cola formula, dies in Atlanta; burial follows at Columbus's Linwood Cemetery*	*The Bullard House, located at 1406 Third Avenue, is completed; the house is believed to be the first in Columbus with electricity*

Today, it is easy enough to cross the Chattahoochee River in order to go from Columbus to Phenix City; it is simply a matter of choosing the bridge that is most convenient for the traveller.

However, bridges have not always spanned the Chattahoochee.

In 1832, a contract for construction of the first public bridge over the river, Dillingham Bridge, was given to a South Carolinian named John Godwin (b.1798-d.1859). When Godwin began building the bridge that same year, he had at his side a talented black man whose name would become one of the most celebrated in the architectural history of East Alabama and West Central Georgia: *Horace King*.

King, a South Carolina native who was born into slavery in 1807, became known as a master builder of bridges and buildings in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi. His freedom from slavery was accomplished by Godwin's petition submitted to the Alabama General Assembly in 1846.

By the 1870s, King had built his famous "lattice bridges" over the Chattahoochee River (at West Point, Columbus, Ft. Gaines), the Flint River (at Albany), and the Oconee River (at Milledgeville).

Before the end of his life, King was even known as a political figure, having served in the post-Civil War Alabama Legislature as a state representative from Russell County (1868-1872).

After John Godwin's death in 1859, King erected a monument over his grave in the old Godwin Cemetery in Phenix City that reads: "This stone was placed here by Horace King, in lasting remembrance of the love and gratitude he felt for his lost friend and former master."

In the 1870s, King moved to LaGrange, Georgia, where he and his sons prospered through the work of their construction firm. King died in 1887 and is buried in LaGrange's Stonewall Cemetery.

Dr. William H. Green, an authority on the life and work of Horace King, has said of King: "Laborer and legislator, his life was an astonishing symbolic bridge — a bridge not only between states, but between men. Like one of his stately Town lattice bridges, Horace King's life soars above the murky waters of historical limitations, of human bondage and racial prejudice. He did not change the currents of social history, but he did transcend them and stands as a reminder of our common humanity, the potential of human spirit, the power of mutual respect."

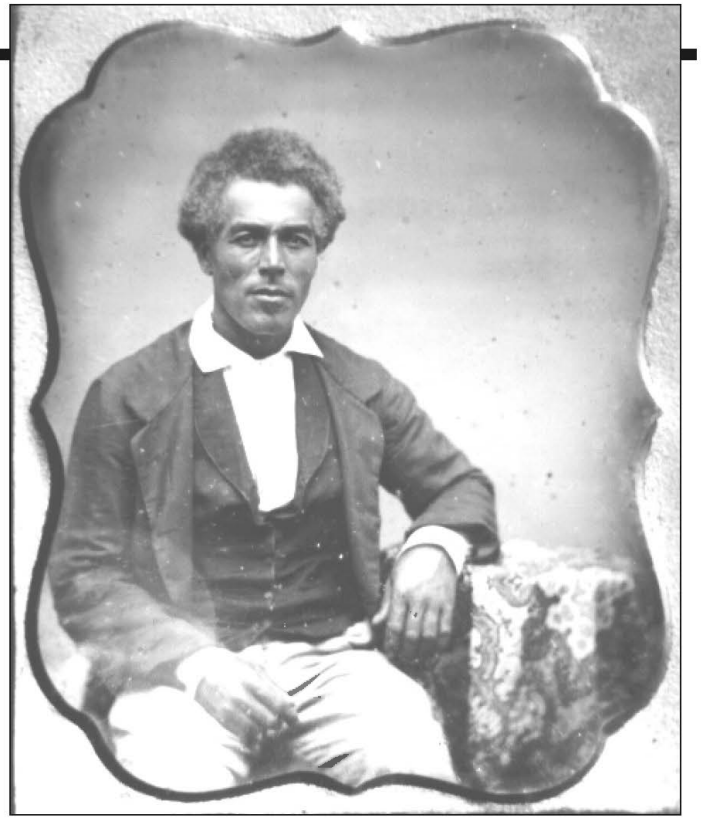


PHOTO 20: Horace King, ca. 1850.

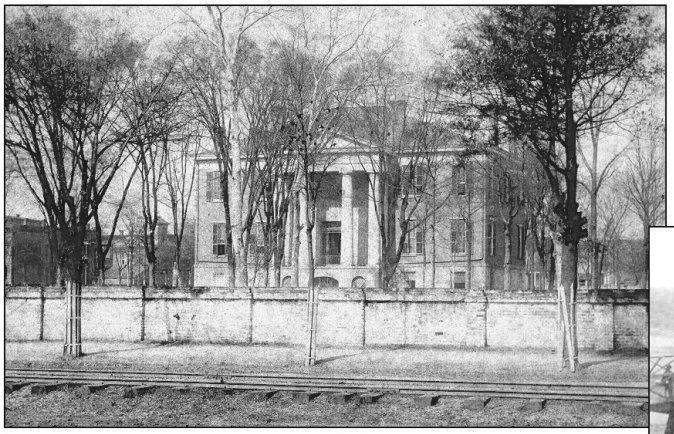
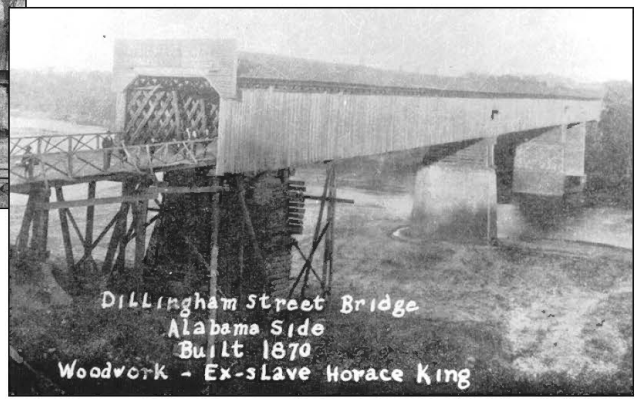


PHOTO 21: Columbus's second courthouse, which was built by John Godwin and Horace King between 1838 and 1840.

PHOTO 22: The Dillingham Street Bridge built by Horace King in 1870.



The most celebrated and widely-travelled twins in American history made what must have been a truly unforgettable appearance before some of the more curious Columbus pioneer settlers in 1834.

Chang and Eng Bunker, the world-renowned original Siamese Twins who were born in 1811 on a small houseboat near Bangkok (the capital of Siam — or Thailand), were brought to Boston in 1829 and shortly thereafter began making tours that would include appearances before audiences throughout the United States and in several European countries.

Given the publicity that preceded each exhibition featuring Chang and Eng, there is hardly any doubt that early Columbusites were just as curious as anyone else about these brothers (twenty-three years old at the time of their visit to Columbus) who had been joined since before birth by a fleshy ligament that connected them at the base of their chests.

During the four days that they spent in Columbus in March of 1834, the Siamese Twins took in $200.00 — not a lot of money by today's standards, but a considerable amount for the 1830s! The admission fee for a view of the twins was 50¢ per person. According to their ledger, Chang and Eng spent one day in Wetumpka, Alabama, before their arrival in Columbus, and one day in Talbotton, Georgia, after their visit here.

In 1843, Chang and Eng married sisters in a quiet wedding ceremony near Wilkesboro, North Carolina; from this union resulted the births of twenty-one children.

In 1860 and in 1865, Chang and Eng were associated with P.T. Barnum, the man for whom the famous travelling circus — Barnum and Bailey's Circus — was later named. Another of Barnum's history-making "exhibits" was the legendary Tom Thumb, a man who stood just over three feet tall. Tom Thumb, whose real name was Charles Stratton, made appearances with his wife at Columbus's Springer Opera House in 1876 and in 1883.

Chang and Eng died in 1874 (within hours of each other) — just four months before their 63rd birthday — and are buried in White Plains, North Carolina.

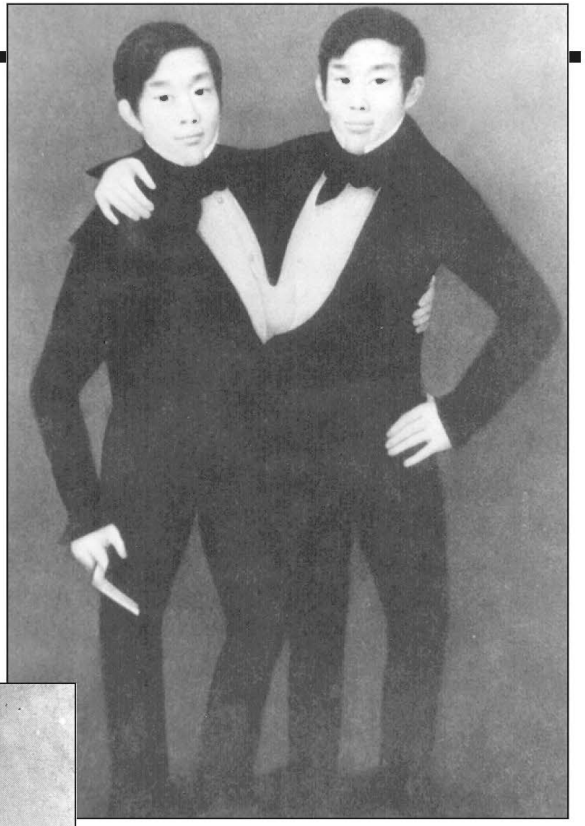


PHOTO 23: Chang and Eng Bunker as they looked at the time of their visit to Columbus in 1834.

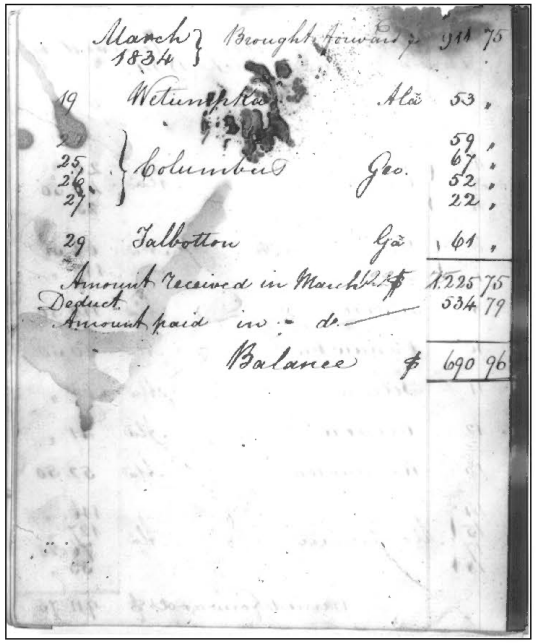


PHOTO 24: Page from their account book, showing entries for March 1834. Before coming to Columbus, the Siamese Twins stopped in Wetumpka, Alabama. After Columbus, they appeared in Talbotton, Georgia.

PHOTO 25: The Siamese Twins pictured with two of their children, ca. 1865.

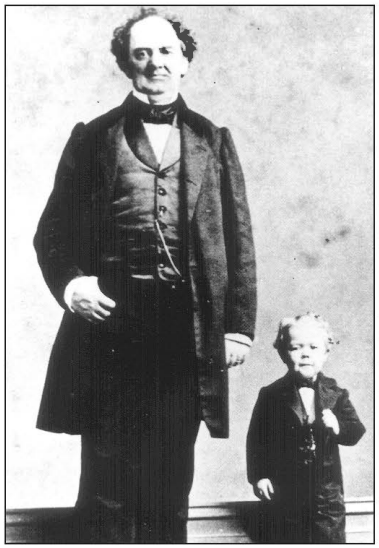


PHOTO 26: P.T. Barnum and Tom Thumb.

From historical data that survives, it seems that the appearance in town of the Siamese Twins was not the only surprise in store for residents of six-year-old Columbus, Georgia in the first months of 1834.

In March of that year, seventy tons of ice were received by the Columbus Ice Company and stored in its ice-house. This "chilly" shipment would assure Columbusites of their first summer on the banks of the Chattahoochee with the luxury of ice! So big was the news of ice in Columbus that front-page advertisements appeared regularly in *The Columbus Enquirer.*

Not until the 1930s and 1940s were electric refrigerators commonly found in American homes. Before the invention of refrigeration (using electricity), Columbusites, like citizens throughout the country, used "ice boxes" for storing perishable foods. These wooden chests held large pieces of ice that kept the food stored inside the ice boxes cool. For the convenience of homemakers who were not able to carry large pieces of ice from the ice-houses to their homes, ice companies delivered ice by horse-drawn wagons (and later by truck) to customers who were interested in partaking.

During the nineteenth century and even until the middle of the twentieth, ice delivery was a common occurrence in Columbus. However, as electric refrigerators became more common, the service offered by local ice companies eventually became obsolete.

Pioneers in Columbus must have been delighted to have a refreshing *cool* drink on those hot summer days when only in one's wildest dreams could modern-day ice makers and air conditioners be imagined!

PHOTO 28: The "ice man" unloaded the large blocks of ice with heavy-duty tongs. Notice the *two* pieces of ice in this photograph. Also notice the advertisement on the truck for WRBL radio.

PHOTO 27: An Atlantic Ice and Coal delivery truck from the 1940s or early 1950s in Columbus.

Whether or not Augusta Jane Evans actually wrote the last pages of her best-selling novel *St. Elmo* while visiting relatives in the Columbus mansion that shares the novel's name, it is certain that the novel's enormous popularity in Columbus — and around the country — left an indelible mark on local and literary history.

Evans, who was born here in 1835, left Columbus as a child and moved to Texas with her family. Her first novel, *Inez: A Tale of the Alamo* (published in 1855), was greatly inspired by the events of the Mexican War, which was taking place during the years that Evans and her family lived in San Antonio.

Following the publication of two more novels, Miss Evans wrote a fourth and had it published in 1866. This novel, *St. Elmo*, enjoyed an immediate and widespread success — and made Miss Evans one of the best-selling authors of the nineteenth century.

Indeed, some historians believe that *only* Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and Lew Wallace's *Ben-Hur* sold more copies during the century than Miss Evans's *St. Elmo*.

Because of the novel's extraordinary success and its ties with Columbus, the name of the antebellum house built for her aunt and uncle (the Seaborn Joneses) was changed from "El Dorado" to "St. Elmo."

Later, an elementary school located only blocks away from the house — "St. Elmo Elementary" — took the novel's name, as did a shopping center, a street, and an entire neighborhood.

The popularity of the novel, as well as the two film versions of it (1914 and 1923), perpetuated Evans's widespread influence to such an extent that some thirteen American towns were established as (or rechristened) "St. Elmo."

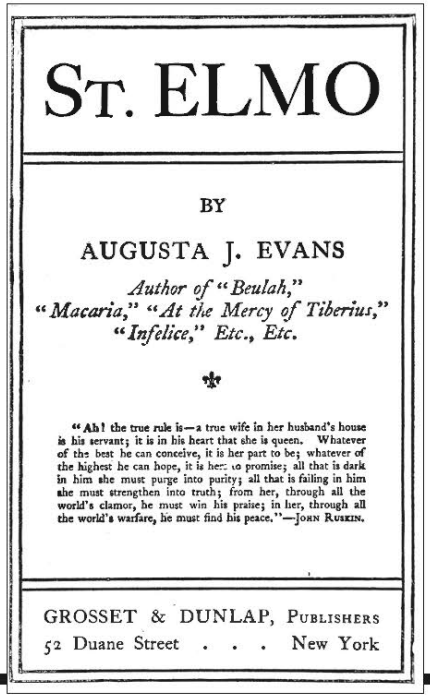
Moreover, several Southern plantations took the name, as did steamboats and a number of hotels. There was even a "St. Elmo" punch and "St. Elmo" cigars on the market when the novel was at the height of its popularity — and that's not to mention the number of children in Columbus and across the country who were named after the main characters of the novel: Edna Earl and St. Elmo Murray!

Augusta Jane Evans Wilson died in Mobile in 1909 and is buried there. Her last home, the "Georgia Cottage," is located on Mobile's Government Street and is identified with a historical marker.

PHOTO 29: Augusta Jane Evans Wilson in 1902.

PHOTO 30: "Wildwood," the novelist's birthplace, which stood close to the intersection of Wildwood and Forest Avenues in Columbus.

PHOTO 31: Title page from her most poular novel, *St. Elmo*.



ST. ELMO

BY

AUGUSTA J. EVANS

Author of "Beulah," "Macaria," "At the Mercy of Tiberius," "Infelice," Etc., Etc.

"Ah! the true rule is—a true wife in her husband's house is his servant; it is in his heart that she is queen. Whatever of the best he can conceive, it is her part to be; whatever of the highest he can hope, it is her to promise; all that is dark in him she must purge into purity; all that is failing in him she must strengthen into truth; from her, through all the world's clamor, he must win his praise; in her, through all the world's warfare, he must find his peace."—JOHN RUSKIN.

GROSSET & DUNLAP, PUBLISHERS
52 Duane Street . . . New York

Built in the early 1840s for the education of white male children who lived in the area of Columbus known even today as "Wynnton," the building that serves as the Wynnton Elementary School Library is regarded as the oldest building in continuous use as a school facility in the state of Georgia. In addition to this male academy, there was the Wynnton Female Academy, established for the education of privileged young women living in the immediate vicinity.

Such private educational institutions had been in operation since the early 1830s in Columbus and continued to be popular even after the turn-of-the-century. However, with the official opening of Columbus's public schools in 1867, the importance of private educational institutions was somewhat overshadowed.

The first *public* school in Columbus for the education of black children was Claflin School, which was opened in 1868 and operated by educators from Northern states.

It was not until the 1960s that black children and white children in Muscogee County would attend the same schools.

One of the city's oldest public schools in continuous operation is Columbus High School, which was organized in 1890 and first located at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Eleventh Street.

Through an interesting and successful "transformation" of a school building into a business establishment, the old Columbus High School building now serves as offices of a local law firm.

The present Columbus High School building is located on Cherokee Avenue, across from Weracoba Park.

PHOTO 32: The Wynnton Elementary School Library, which was built in the early 1840s as a private academy.

PHOTO 34: Garrison and Mattie Page, members of the first class at Claflin School, as young adults in this turn-of-the-century photograph.

PHOTO 33: The handsome brick building at the corner of Eleventh Street and Fourth Avenue, in downtown Columbus, that was formerly Columbus High School.

Even though Columbus cannot claim her as a "native daughter," Caroline Lee Hentz — another noted novelist of the nineteenth century — *did* spend several years of her life here (1848-1852) as a schoolteacher and author.

Her impact on popular American literature of the mid-1800s (in the decade preceding the publication of Augusta Evans's *St. Elmo*) has led some literary historians to call Caroline Hentz "the first best-selling novelist of the Deep South."

Born in Lancaster, Massachusetts in 1800, Caroline Lee Whiting was the daughter of a colonel in the Revolutionary Army. In 1824, she was married to Nicholas Hentz, a native of France, who had come to the United States "for political reasons" and who had established himself, primarily, as a professor of French.

Her first contact with the American South came in 1826, when she and her husband moved to North Carolina. While living in Chapel Hill, where her husband taught French at the University of North Carolina, Caroline Hentz befriended a slave named George Moses Horton, a black man who shared Hentz's interest in writing.

As a means of supplementing his income, Horton composed love poems for young university men who bought them to send — under their own names — to their "sweethearts" back home. With Mrs. Hentz's assistance, Horton was able to publish some of his serious verse in 1829, and several of those poems are included in even the most recent anthologies of Southern literature.

When the Hentzes came to Columbus in 1848, they came here to run a private school. However, by 1851, Mr. Hentz's health had failed him, and Caroline Hentz had given up teaching in order to make writing the main source of support for her family.

Of all the work that she had published, Caroline Hentz's novel entitled *The Planter's Northern Bride* (1854) is the piece of fiction that brought her the most acclaim. However, *Ernest Linwood* (1856) is the novel that had the greatest influence on the city and people of Columbus.

The popularity of *Ernest Linwood* in Columbus was recorded in the April 22, 1856 issue of *The Columbus Enquirer*:

"LINWOOD — This is the name of the pleasant suburb of Columbus, lying between Wynnton and Rose Hill, commencing with the residence of Mrs. Hodges and ending with that of Mrs. Shepherd. There are some twenty families living in the village. It was named in honor of Mrs. Caroline Lee Hentz, whose last and greatest novel is called *Ernest Linwood*."

Some years later, the name of Columbus's old city cemetery would be officially changed to "Linwood Cemetery." Mrs. Hentz died in Marianna, Florida in 1856, and there she is buried alongside her husband.

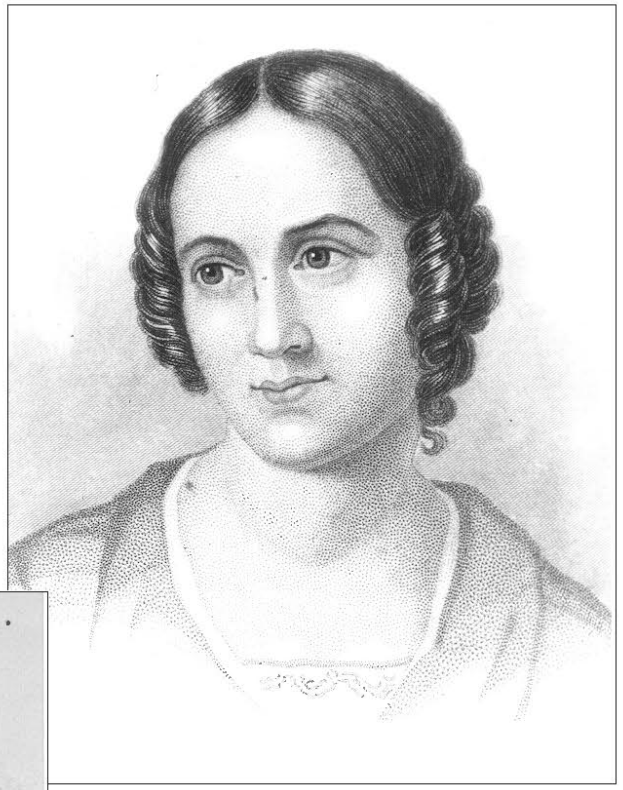
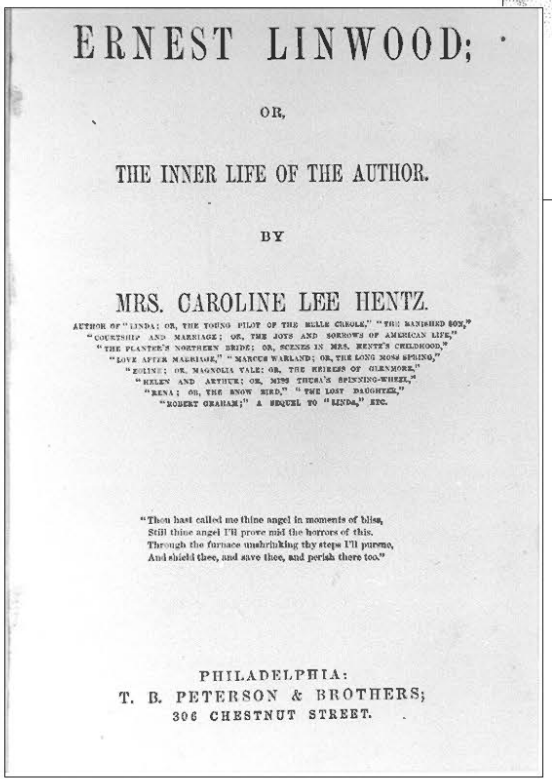


PHOTO 35: Caroline Lee Hentz, author of *Ernest Linwood*, from which Columbus's Linwood Cemetery took its name.



ERNEST LINWOOD;

OR,

THE INNER LIFE OF THE AUTHOR.

BY

MRS. CAROLINE LEE HENTZ.

AUTHOR OF "LINDA; OR, THE YOUNG PILOT OF THE BELLE CREOLE," "THE BANISHED SON," "COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE; OR, THE JOYS AND SORROWS OF AMERICAN LIFE," "THE PLANTER'S NORTHERN BRIDE; OR, SCENES IN MRS. HENTZ'S CHILDHOOD," "LOVE AFTER MARRIAGE," "MARCUS WARLAND; OR, THE LOST HOME SPRING," "EGINO; OR, MAGNOLIA VALE; OR, THE HEIRESS OF GLENMORE," "HELEN AND ARTHUR; OR, MISS THUSA'S SPINNING-WHEEL," "RENA; OR, THE SNOW BIRD," "THE LOST DAUGHTER," "ROBERT GRAHAM;" A SEQUEL TO "LINDA," ETC.

"Thou hast called me thine angel in moments of bliss,
Still thine angel I'll prove mid the horrors of this.
Through the furnace unshrinking thy steps I'll pursue,
And shield thee, and save thee, and perish there too."

PHILADELPHIA:
T. B. PETERSON & BROTHERS;
306 CHESTNUT STREET.

PHOTO 36: Title page from her celebrated novel.

One of the most extraordinary personalities living in nineteenth century Columbus was a musical prodigy known as "Blind Tom."

Born near Columbus (on the old Warm Springs Road) in 1849, Thomas Wiggins — later called Thomas G. Bethune — spent his childhood as a slave on the Columbus plantation of General James N. Bethune.

Blind at birth, "Blind Tom" was considered a "human mockingbird" capable of hearing an intricate musical composition and sitting down at the piano to reproduce what he had heard, often without making a single mistake.

His expertise at the piano as a child was particularly amazing to those around him, since he had been given no musical instruction of any kind.

Local historians believe that "Blind Tom" was only eight years old when he started performing before audiences in the Columbus area. As a young adult, during the Civil War, he toured Europe and is said to have performed before royalty. After the war, he performed in a number of American cities and even thrilled audiences at Columbus's Springer Opera House.

Considered one of "the most amazing musical prodigies that has ever been known," "Blind Tom" died in 1908 in Hoboken, New Jersey, where he had been living with a member of the Bethune family.

"Blind Tom" is believed to be buried in the old West family cemetery (a part of Westmoreland plantation) in Midland, Georgia.

A state historic marker stands nearby, on Warm Springs Road, as a memorial to this exceptional talent.

PHOTO 37: Drawing of Thomas Bethune (known as "Blind Tom") at the piano.

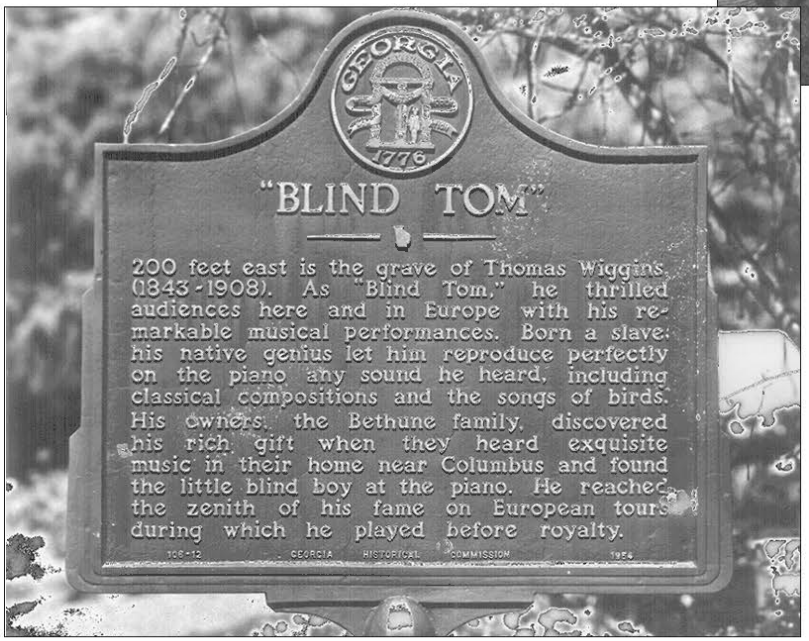


PHOTO 38: Marker on Warm Springs Road in Midland.

In addition to Columbus's nineteenth century textile operations, there was another important local industry that boosted the city in its growth as an industrial center of the South: the Columbus Iron Works.

Founded in 1853, the Iron Works is most often remembered for its production of steam engines and boilers that were manufactured for Confederate Navy gunboats, as well as its production of cannons for the Confederate Army.

Over the years during which it was in operation, the Iron Works also became a major producer of ice machines, farm implements, wood and coal-burning stoves and heaters, and even Char-Broil Barbecue Grills.

The building that once housed the Iron Works was purchased by the city of Columbus in the late 1970s and was impressively converted into the Columbus Iron Works Convention and Trade Center (Front Avenue between Eighth and Ninth Streets).

This complex — which features two large convention halls, a dining hall, an industrial museum, various offices and meeting rooms — is an excellent example of what workers in the field of historic preservation refer to as "adaptive use."

Since the Columbus Iron Works Convention and Trade Center's opening in 1979, numerous other significant downtown structures in Columbus have been "adaptively used." Some of those buildings are the Columbus Hilton (across the street from the Iron Works), Rankin Square (in the 1000 block of Broadway and First Avenue), One Arsenal Place (an office complex located in the 900 block of Front Avenue), and the Columbus Depot (formerly the passenger train station, located at 1200 Sixth Avenue).

Numerous houses in the Columbus Historic District have been renovated for business purposes. Among those houses are the Goetchius House (ca.1839), which houses one of Columbus's best-known restaurants; the Joseph House (ca.1842), which is used as a law office; the Wells-Bagley House (ca.1840), offices of the Columbus Jaycees; and 700 Broadway (ca.1870), which is headquarters of the Historic Columbus Foundation.

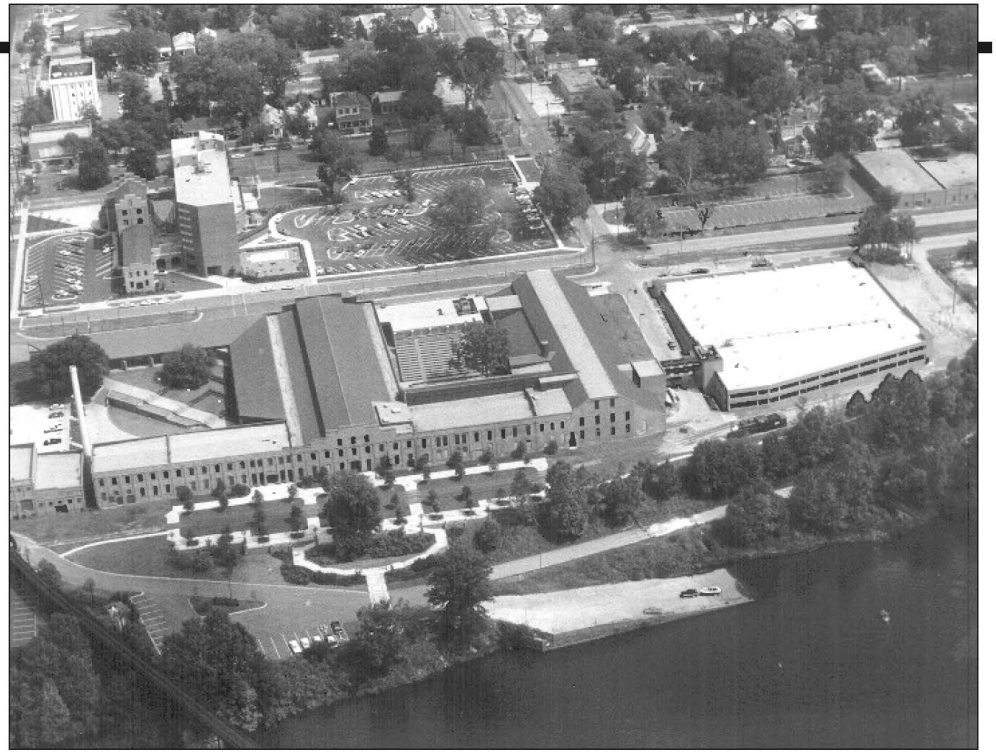


PHOTO 39: Aerial view of the Columbus Iron Works Convention and Trade Center as it appeared in the late 1980s. The complex, along with adjacent riverfront industrial properties, is a National Historic Landmark.

PHOTO 40: Inside the Convention and Trade Center, pieces of the machinery once used to manufacture iron products are used for decorative purposes.

PHOTO 41: The Columbus Hilton, originally called Empire Mills, is an interesting combination of old and new buildings for a modern use.

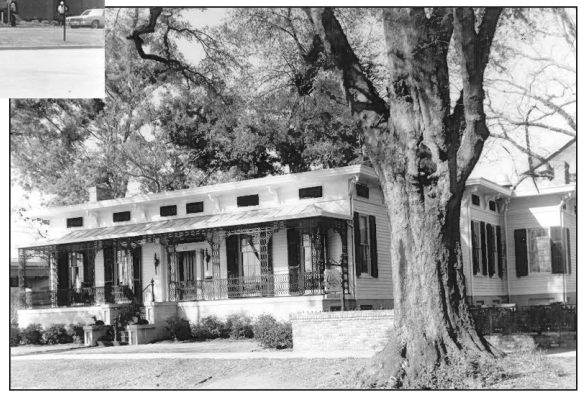


PHOTO 42: The Goetchius House was built as a private residence, but later served as offices of a Columbus physician. The house has been used as a restaurant since the 1970s.

A convenient means of transportation, a luxury that most people living in the last years of the twentieth century take for granted, was something that pioneer citizens knew little or nothing about.

Indeed, it was not until the 1850s that Columbusites had access to passenger train service — and not until the turn-of-the-century that the first automobiles (called "horseless carriages") were being seen on the streets of the city.

Travel by commercial passenger airplane was not available in Columbus until 1944.

Prior to the invention of motorized vehicles such as trains and automobiles, individuals who wanted to move from one place to another within the city found themselves walking, riding horses, or taking "spins" in mule-drawn carts and horse-drawn carriages. The more young-at-heart might have even pedaled around town on bicycles!

In the 1890s and the early twentieth century, area citizens were fortunate enough to be able to step aboard one of many streetcars that were crisscrossing Columbus suburbs such as Rose Hill, Wynnton, East Highlands, and Wildwood Park.

Yet, for those who wanted to go from one city to another, the options were few: horse-drawn carriage, horse-drawn wagon, transport on horseback, or passage by steamboat. Such boats, which carried passengers and cargo up and down the Chattahoochee River well into the first part of this century, provided the most comfortable travel opportunities. However, because the travel routes were limited to the waterways of the river, "boating" was not always the most feasible choice for reaching isolated destinations.

Imagine crossing the state of Georgia on horseback — or even in a horse-drawn carriage! Imagine that same kind of trip from the New England states or from Virginia to Georgia! The trek would have taken weeks (or even months), but the early settlers in Georgia had no choice.

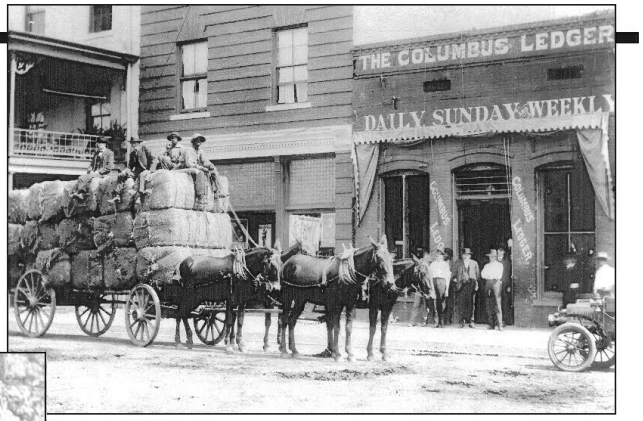


PHOTO 43: On October 17, 1905, this four-horse wagon made its way down Broadway and stopped with its load of cotton in front of what was then the location of *The Columbus Ledger* offices. Notice the four men *riding high* on their cargo.

PHOTO 44: This photograph of the Joseph family was taken in August of 1894. Two horses pulled this carriage, which was filled *and* covered with passengers!

PHOTO 45: Buggies like this one were familiar sights on the streets of Columbus, before the automobile became commonplace. John C. Hawkins posed for this photo around the turn-of-the-century.

PHOTO 46: Even the Columbus Police Department relied upon *horse power*! This period photograph was snapped in front of a what was then police department headquarters; the building was situated next door to the old Columbus Stockade.

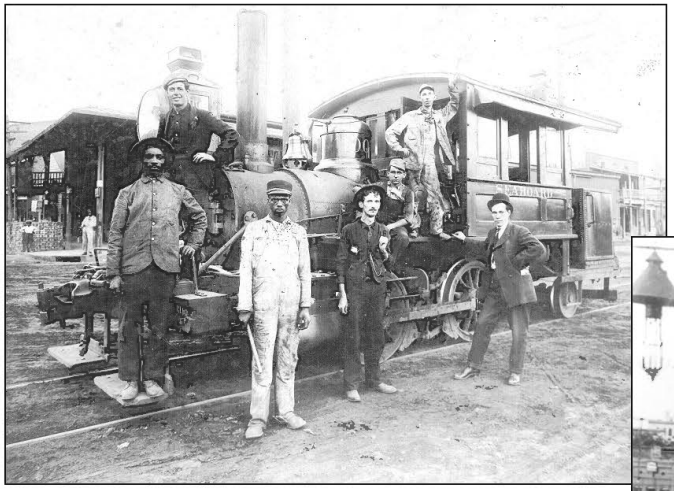


PHOTO 47: Coal-powered engines like this one were used for moving freight up and down Front Avenue on the *dummy line*. This engine was built in 1900; the photograph was taken ca. 1910.

PHOTO 48: This early 1900s photograph of the Springer Opera House shows not only the structures in the vicinity, but also several means of transport of the time. Notice the horse-drawn buggies, the people on bicycles, the people *on foot*, and the streetcar.

PHOTO 49: Mr. and Mrs. Leon Camp, Jr., slowed down in their *locomobile steamer* just long enough to have this photograph taken ca. 1904. Their vehicle was probably the first of its kind on the streets of Columbus.

PHOTO 50: The construction of new railroad lines in the area was reason for much talk in the nineteenth century and in the first decades of the twentieth. This photograph shows the work in progress — and the numerous bystanders who turned out for the momentous occasion that took place somewhere between Columbus and Warm Springs.

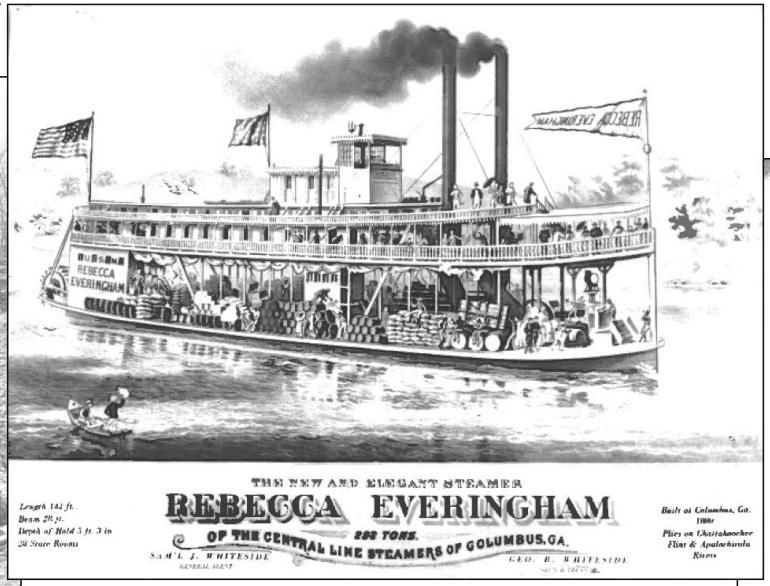


PHOTO 51: The *Rebecca Everingham* was only one of a number of riverboats that plied the waters of the Chattahoochee. Built in Columbus in 1880, this boat travelled not only the Chattahoochee, but also the Flint and Apalachicola Rivers.

PHOTO 52: Clara Jordan, wearing dress typical of the era, stood proudly alongside her bicycle for this ca.1900 photograph.

Even since the city's first years, organized religious groups have played an important role in the history of Columbus. In fact, well over a century and a half since the founding of the city, a number of Columbus's oldest downtown sanctuaries are still in use.

The congregation of the First Baptist Church, organized in 1829, is the second oldest in the *original city* (the congregation of St. Luke United Methodist Church being the oldest) and worships in the oldest sanctuary in downtown Columbus. Built in 1859 and located on Twelfth Street between Second and Third Avenues, the main sanctuary is a fine example of *Neoclassical Revival* architecture and boasts some of the most impressive stained glass windows in the city.

The second oldest sanctuary in the *original city* belongs to the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church and is located at 1100 First Avenue. Dedicated in 1862, this *Romanesque Revival* structure was badly damaged by fire in 1891, but was reopened in 1893 — fully restored.

The city's oldest sanctuary built by a black congregation, St. John A.M.E. Church, is located at 1516 Fifth Avenue. This *Romanesque Revival* structure, built in 1870, was badly damaged in a 1990 storm that destroyed many local buildings and trees.

Located at 1002 Sixth Avenue, the St. James A.M.E Church is one of the most handsome structures in downtown Columbus and houses one of the oldest black congregations in the state of Georgia. This brick sanctuary, of the *High Victorian Eclectic* style, was built in 1876.

The Church of the Holy Family, the oldest sanctuary used by Catholics in Columbus, was completed in 1880 and is considered one of the best examples of *Gothic Revival* architecture in the city. It is located at 320 Twelfth Street.

Trinity Episcopal Church, at 1130 First Avenue, was completed in 1890 and remains the only *Academic Gothic Revival* sanctuary in downtown Columbus.

Because of their architectural and historical significance to Columbus, all of these church buildings were listed on the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

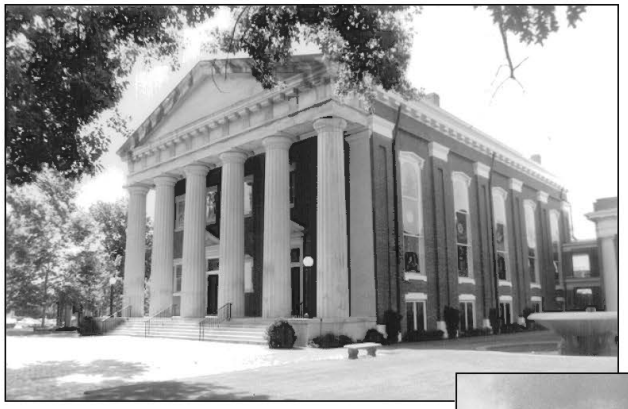


PHOTO 53: First Baptist Church, 212 Twelfth Street.

PHOTO 54: First Presbyterian Church, 1100 First Avenue.

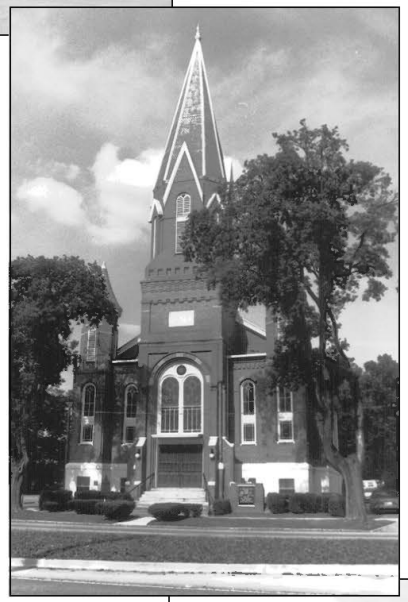


PHOTO 55: St. James A.M.E. Church, 1002 Sixth Avenue.

PHOTO 56: The Church of the Holy Family, 320 Twelfth Street.

PHOTO 57: Trinity Episcopal Church, 1130 First Avenue.

Since 1828, mills have played an important role in the industrialization of Columbus and the area.

In the city's first year, Seaborn Jones started City Mills, a grist mill whose nineteenth century brick flour mill on the Chattahoochee River stands even today — on the west side of Second Avenue at Eighteenth Street.

During the 1830s and 1840s, various mills were established for the production of ground wheat and corn, tanned leather, sawed lumber — and, of course, textiles.

Realizing the potential of waterfront property that allowed mill operators the opportunity to harness the waters of the Chattahoochee for the purpose of powering their machinery, William H. Young, a native of New York, started the Eagle Mill in Columbus in 1850. By 1860, Young's operation had become one of the largest textile factories in the South.

That same year, due in large part to Young's industrial achievements, Columbus was being called the largest manufacturing center south of Richmond, Virginia. Proof of this area's impact on the mid-nineteenth century textile industry is found in the 1860 U.S. Census, which ranked Muscogee County second only to Richmond, Virginia in textile production.

After the Civil War, the Eagle Mill would be called "Eagle and Phenix Mills," because this mill — like the bird (the phoenix) in Egyptian mythology — managed to rise from ashes and live again. In this case, the ashes were the ashes of destruction brought on by fires set by Union troops at the end of the War.

By 1878, this mill was the largest cotton and woolen mill in the South.

In the 1880s, Muscogee County was producing more textile goods than any other county in the South.

George Parker Swift, a native of Massachusetts, was another prominent figure in the early days of Columbus's textile industry. His post-war establishment, Muscogee Mills (1867), which was purchased by Fieldcrest Mills, Inc., in the twentieth century, would mean the beginning of the Swift family's important contribution to the city's textile heritage.

PHOTO 58: City Mills, established in 1828, the year of the city's birth.

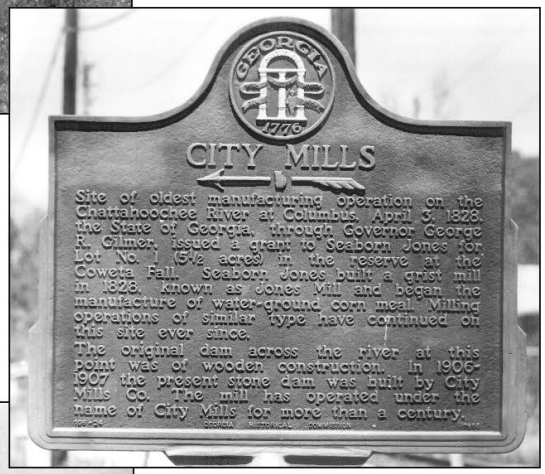


PHOTO 59: Marker at the site of City Mills.

PHOTO 60: One of many steamboats that carried cotton and other cargo — as well as people — up and down the Chattahoochee River. The bales of cotton pictured here were taken to the textile mills along the river, where they were processed for the manufacturing of cotton fabrics. In 1860, Muscogee County farmers produced some seven thousand bales of cotton; each bale weighed four hundred pounds.

John S. Pemberton, originator of the formula for Coca-Cola, lived in the house pictured below between 1855 and 1860.

A native of Knoxville, Georgia, Pemberton was born in 1831 and as a young man studied pharmacy in Macon. Only two years after his marriage in 1853 to Ann Eliza Clifford Lewis of Columbus, Pemberton purchased this house (then located on Third Avenue) for $1,950.00.

During the years that the Pembertons and their son, Charles, lived in this house, John Pemberton worked as a pharmacist in downtown Columbus.

It is believed that his "French Wine of Coca" — more than likely the forerunner of what would later be named "Coca-Cola" — was developed while he was living in Columbus.

It is certain, however, that the name "Coca-Cola" was not used on his tasty concoction until 1886 — some sixteen years after the Pemberton family's move from Columbus to Atlanta.

When he died in Atlanta in 1888, Atlanta newspapers reported that John Pemberton was "the oldest druggist of Atlanta and one of her best-known citizens."

Despite his strong ties with Atlanta, Pemberton was brought back to Columbus and buried in Linwood Cemetery.

His house, located at 11 Seventh Street, has been maintained by the Historic Columbus Foundation as a house-museum since 1972 and features Pemberton family heirlooms, as well as an extensive collection of items related to Coca-Cola.

PHOTO 61: John Pemberton, pictured with his wife, Ann Eliza Clifford Lewis, and their son, Charles, ca. 1858 in Columbus.

PHOTO 62: Cover of the Coca-Cola Company's Centennial Issue, featuring early advertisement for world-famous Coca-Cola.

PHOTO 63: The Pemberton House, located at 11 Seventh Street, is open daily for tours and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PHOTO 64: Columbus native Robert Winship Woodruff, who became President of the Coca-Cola Company at the age of thirty-three.

PHOTO 65: Sold in eighty languages, Coca-Cola bears the world's most recognized trademark.

Coincidentally, Columbus's role in the history of Coca-Cola would not end with Pemberton's burial here.

In 1923, Columbus native Robert Winship Woodruff became President of the Coca-Cola Company at the age of thirty-three.

His birthplace is marked at 1414 Second Avenue.

Woodruff, who died in 1985 at the age of ninety-five, held key positions at the highest level of "Coke's" powerful corporate empire for over sixty years and is remembered as the person responsible for the international expansion of Coca-Cola, which began during World War II.

W.C. Bradley, one of Columbus's most prominent names in business, served for more than twenty-five years as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Coca-Cola Company.

Moreover, it was Bradley and Ernest Woodruff (Robert Woodruff's father) who played the most significant roles in the purchase of the Coca-Cola Company in 1919.

The investment syndicate organized by Bradley and Woodruff paid $25 million for the soft drink company — the largest financial transaction in the history of the South to that date.

Since that time, the growth of the Coca-Cola Company has been nothing short of phenomenal.

In 1990, the Coca-Cola Company reported that 601 million six-ounce servings of Coke are consumed around the world every day.

The company also reported that if all of the Coca-Cola ever produced were placed in 6 1/2-ounce bottles and placed end to end, they would wrap around the equator 21,161 times!

In monetary terms, the Coca-Cola Company's success can be measured by its 1990 soft drink sales: $10,236,400,000! With annual sales of over $10 billion, it is no surprise that the company's trademark is the world's most famous.

During the long years of the Civil War (1861-1865), Columbus made contributions of every sort to the Confederate cause.

In addition to the more than one thousand soldiers sent from Muscogee County to join the Confederate forces, the city also supported the war effort by supplying vast quantities of manufactured goods.

With the Confederate Naval Iron Works, the Columbus Navy Yard, and the Eagle Manufacturing Company (later the Eagle and Phenix Mills) all operating on Columbus's riverfront in the *original city*, the city flourished economically and became one of the most important manufacturing centers in the South.

Moreover, there was significant aid offered by the countless area citizens who were unable to go to the battlefields or into the factories.

Women and men worked to establish ten Confederate hospitals in Columbus. Wounded and sick soldiers were brought to Columbus from around the state to spend time in "hospital facilities" that were, in most cases, normally used as saloons, stores, or public buildings.

Many local women donated and collected metal items that could be melted and cast in the form of cannons. These same women sent clothes and food to volunteers at war and worked to provide shelter for Confederate soldiers who were passing through Columbus.

After having been spared direct contact with the enemy for the duration of the war, the citizens of Columbus finally found themselves under attack by the Union forces on April 16, 1865, which happened to be Easter Sunday.

Even though General Robert E. Lee had surrendered in Virginia at Appomattox Courthouse one week earlier, the conflict in Columbus is regarded by historians as the last significant land battle of the Civil War.

The Columbus battle took place, presumably, because the news of Lee's surrender had not yet reached General James H. Wilson, one of the Union generals in command of the attack on Columbus.

With instructions to "destroy everything within reach that could be made useful for further continuance of the Rebellion," the Union soldiers burned all of Columbus's textile mills, a sword factory, three paper mills, the Columbus Navy Yard (where gunboats were being manufactured), the Confederate Naval Iron Works (formerly the Columbus Iron Works), and other iron foundries in the area.

As a memorial to the men from Columbus and other areas of the South who died defending the Confederate States of America, a Confederate monument was erected in 1879 in Salisbury Park, on the median of the 700 block of Broadway.

Some two hundred Confederate soldiers who died in Columbus's war-time hospitals are buried in two designated sections of Linwood Cemetery.

Confederate Memorial Day, traditionally observed on April 26th, was established in Columbus in 1866.

PHOTO 66: This cannon, called the *Ladies' Defender*, was made of metal items donated by women in Columbus. The cannon is located inside the Columbus Iron Works Convention and Trade Center.

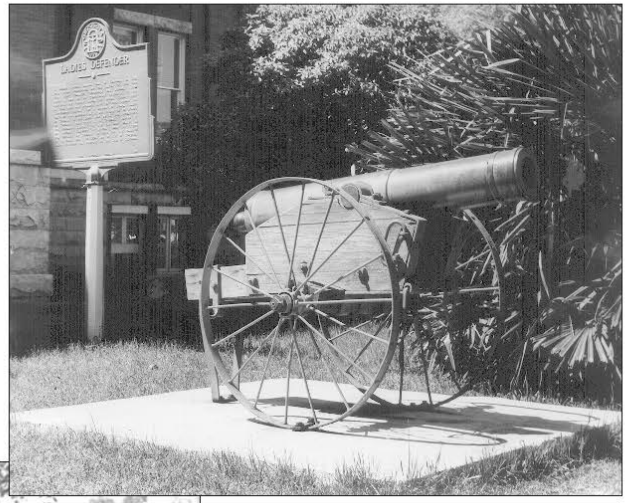


PHOTO 67: The Confederate Monument, which stands on the Broadway median in Columbus's Historic District.

PHOTO 68: Young men from Columbus who served in the Confederate Army. They called themselves the *Star Crowd*.

Among the citizens from Columbus who served in the Confederate Army were the gentlemen who posed for this photograph in 1865.

Labelled the *Star Crowd* (that is what is written on the back of the original photograph), this group was made up of (front row, left to right) Charlie Spear, George Goetchius, Richard Perry Spencer, Robert Augustus Daniel; (back row, left to right) Louis F. Garrard, Henry Benning Jones, and Samuel Spencer.

Henry Benning Jones, probably the youngest man in the group, was the nephew of General Henry L. Benning, for whom the military fort was named.

Samuel Spencer, a son-in-law of General Benning, would become President of the Southern Railway Company and five other railroad companies.

Although the date on this piece of paper currency is 1859, bills very much like this one were being circulated in Columbus during the Civil War.

Printed on paper so thin that one might wonder how currency of this type could pass through more than a few hands without disintegrating entirely, mid-nineteenth century paper money usually featured lettering and artistic renderings on only one side of the note.

The Bank of Columbus, the company that issued this $10 bill, was one of several financial institutions that operated in Columbus during the city's antebellum and Civil War era.

In the twentieth century, the city has become an important financial center in the region, with banks located throughout the metropolitan Columbus area. Moreover, certain banks and credit card operations *based* in Columbus affect not only this region, but also people and jobs in other parts of the country.

Downtown Columbus's commercial district, which has experienced ongoing rehabilitation since the mid-1960s, continues to thrive because of the presence of financial institutions whose commitment to the *original city* remains strong.

The effects of this same financial strength and stability are felt, however, in literally every section of the city and, indeed, all over the region.

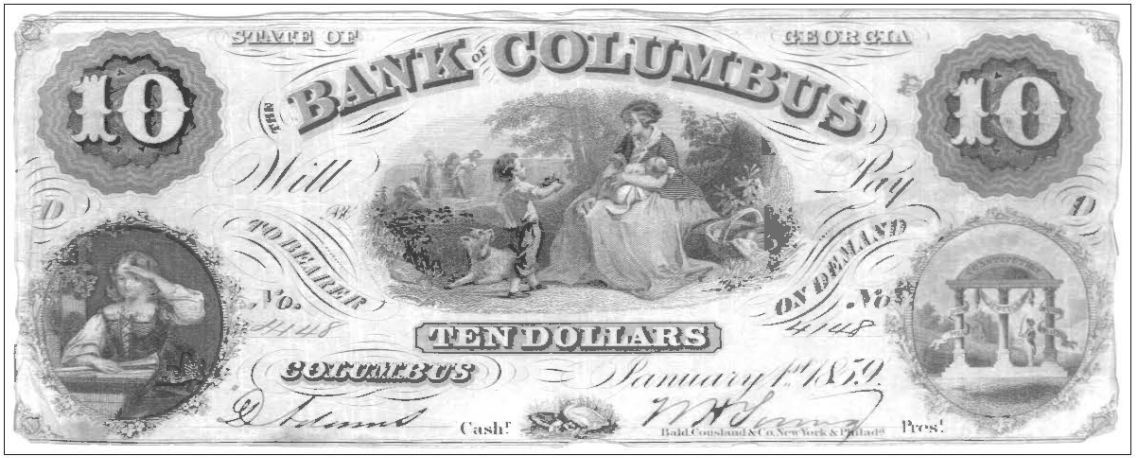


PHOTO 69: A $10 bill issued by the Bank of Columbus in 1859.

Because of Columbus's involvement in the Civil War, construction of homes and commercial buildings slowed down considerably in the city during those years of conflict.

The Rankin House, which stands at 1440 Second Avenue, was one of the most prominent local structures that was begun before the beginning of the war and not completed until after the war's end.

James Rankin, for whom the house was built, immigrated to Columbus from Scotland and was owner of Columbus's Rankin Hotel (presently part of "Rankin Square").

His *Italianate* mansion, which is owned by the Historic Columbus Foundation and utilized as headquarters of the Junior League of Columbus, was considered more valuable than any other home within the city limits when it was featured in a February 9, 1898, article that appeared in *The Columbus Enquirer-Sun*.

Its value in 1898? $18,500!

Noted for its exquisite iron grillwork and flying balcony, the Rankin House features museum rooms on its lower floor that are furnished and decorated in the Victorian style that was typical of the 1850-1870 period. Tours of the house are offered on a regular basis.

The "White Bank," another downtown building that was begun before the war and finished during Reconstruction, has housed offices of a number of local businesses over the decades during which it has stood on the corner of Eleventh Street and Broadway.

One of the most interesting details concerning this building is its cast iron facade, which is believed to have been manufactured in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and shipped in pieces to Columbus before the beginning of the Civil War.

Like the Rankin House, the bank building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

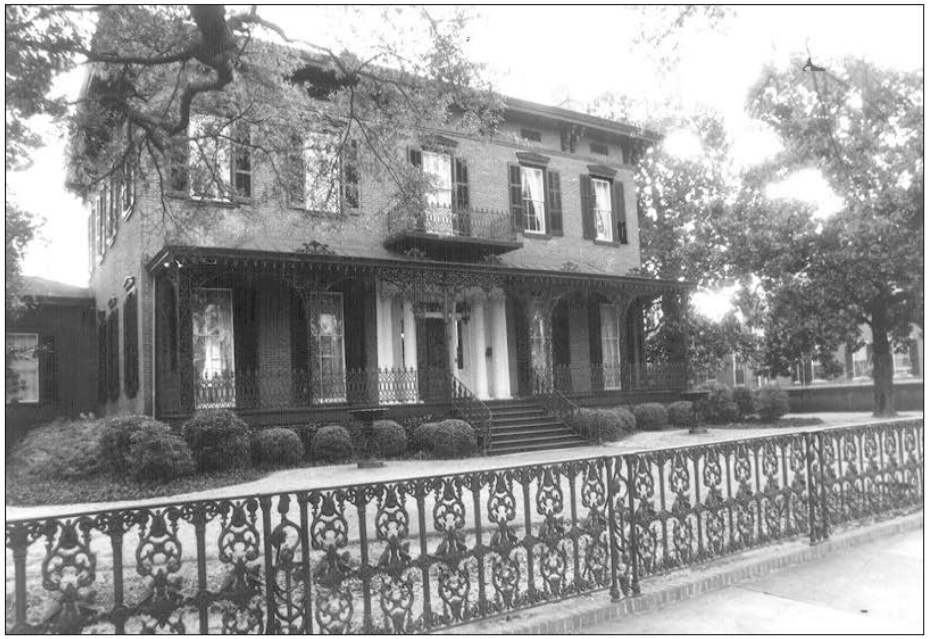


PHOTO 70: The Rankin House, located at 1440 Second Avenue, is owned by the Historic Columbus Foundation and serves as the headquarters of the Junior League of Columbus. This residential structure, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was given to the Foundation in 1968 by Woodruff family members as a memorial to Columbus native James Waldo Woodruff, Sr., a benefactor of national renown.

PHOTO 71: The White Bank, located at the corner of Broadway and Eleventh Street, as it looked in the 1970s.

Even though theatrical productions had been held in Columbus since the city's earliest days, it was not until 1871 that the community had at its disposal a theatre as fine as the one that Francis J. Springer built on the corner of Tenth Street and First Avenue.

Called "the best example of a Victorian opera house east of the Mississippi River," the Springer Opera House remains a center of cultural life in the city.

Like many other nineteenth century buildings in Columbus of the post-Civil War period, the opera house features elaborate structural detail that is typical of the Victorian era.

For decades, the Springer served not only as an opera house, but also as a hotel (with upstairs rooms). In an advertisement printed in the mid-1920s, the Springer Hotel and Opera House boasted "all modern hotel conveniences — running water and telephones in every room."

Many outstanding dramatists, writers, musicians, and politicians have "played" the Springer. There was even an appearance made by at least one boxing champion on the theatre's stage in the 1890s!

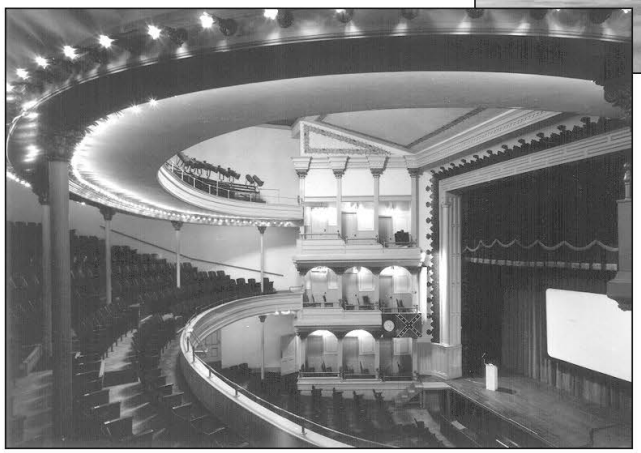
Burt Reynolds, one of the most recognized faces in American movies and television since the 1970s, appeared on the Springer stage in the summer of 1991.

Despite its glorious first decades as the primary jewel in the city's cultural crown, by the 1930s — as a result of the Great Depression that paralyzed the entire country — the Springer had lost its stability as a first-rate theatre and found itself slipping down the steep decline that it would follow until the early 1960s.

However, in 1963, having served for some years as a downtown moviehouse, the Springer was saved from demolition by a group of local preservationists who were determined to restore the theatre to its original purpose and beauty.

Two years later, in 1965, the theatre was reopened with a performance of "St. Elmo," a theatrical version of the novel written by Columbus native Augusta Jane Evans Wilson.

PHOTO 72 AND 73: The Springer Opera House, built in 1871, is the State Theatre of Georgia. Pictured below is Emily Woodruff Hall, which was dedicated in 1990 to honor original Springer trustee and arts patron Emily Woodruff.



Since the theatre's "rebirth," the building has been named a National Historic Landmark (the highest honor bestowed upon structures of historical and architectural significance by the U.S. Department of the Interior), and it has been designated the State Theatre of Georgia.

Perhaps the Springer's most impressive claim, however, is its being the first major historic preservation effort in the city — the one that sparked initial interest in Columbus in preservation and led to the countless preservation achievements that have been made in the city since the mid-1960s.

Performances are held on the Springer stage throughout the year.

PHOTO 74: Governor and Mrs. Jimmy Carter, along with Columbus preservationist F. Clason Kyle, posed for this photograph in the fall of 1971. The occasion was a dinner at the Goetchius House to celebrate the Springer's being designated the State Theatre of Georgia. Five years later, Carter would make headlines around the world when he was elected President of the United States.

Most of the pioneer settlers in Columbus were born in Georgia or in other Southern states. However, a number of the city's prominent early citizens were ambitious natives of European countries — men and women led by a sense of adventure and a strong desire to fulfill their dreams of life in America.

According to census figures, even as early as 1860 there were some 650 foreign-born individuals living in Columbus.

Among the European immigrants who left the strongest marks on the cultural and business life of Columbus were *James Rankin*, the native of Scotland who built the Rankin House and Rankin Hotel; *Lazarus Straus*, a native of Germany who lived and operated a mercantile business in Columbus in the 1860s before moving to New York to establish a crockery and glassware company that would prosper and eventually become known as one of the world's leading department stores — "Macy's"; *Francis J. Springer*, the native of Alsace who is remembered for his construction of the 1871 Springer Opera House; and *Carl Frederick Schomburg*, who in 1872 founded what has become the oldest jewelry store in the city — "Schomburg's" — after his arrival in this country from his native Germany.

Other European natives who came to Columbus and made significant contributions of their talents were *Frederick Reich*, the German immigrant who built his celebrated "Villa Reich" in the 1870s, an impressive cultural meeting place that stood on Front Avenue, overlooking the Chattahoochee River; *Francis X. Profumo*, the native of Italy who became well-known to generations of Columbusites for the confectionary shop that he opened in downtown Columbus in 1872 — the main attraction being his mouth-watering ice cream; and *David Rothschild*, whose prosperous wholesale business begun in Columbus in 1886 (after his arrival here, by way of Seale, Alabama, from his native Germany) continues to be family-owned and operated. Columbus's Rothschild Junior High School was named for David Rothschild's son, Maurice D. Rothschild, a longtime Muscogee County School Board member and community leader.

Later immigrants included *Angelo Spano*, another prominent Italian immigrant whose restaurant that opened in 1893, "Spano's," remained a Columbus tradition until its closing in 1979; and *Simon Schwob,* a native of the Alsace-Lorraine region who opened a tailor shop in Columbus in 1912 that grew into the largest manufacturer and retailer of menswear in the South — the former "Schwobilt's" store for men. Along with his wife, Ruth, Mr. Schwob is remembered for the contribution that they made to the cultural life of the city. The Simon Schwob Memorial Library and the Schwob Department of Music, both at Columbus College, are lasting tributes to the Schwob family.

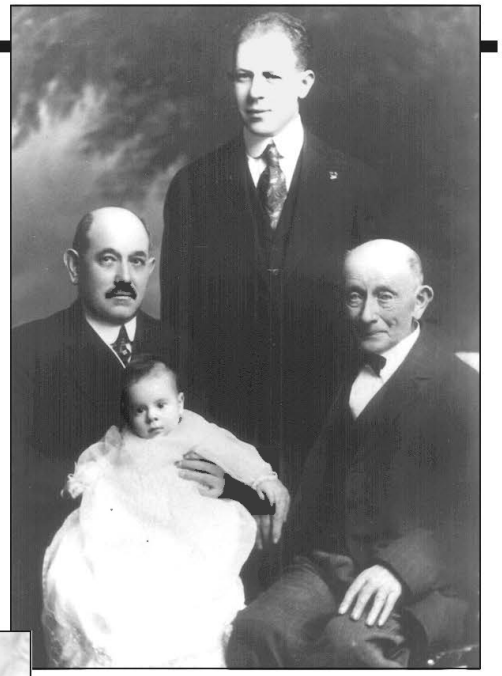


PHOTO 75: In 1916, four generations of Columbus's Rothschild family sat for this portrait. Nathan Rothschild (at right) arrived from Germany in the 1880s to join his sons who had already come to America. One of those sons, David (who became founder of the David Rothschild Company), is seated on the left. Standing is Irwin Rothschild (shown in the accompanying photograph as a child), who like his infant son, Norman, was a native of Columbus.

PHOTO 76: David Rothschild, a native of Germany who became one of Columbus's most prominent businessmen of his time, sat with his wife and four of their children in the late 1890s for this photograph. The children (l-r), Maurice, Rosa, Sophie, and Irwin, had been carefully dressed for the family portrait by their mother, Mathilda Dorn Rothschild, a native of Columbus.

Before telephone service reached Columbus in 1880, the written word was the primary means of communication.

Moreover, because most people could not afford the luxury of a telephone, written messages remained — well into the early part of this century — the main means of communication between people who were not within walking distance of one another.

For the sake of comparison, consider that in 1880 there were only forty-two telephones being used in Columbus, while nearly fifty years later, in 1928, there were seven thousand telephones in use in the city. By the spring of 1991, however, there were some 92,786 telephone numbers in service here!

For adults who were not able to read and write, communication (particularly before widespread telephone service in the city) was a problem that carried with it major practical and social consequences in Columbus and across the country.

Although the convenience of the telephone has made the concept of letter-writing at the end of the twentieth century practically obsolete, it was not unusual for a nineteenth century man or woman to sit at a desk and write a letter of two or three pages to a friend or relative living in another city. When these letters were written at night, they were written, typically, by candlelight or by the light of a kerosense lamp.

Because there was no such thing as mail delivery by plane (or even by mailtruck), delivery of a letter posted in Columbus and bound for Atlanta in the pre-railroad era could take days to reach its destination.

In fact, in 1829, mail was carried through Columbus only three times per week; however, in the 1830s mail was arriving daily.

Even men and women who lived long enough to see the first successful "portable" typewriters in Columbus in the early 1900s would be *astounded* to find such modern conveniences as the "xerox" and "fax" machines in today's workplace!

PHOTO 77: Office of Lucius H. Chappell in downtown Columbus, 1897. Mr. Chappell, who is seated at the right, was elected Mayor of Columbus that year.

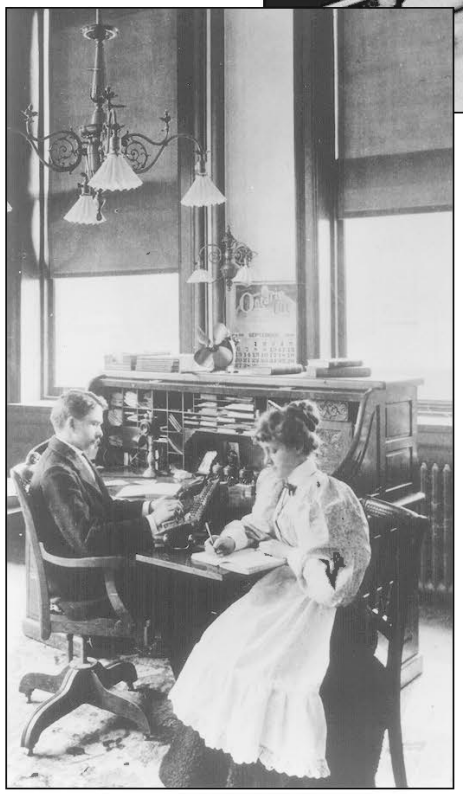


PHOTO 78: An unidentified man and woman in an office setting of the late nineteenth century.

Among the many celebrities that have appeared on the stage of the Springer Opera House was a certain Columbus native who is more often than not remembered by her famous stage-name, "Ma" Rainey.

Born here in 1886, young Gertrude Pridgett made her first public appearance at the turn-of-the-century before Springer patrons in a local talent show called "Bunch of Blackberries."

Within the next few years, she married a fellow performer, Will "Pa" Rainey, and they began touring the South, singing and dancing in black minstrel troupes on the Southern vaudeville circuit.

Because Ma Rainey's "blues" style of singing was so original, she enjoyed success through most of the 1920s as a talent whose voice was immortalized on some ninety-four recordings that were sold around the country. As the "Mother of the Blues," Ma Rainey recorded alongside such "jazz" notables as Louis Armstrong and Tommy Dorsey.

After an impressive career *on the road*, Ma Rainey returned to her native Columbus in 1935, where she spent the last four years of her life. Gertrude Pridgett Rainey died at the age of fifty-three in 1939 and is buried in Columbus's Porterdale Cemetery.

Playwright August Wilson's "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" was a theatrical success on Broadway in 1984 and was presented at Atlanta's Alliance Theatre in 1991. The play is based on actual situations in which black artists like Ma Rainey found themselves working during the 1920s.

Efforts to bring more attention to the artistic achievements of this great performer continue to be made in Columbus. A plaque, placed in her memory, hangs inside the Springer Opera House.

Her house, located at 805 Fifth Avenue, was nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places in 1992.

PHOTO 79: Located at 805 Fifth Avenue, this structure was the home of "Ma" Rainey, who is called the "Mother of the Blues." She lived here from the mid-1930s until her death in 1939.

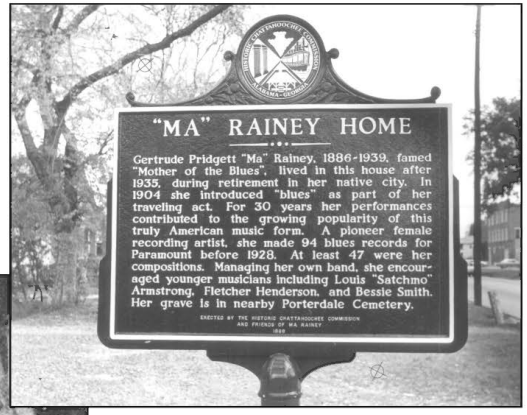


PHOTO 80: Marker that stands at 805 Fifth Avenue in downtown Columbus.

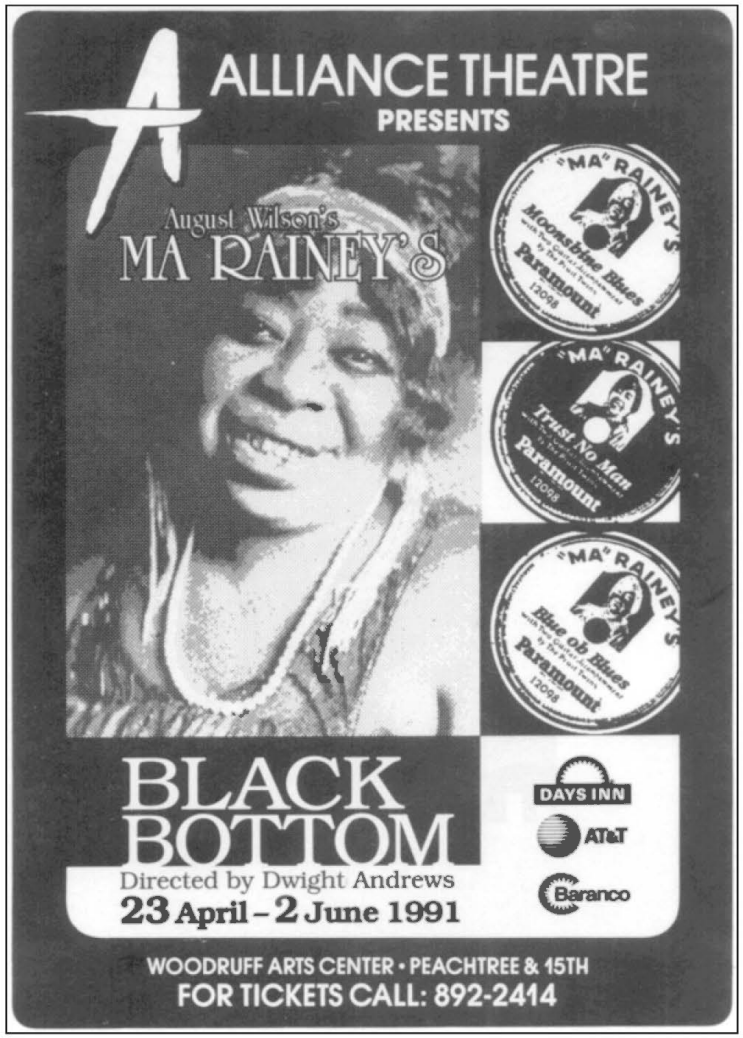


PHOTO 81: Alliance Theatre's advertisement for *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, a theatrical production featuring the work of Columbus native Ma Rainey.

PHOTO 82: Photograph of the third Muscogee County Courthouse, which was completed in 1896.

Just five years before the beginning of the new century, Columbus citizens watched the construction of a new courthouse taking place across the street from the Springer Opera House.

That structure, influenced by the appearance of great public buildings around the country, became the official seat of government for Muscogee County when it was completed in 1896 at a cost of only $63,500.

Situated on an entire city block (between First and Second Avenues and Ninth and Tenth Streets), the courthouse was the third Muscogee County courthouse to be built on the site.

The first courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1838, and the second courthouse was demolished in 1895.

In 1971, seventy-five years after its completion, the city's third courthouse (pictured here) would also be demolished. On the site, the city's Government Center was built, signalling what many city leaders and citizens considered the beginning of a new era in the life of the city.

Countless Columbusites who remember the "old" courthouse *still* regret the loss of this stately landmark in the center of downtown Columbus.

1895	*1898*	*1903*	*1906*	*1909*	*1912*
First U.S. Open Golf Championship is played in Newport, Rhode Island	*The United States declares war on the Spanish over the issue of Cuba*	*Orville and Wilbur Wright make the world's first flight in a power-driven, heavier-than-air machine at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina*	*Columbus's Industrial High School opens as the first city-established, city-operated vocational high school of its type in the country*	*American explorer Robert E. Peary discovers the North Pole*	*The British luxury steamer Titanic sinks on her maiden voyage, after colliding with an iceberg some 1,600 miles northeast of New York City; over 1,500 passengers die at sea*

In the last years of the 1800s and in the first years of the 1900s, many families in Columbus posed on their porches — or in front of their picket fences — for informal family photographs.

Because the photographer usually had to place his camera at a great distance from the family members in order to include as much of the house in the photo as possible, his finished product would generally result in a "house" photograph, rather than a "family" photograph.

Even so, these photographs reveal interesting hints concerning not only the way in which people of the time dressed, but also the pride that families took in the place that they called "home." Many times, the photos even show the range of generations living under one roof — a statement on the closeness of families in those earlier stages of the city's development; they might even hint at the rapport between a beloved family servant and the children whom she nursed.

When the Lucius Henry Chappell family posed for the photograph above in 1898, Mr. Chappell was serving as Mayor of Columbus. He was also the first president of the Columbus Historical Society, a distant "ancestor" of the Historic Columbus Foundation (founded in 1966).

Mr. Chappell's daughter, Loretto Lamar Chappell (pictured here as a small child, seated on the left), would become a prominent librarian in Columbus and one of the city's most well-informed historians. Her collection, as well as other Chappell family papers and books, forms an important part of the holdings in the Columbus College Archives.

In 1882, the year in which the photograph of the Langdon family was taken, the three generations pictured on the porch of their home had no idea that this residence at 716 Broadway would one day become the headquarters of the Historic Columbus Foundation — and be considered the oldest house in Columbus.

Nor would the Langdons have believed that hundreds of tourists each year (from around the globe) would visit the rooms of their house in the last decades of the twentieth century! However, guests "from far and wide," as well as schoolchildren from the Columbus area, *do* come in large numbers to see the museum rooms in this Historic Columbus Foundation property.

The absence of the "head of the household" in the ca. 1895 photograph of David Rothschild's house on Fourth Avenue only means that Mr. Rothschild was more than likely minding his Broadway store when the photographer came along to take this picture. Mrs. Rothschild (on the porch) is, however, in the good company of two of her children and of her baby's nurse, "Mattie."

Of the three houses, only the Walker-Peters-Langdon House remains standing. Interestingly enough, the house looks very much like it did the day that this photograph was taken — 110 years ago.

PHOTO 83: Lucius H. Chappell family in 1898.

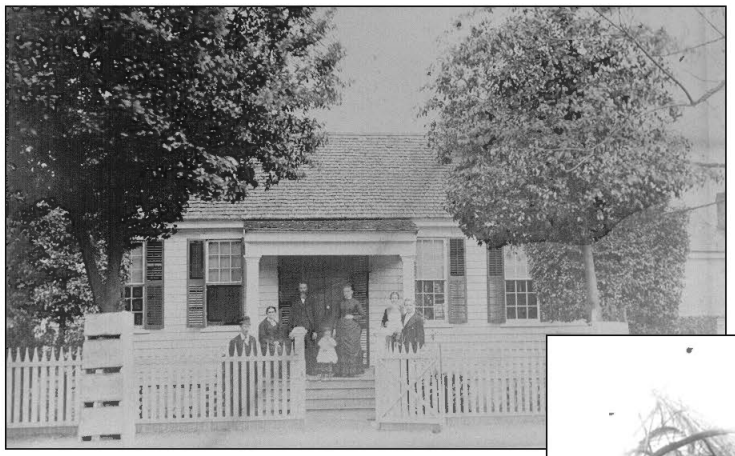


PHOTO 84: William B. Langdon family in 1882.

PHOTO 85: David Rothschild family members about 1895.

Family members were not the only groups posing in the fresh air (with a building in view) for Columbus photographers around the turn-of-the-century!

In the case of this ca. 1900 photo, the *subjects* are members of St. Paul Methodist Church, the *building* is unidentified, and the *cause* is the congregation's four-day rummage sale.

Perhaps as interesting as the banner hanging from the eaves of the building and the sign displayed directly beneath the banner ("Oyster soup today") is the fact that the photograph brings to mind thoughts of a late twentieth century phenomenon that has become one of the most common occurrences around Columbus on virtually every weekend of the year: *the yard sale*.

With yards and garages throughout the city being filled with an impressive range of items for sale ("from treasures to trash"), the 1970s and 1980s might be remembered as the first decades of widespread sales of this sort in Columbus and across the country.

However, judging from this photograph, the concept of the *public* sale of *private* goods is one that has been a part of the city's history for quite some time — and usually *without* the oyster soup!

PHOTO 86: St. Paul Rummage Sale, around the turn-of-the-century.

1919	*1928*	*1929*	*1936*	*1940*	*1953*
Peace treaty is signed in Versailles, France, marking the official end of World War I	*American aviator Amelia Earhart becomes first woman in history to cross the Atlantic Ocean in an airplane*	*U.S. Stock Exchange collapses on October 28th; world economic crisis begins, which is known historically as the Great Depression*	*The "Krystal" opens its first Columbus restaurant downtown on Twelfth Street; this June 27th opening would mark the beginning of fast-food dining in the city*	*Japanese bomb Pearl Harbor (Hawaii) on December 7th; the United States and Great Britain delcare war on Japan on December 8th, signalling the beginning of American involvement in World War II*	*Sir Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay, a Nepalese tribesman, become first to climb Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the world*

Long before the inventions of the telephone, radio, stereo, and television, children and young adults in Columbus found interesting and enjoyable ways to spend their leisure time.

Children enjoyed jumping rope, playing hide-and-seek, and competing with one another in board games like "Parcheesi." Many, like children today, enjoyed playing with favorite dolls (which were often made with china heads, arms and legs) or dressing paperdolls in "paper" fashions of the day. Some even had the pleasure of riding in the yard — or down the sidewalk — on tricycles that looked like small horses!

Traditionally, young women sat with their older female relatives and learned to master the art of needlework. Certain young ladies even tried their hand at painting china and small canvases.

When they were not assisting their mothers with the many duties of the household (which usually involved helping in the kitchen and with the raising of smaller brothers and sisters), accomplished young women found themselves devoting substantial amounts of time to their reading, writing, and musical pursuits.

Privileged young men, like their female counterparts, were also encouraged to polish their writing skills, read freely, and cultivate an appreciation for music and the other arts.

Boys and young men of all backgrounds, more so than girls and young women, were also inclined to participate in a wide variety of sports activities.

In Columbus, activities out-of-doors were particularly popular among young people. Such an occasion could have been something as simple as a picnic in the country, a boat ride on the lake at Weracoba Park, a walk in the woods — or an event as festive as a community parade.

For small children, dressing up in costumes or even spending the afternoon with a favorite pet were genuine pleasures as entertaining then as they are today.

Contrary to what many people believe, there was entertainment before the "high-tech" age of the end of the twentieth century!

PHOTO 87: A boy and his dog, ca. 1900.

PHOTO 89: A "horse-shaped" tricycle, made in 1890, which is on display in the Pemberton House.

PHOTO 88: Paper doll presented in September of 1853 to Amelia Bardwell; Miss Bardwell was married in 1862 to the Reverend Arminius Wright, an early pastor of St. Paul Methodist Church in Columbus.

PHOTO 90: About 1893, this group of Columbus children dressed in costumes to the delight of their parents — and themselves!

PHOTO 91: Leisure time was for playing . . .

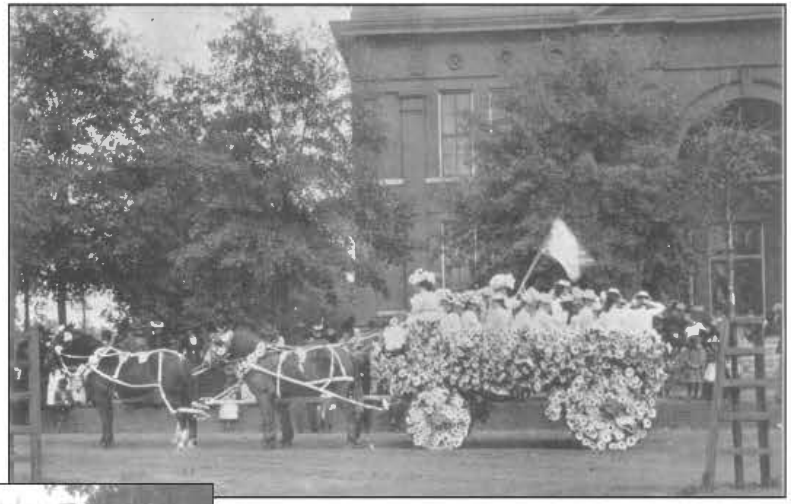


PHOTO 93: and for parades!

PHOTO 94: After the game, parasols went up and guitars came out.

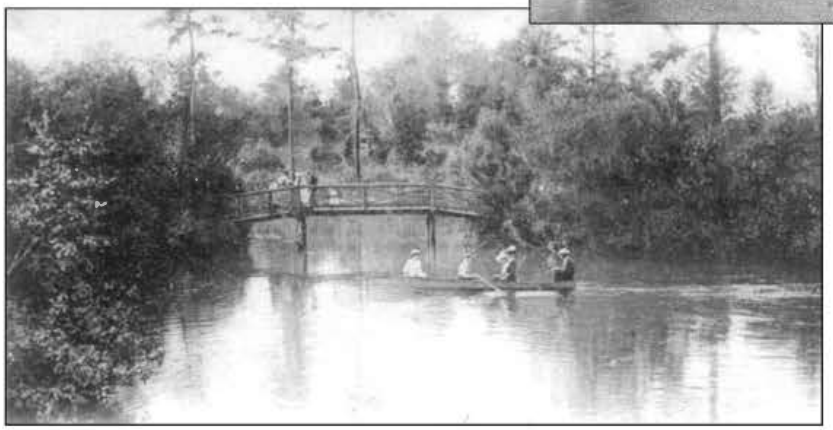


PHOTO 95: This photograph of Wildwood Park was taken in 1906. Because of the draining of the lake, the park was renamed Lakebottom Park — the city's best-known and oldest recreational area. "Weracoba" is yet another name for this park.

PHOTO 92: Many young people enjoyed reading in their free time.

As unlikely as it seems from a late twentieth century perspective, less than one hundred years ago there were children across the country who were being placed in workplaces to do the work that only adults would be expected to do today.

Hundreds of children in Columbus, as well as in other cities that thrived on a growing industrial economy, were paid to work long hours for small wages in factories that often employed parents and other older relatives of these children.

In the 1880s, many of these youths worked an average of 11 1/2 hours per day — for 15¢-25¢ a day.

As the result of their long and irregular hours on the job, large numbers of these children were deprived of the educational opportunities that were necessary for even the most basic skills: reading and writing.

By 1890, nearly twenty percent of all children in the United States were employed full-time. Some of these children were as young as seven years old.

At that time in the history of Columbus, mill workers made up twenty-five percent of the city's white population.

In addition to the children hired to work *inside* Columbus mills, there were children performing necessary duties on the *outside* of the buildings. Called "dinner toters," the children, like the ones pictured in the accompanying photograph, brought mid-day meals in baskets to hungry and tired millworkers. Most of the children carried these baskets on their arms; however, the more ingenious ones sometimes managed to push the meals about in baby carriages — which is the case in this photograph.

In 1916, the first significant child labor law was passed by the U.S. Congress. The law prohibited the hiring of employees under fourteen years of age.

All things considered, the last decades of this century have provided more advantages than ever for the *greatest* number of children in Columbus, as well as the entire country.

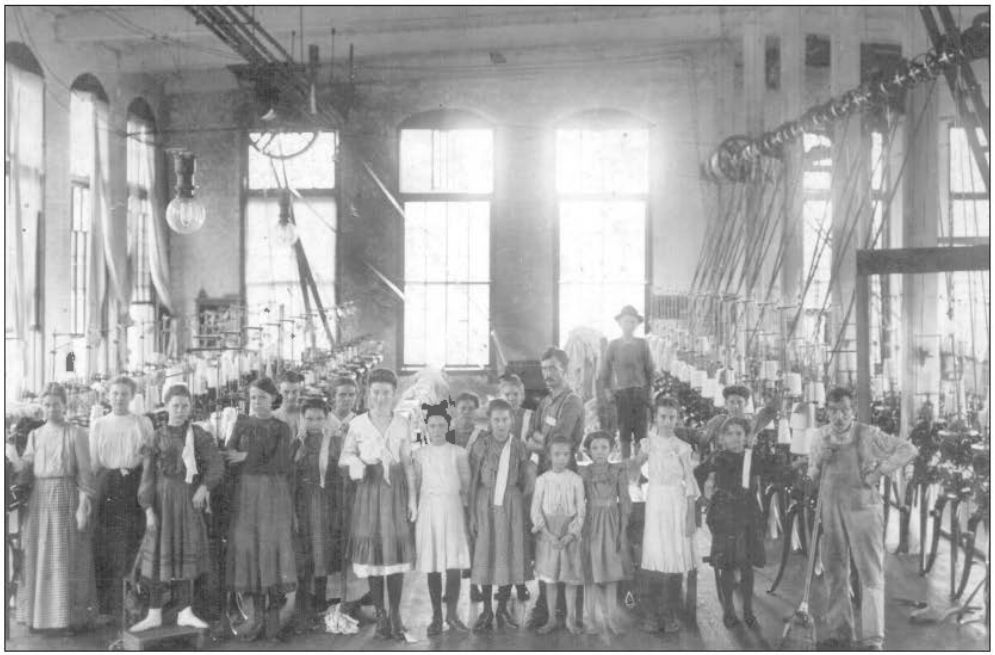


PHOTO 96: Photograph of child laborers inside Columbus's Perkins Hosiery Mill, about 1900. Notice socks draped over the shoulders of these children.

PHOTO 97: This 1908 postcard, entitled "Lunch Time at the Factory," shows boys and girls gathered at the entrance of a Columbus mill. Bare feet were not unusual sights among children who were responsible for carrying basket-lunches to millworkers.

With the opening of Columbus's Industrial High School in 1906, Columbus became home to the first city-established and city-operated vocational high school of this type in the country.

The second public high school in the history of Columbus, "Industrial" filled a serious gap in the educational opportunities of the city. The city's first, Columbus High School, was established in 1890 to offer a more "classical" high school education.

Built among houses located in two of the city's most attractive turn-of-the-century neighborhoods — Waverly Terrace and Rose Hill — the school (originally called "Secondary Industrial School") offered courses such as woodwork, machine shop work, applied electricity, textile arts, and agriculture. There was also instruction in typing and bookkeeping, which became some of the most popular courses for female students at the school.

Industrial's "skills-oriented" curriculum served not only the needs of those students who were obliged to go directly into the workforce, but also the needs of those who wanted instruction in "technical" fields that would lead to careers in architecture and various kinds of engineering. As a result, many students from Columbus High School studied under instructors at "Industrial," particularly during the first decades of the school's existence.

Columbus philanthropist G. Gunby Jordan, the person due the greatest amount of credit for the establishment of Industrial High School, stated that the school would be created to "fill positions of prominence in our present and future mills and institutions, and to provide the South with valuable technical skill." He said that the school would be one in which "the rich and the poor will meet on equal terms as learners" and that "its departments will throb with life and grow with the world."

Eventually, the building used by numerous graduating classes at Industrial High School became the home of Columbus Junior High, and Industrial High School was moved to a new building and given a new name — Jordan Vocational High School. Jordan High School, built in 1937, was named for G. Gunby Jordan, the man who had "led the lay movement for the erection of vocational high school."

Gunby Jordan's personal philosophy is perhaps best reflected on the cornerstone that is still a part of the Industrial High School building: "Life is for service. Education is for life."

Columbus's commitment to vocational education continues with the instruction offered by the Columbus Technical Institute. Founded in 1961, the school accommodates some three thousand students each year and awards associate degrees in various technical programs of study.

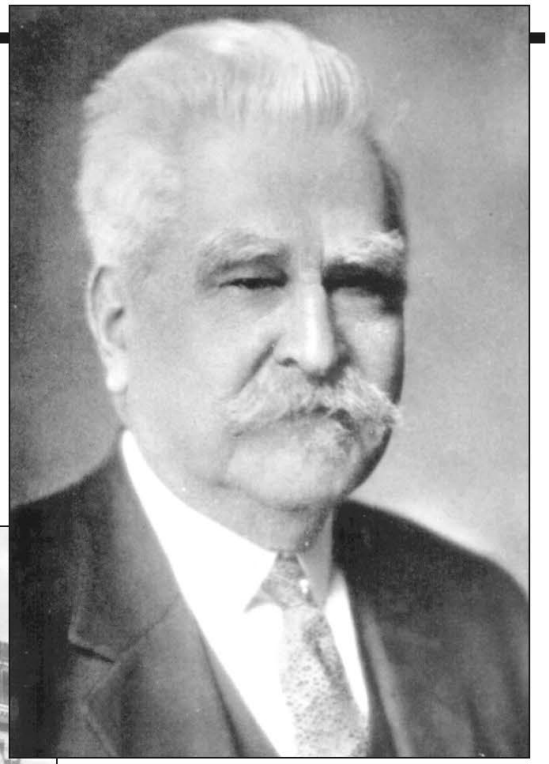


PHOTO 98: G. Gunby Jordan, the Columbus citizen who led the movement in industrial education.

PHOTO 99: Industrial High School, as it looked not long after its opening in 1906.

PHOTO 100: Secondary Industrial School's football team in 1911.

In 1912, after the invention of the formula for his "Royal Crown Ginger Ale" and his "Chero-Cola," Claud Hatcher, a prominent figure in the local wholesale grocery business, founded the Chero-Cola Company — a soft drink concern that grew into the Nehi Corporation and, finally, into the Royal Crown Cola Company.

In the early days of local "soft drink" history, advertisements were as likely to appear *painted* on the sides of buildings as *published* in magazines and newspapers. This 1920s photograph of a Maypole celebration in downtown Columbus features not only the streamers and people around the pole, but also the Chero-Cola "graphics" painted on the First Avenue building in the background.

The photograph of the Nehi Bottling Company's 1933-34 baseball team (with "home base" then in Columbus) depicts an enthusiastic group of "semi-pros" whose uniforms were constant reminders to onlookers of the soft drink company's presence both on and off the field. More than likely, more than a few of the Nehi team's fans were sipping Nehi Orange while watching men-at-bat hit home runs!

Perhaps Nehi's most original advertising "gimmick" of all was the "Nehi Inn," which stood 64-feet high, measuring sixteen feet in diameter at the base and seven feet in diameter at the top. At its location near Opelika, Alabama, the "inn" served as a filling station and as a refreshment stand. The open-air porch (just over the gas pumps) was used for dancing, and inside the bottle was a dining room, a bedroom, and an attic. This photo was taken in the late 1920s, when Nehi was still being sold for 5¢ a bottle!

With the ever-increasing influence of billboards, radio, and television upon Columbus and the rest of the country, these early methods of advertising have faded more and more distantly into the past.

The Royal Crown Company, whose home office was for years located in Columbus, bears the name of the company's most successful product — Royal Crown Cola.

ROYAL CROWN COLA

PHOTO 101: Nehi Inn, which was located near Opelika, Alabama.

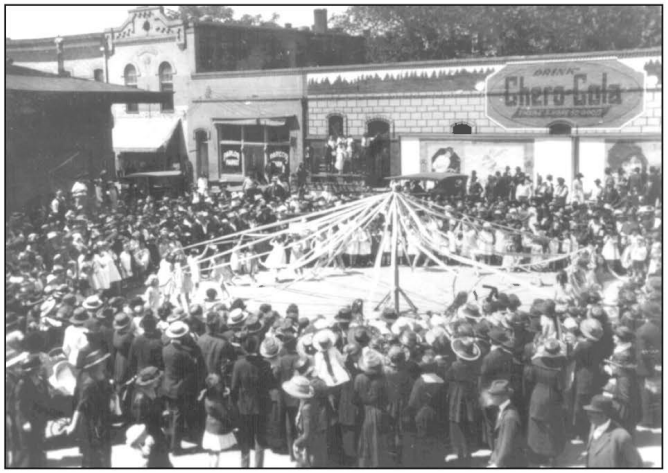


PHOTO 102: Maypole celebration in downtown Columbus.

PHOTO 104: Nehi baseball team in Columbus, 1933-1934.

PHOTO 103: Claud Hatcher, originator of the formulas for Royal Crown Ginger Ale and Chero-Cola. Hatcher was President of Nehi, Inc., which he organized in the 1920s. His efforts eventually led to the establishment of the Royal Crown Cola Company.

Just as no one could question the importance of the role that music has played in the lives of Columbusites through the years, no one would dispute the fact that sports have held a secure place in the community life of this city for generations.

From the photographs pictured here, as well as on the preceding page, it is obvious that three of the most popular team sports in the Columbus area have been enjoyed by young people since at least as far back as the end of the last century.

The first football team at Auburn University was photographed in 1892. That same year the Auburn team played the team from the University of Georgia for the first time — the game was held in Atlanta's Piedmont Park.

Years later, in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, the annual Georgia-Auburn football rivalry was held at Columbus's Memorial Stadium. The last of those games was played here in 1958.

The photograph of the 1914 Columbus High School baseball team offers not only a glimpse of "period" athletic attire, but also a glance at a very young Nunnally Johnson (second row, second from left). Johnson, a Columbus native, became one of the most celebrated screenwriters in the history of American motion pictures.

This picture of the girls basketball team at Columbus High, from the year 1919, is an interesting commentary on the presence of organized sports for young ladies in post-World War I Columbus and on the somewhat "daring" athletic fashions of the day.

Even though these young ladies' uniforms are a far cry from the "skimpy" ones worn on today's basketball courts, the above-the-knee exposure was something rather progressive at that time — even for stocking-covered legs! Indeed, this basketball uniform signalled the coming of a liberating era for women that was just ahead in the next decade: the Roaring Twenties.

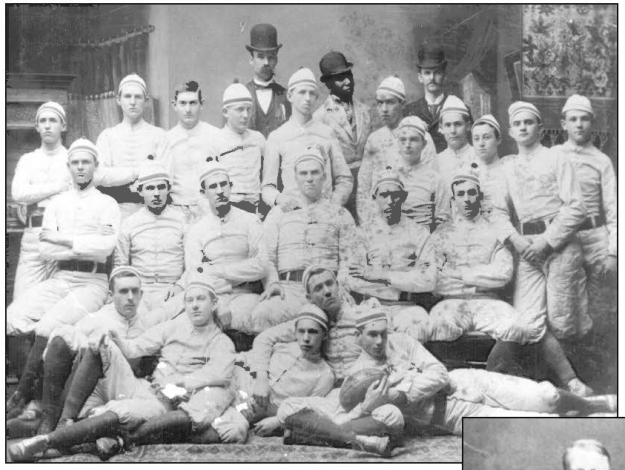


PHOTO 105: The first football team at Auburn University, 1892.

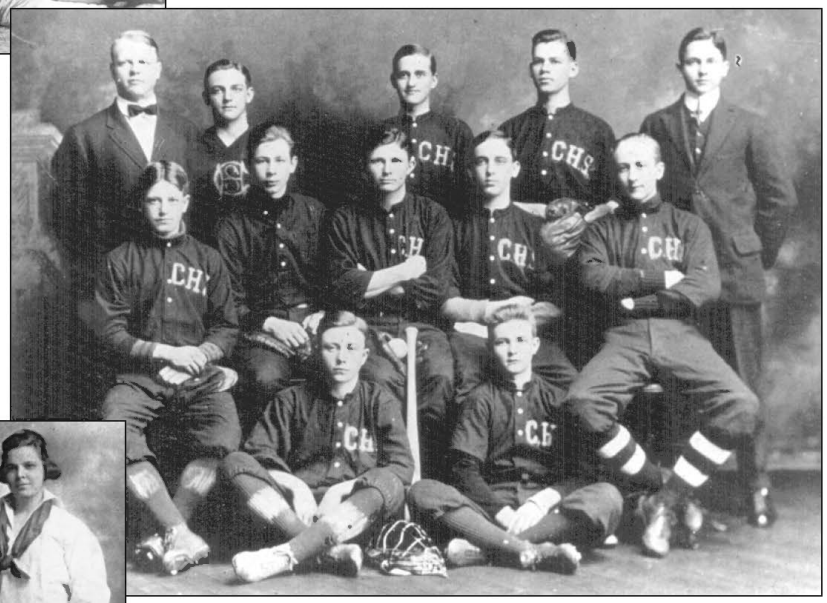


PHOTO 106: Baseball team at Columbus High School, 1914. Nunnally Johnson, who would become one of Hollywood's most famous screenwriters, is pictured here in the second row, second from the left.

PHOTO 107: Girls' basketball team at Columbus High School, 1919.

Certainly no other single event in this area's history has had a greater effect upon the city's economic and social evolution than the creation of the home of the largest infantry training school in the world — Fort Benning.

Named for Henry L. Benning — renowned Confederate general, respected attorney, and justice of the Georgia Supreme Court — the military post was first called "Camp Benning" when it was organized in 1918.

World War I had begun in 1914 (the U.S.A.'s involvement began in 1917), and with the declaration of war came the need for additional military posts in the South. After a brief period of time at its original location on Macon Road, "Camp Benning" was relocated to the Bussey Plantation south of Columbus.

The military installation's name was officially changed to Fort Benning in 1922.

In addition to its Infantry School, Fort Benning boasts the National Infantry Museum, the U.S. Army School of the Americas, Lawson Army Airfield, a self-contained school system for the education of military dependents, a fully equipped hospital, an officer candidate school, and complete recreational facilities worthy of a small city.

A principal attraction on the post is the home used by Fort Benning's commanding generals since 1919. That house, "Riverside," was built by Arthur Bussey in 1909 and inhabited by his family until its purchase by the U.S. Government after World War I. This prominent residential structure was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

PHOTO 110: "Riverside," built by Arthur Bussey in 1909, has been home to Fort Benning's commanding generals since 1919.

PHOTO 108: "Camp Benning," January 9, 1919.

PHOTO 112: This stone tablet, which stands on a small island at the intersection of Mimosa Street and South Dixon Drive, marks the original site of "Camp Benning" — an 85-acre tract on Macon Road.

PHOTO 109: 1st Batallion of the 83rd Field Artillery Regiment, which arrived at Camp Benning on November 2, 1920. These men marched 630 miles from Camp Henry Knox, Kentucky, the military post from which they departed *on foot* on September 15, 1920. They came to Camp Benning to support Infantry School training.

PHOTO 111: Cadets from El Salvador at the School of the Americas. The School, which was relocated to Fort Benning in 1984, trains over 1,800 Latin American students each year.

Among the thousands of men and women who served in the various branches of the armed forces during World War I was a native Columbusite who had the distinction of being the first black aviator in history and the only black aviator who flew in World War I.

Born in the Rose Hill area of Columbus in 1894, the son of a slave from Stewart County and his Creek Indian wife, Eugene Jacques Bullard left his native America as a young man of seventeen, went to France, and joined the French Foreign Legion.

Following his distinguished career in World War I, Bullard opened his own nightclub in Paris, where he played host to the rich and famous fun-seekers of the time.

Bullard died in 1961, after having returned to the United States in 1940 to live and work in New York City. He is buried among other French war veterans in Flushing Cemetery, New York City.

For his outstanding service to the French people whom he had adopted as his fellow countrymen, Bullard received the Croix de Guerre — France's highest military decoration — in 1916 in Lyons, France. This was one of dozens of medals that he would receive for service in the two world wars.

In 1989, Bullard was inducted into the Georgia Aviation Hall of Fame at Warner Robins Air Force Base. Bullard has also been honored at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., and at the Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum near Dayton, Ohio, where exhibits devoted to his illustrious career stand on permanent display.

A segment of Bullard's unpublished memoirs, *All Blood Runs Red* (written between 1959 and 1961), is housed in the Columbus College Archives. This segment pertains specifically to the years of his life spent in Columbus and the area.

PHOTO 113: Eugene Bullard as young aviator during World War I.

World War I had drawn to a close at the end of 1918, and the Nineteenth Amendment — giving women the right to vote — had been approved by the U.S. Congress in the following year. However, women in Georgia remained "at war" for the right to vote until 1920, when the state finally extended this long-awaited privilege to its female citizenry.

The battle for their rights to a voice in governmental affairs was one that women on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean had fought for decades. In this part of the country, no one fought harder for the "Georgia coalition" than Columbus native Helen Augusta Howard — founder and first president of the Georgia Woman Suffrage Association.

Born in Columbus in 1865, Augusta Howard (cousin of novelist Augusta Jane Evans Wilson, who wrote *St. Elmo*) was a forward-thinking young woman with an unusually strong interest in the issue of equal rights for women. During her school days at a private academy in Staunton, Virginia, her interest in rights for women was heightened by her readings of the work of John Stuart Mill, a noted English philosopher of the nineteenth century.

Once back in Columbus, Miss Howard, her sisters, and their mother determined to do their part in the fight for equal rights for women by organizing the Georgia Woman Suffrage Association in 1891.

Their antebellum home, "Sherwood Hall," was the birthplace of the women's suffrage movement in Georgia.

In 1894, three of the Howard women attended a convention of the National American Woman Suffrage Association in Washington, D.C., and in 1895 attended the National Association's convention in Atlanta. After the Atlanta meeting, Susan B. Anthony — principal speaker at the Atlanta convention and, perhaps, the most celebrated of American suffragettes — came to Columbus for a visit with the Howards at "Sherwood Hall."

Augusta Howard died in New York City in 1934, but was buried at Linwood Cemetery in Columbus. Her tombstone reads: "Altruist, Artist, Philosopher and Philanthropist."

"Sherwood Hall," which the Howard women lost because of non-payment of taxes during the Great Depression, was razed in 1929. The 1830 mansion stood in the vicinity of present-day Jordan High School.

In 1944, only ten years after Howard's death, a Columbus minister named Primus King would further the cause of minority rights by insisting upon his legal right to vote in the Georgia Democratic primary that year.

After having been denied the right to vote in the July 4, 1944 Democratic Primary — because he was black, King entered suit against the Muscogee Democratic Executive Committee and won his case two years later. King's victory is generally regarded as the "test case" that led to the opening of Georgia primaries to black voters.

PHOTO 116: Augusta Howard, the Columbus native who became a national leader in the fight for women's right to vote.

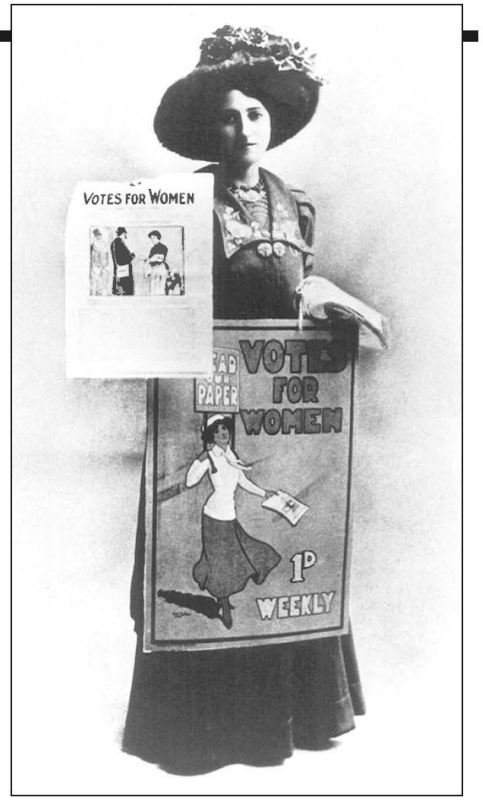


PHOTO 114: English suffragettes, like the one pictured in this 1907 photograph, shared Augusta Howard's interest in obtaining the right to vote for women.

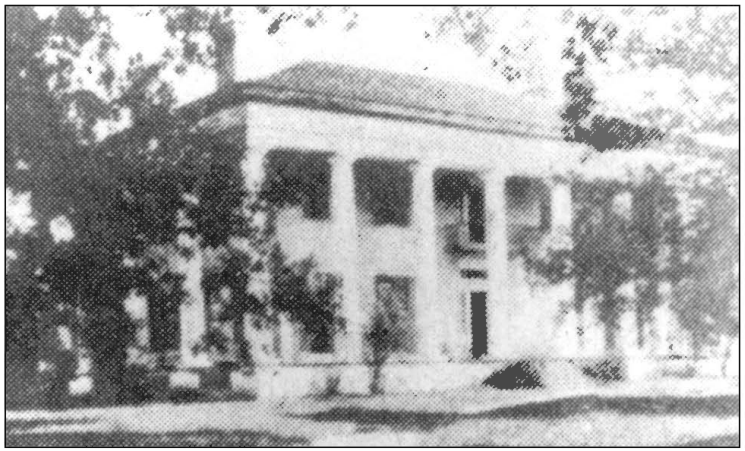


PHOTO 115: Sherwood Hall, home of the Howard family, which stood in the area of Jordan High School.

Most people who drop their nickels and dimes into the "Tom's" vending machines these days never stop to wonder about where those salted peanuts come from — neither do they wonder about how they are toasted, nor about the person who had the idea to put them in those little bags in the first place!

The truth is, however, that the Tom Huston Peanut Company (later "Tom's") was born in Columbus, when a young man named Tom Huston began his small peanut-packaging business in a two-room building in North Columbus in the mid-1920s.

Huston, who was an Alabama native, had come to Columbus in his teens and before coming here had already perfected a peanut-shelling machine. This invention, along with his interest in business, led him to his decision to package and sell his toasted peanuts.

Among Huston's earliest and most important friends in his peanut endeavors was noted Tuskegee Institute educator George Washington Carver. In fact, Tom Huston wrote to Carver in 1929 and asked that the prominent black scientist and peanut specialist join the staff of the peanut company's research laboratory. Carver, who had shared his expertise with Huston since their first meeting in 1924, declined the offer, yet the two men remained friends until Carver's death in 1943.

As a public expression of his appreciation for the assistance that Carver gave him in the first years of the peanut business, Tom Huston commissioned two bronze sculptures (featuring Carver's likeness) that were made in Italy: one was dedicated to Carver at a ceremony in Tuskegee and the other was placed in the Tom Huston Peanut Company's home office in Columbus. Today, the two plaques can be found in the Carver Museum on the campus of Tuskegee University and in the lobby of Columbus's Marshall Junior High School.

Due to the paralyzing economic effects of the Great Depression in the 1930s, Tom Huston lost control of his peanut company and left Columbus. He died in 1972 in Miami, after having amassed a fortune in business ventures there, and was buried in Columbus's Linwood Cemetery.

Walter Alan Richards, who took over the company's leadership as president in 1932, led the company into a progressive era that would result in the company's growth as a major national and international producer of candy and snack foods. Richards, who was later chairman of the board (a position that he held until his death in 1961), was also the man for whom Richards Junior High School was named.

Indeed, Tom's Foods, Inc., is a multi-million dollar Columbus-based business that is one of the largest snack food franchisors in this country.

Recent reports indicate that 28 million pounds of peanuts per year are processed by "Tom's" for use in the various snack products that have made the company famous.

PHOTO 117: Tom Huston, founder of the Tom Huston Peanut Company, as a young man.

PHOTO 119: Walter A. Richards, who became President of "Tom's" in 1932.

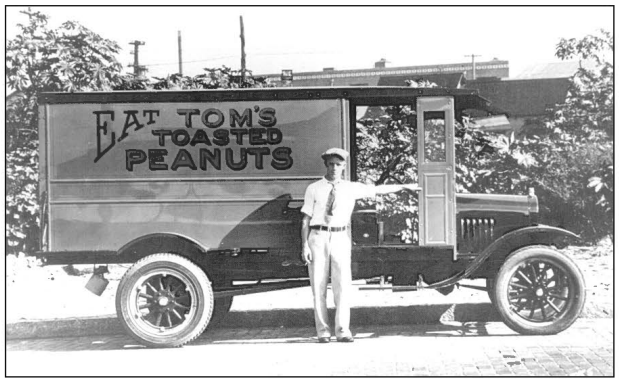


PHOTO 120: Delivery man and his truck in the early days of the peanut company.

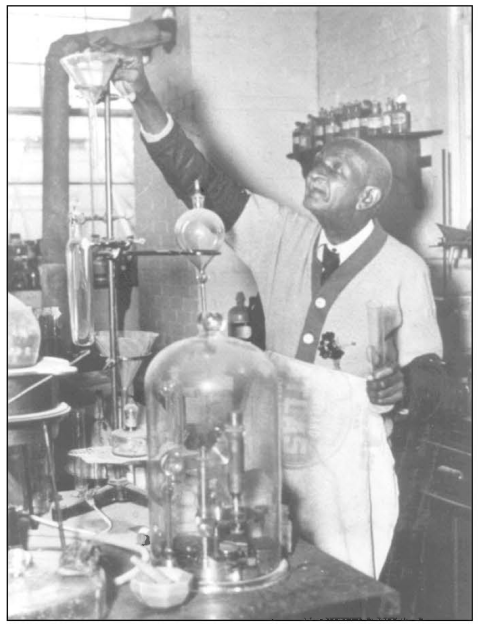


PHOTO 118: George Washington Carver, who worked closely with Tom Huston in the 1920s, was a prominent black scientist and peanut specialist.

It might seem hard to believe, but for the first one hundred years of Columbus's life as a city there were no voices and music coming into homes over the airwaves. Needless to say, car radios existed *only in the imaginations* of men and women whose children and grandchildren now take for granted the easy access to a wide range of stations on the radio dial.

In 1928, just a year before the beginning of the Great Depression, Columbus's first radio station, WRBL, began broadcasting from a modest studio in the Three Arts Theatre. The history-making studio was organized by Columbus radio entrepreneurs William Lewis and Monte Moore.

The early radio station struggled until after its purchase in 1931 by Columbus businessman and river developer James W. Woodruff, Sr., when it finally joined the CBS national network of stations in 1939. One of the first radio stations in Georgia, this one is still broadcasting in Columbus — under the call letters WRCG.

The Woodruff house from which early Columbus broadcasts were held is located at 1420 Second Avenue. Interestingly, the address is the same as the radio station's frequency, 1420 k.c.

In addition to news, dramatic readings, and "comedy hours" (all before the days of television), the Columbus radio station became one of the main outlets for area musical performers.

Bands like the one pictured here performed "live" from the WRBL studio. Popular jazz bands like the Eva Haines Band were local favorites among devoted listeners to Columbus radio during the 1930s and 1940s.

Not until the 1950s would Columbusites be able to hear *and* see such musical performances — thanks to an invention that has done more, perhaps, than any other to influence and shape American society as a whole: the television.

The city's first TV station, WTVM, began initial program telecasting in 1953, from its original studio on First Avenue in downtown Columbus. Prior to WTVM's facility, the few Columbusites with televisions had to rely upon reception from Atlanta stations.

Evidence of television's impact on Columbus and the rest of the country is seen in recent statistics that report findings of at least one television in ninety-seven percent of all American homes — and an average of thirty hours per week of TV viewing by Americans in each of those homes!

PHOTO 121: Photograph of the Eva Haines Band, taken during a 1935 WRBL radio broadcast in downtown Columbus.

PHOTO 122: Wayne Thomas Shaw, Donald Shaw and Mrs. T.G. Shaw are pictured in this 1954 photograph with their new television. TVs like this one were among the very first to appear in homes around the country.

In Columbus, as well as in other cities around the world, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt is remembered as one of the great leaders of this century. It was he who led the United States and its allies to victory in World War II (1939-1944).

In America, "FDR" (b.1882-d.1945) is remembered, particularly, for his unparalleled election to four terms as President of the United States (1933-1945) and for the masterful way in which he led this country out of some of the darkest days in recent American history — those which followed the stock market crash of 1929 and which signalled the beginning of the decade referred to as the Great Depression.

President Roosevelt's ties with Columbus and the area were greatly strengthened by his frequent trips to Warm Springs, Georgia, site of the famous "Little White House" and of the Warm Springs Foundation, a nonprofit institution that Roosevelt founded in 1927 for the care of people with polio.

As a polio victim himself since the first attack in 1921, Roosevelt frequented the restorative mineral waters at Warm Springs in the hope that he would recover the full use of his partially paralyzed legs.

Roosevelt made his first visit to the springs in 1924. From Warm Springs, Roosevelt made numerous trips to Columbus and Fort Benning; among his public appearances in the area was one that he made at the Springer Opera House on October 4, 1928.

On April 12, 1945, Roosevelt died while on a visit to his Little White House in Warm Springs. Out of respect and sympathy, his body was greeted by mourners up and down the Eastern Seaboard as it made its way by train to Roosevelt's native New York for interment there.

For his accomplishments while serving as the 32nd President of the United States of America, Roosevelt has been hailed by countless citizens as the saviour of the nation's economy and as the defender of democracy — in the United States and throughout the world.

The Little White House, furnished as it was at the time of the president's death, is open to the public as a state historic site and is visited by thousands of tourists each year.

PHOTO 123: President Franklin D. Roosevelt, a frequent visitor to the Columbus area, waves from the wheel of his open touring car in this 1935 photograph. Roosevelt is parked in front of his famous Little White House, located in Warm Springs, Georgia.

Only three years after the birth of Eugene Bullard, another Columbus "native son" was born who, like the aviator, in his adulthood would achieve national and international recognition.

Born in Columbus in 1897, Nunnally Johnson began his highly successful writing career as a "cub" reporter on the staff of *The Columbus Enquirer-Sun* shortly after his graduation from Columbus High School in 1915.

Several years later, after serving in the U.S. Army during World War I, Johnson worked as a reporter in New York City. While in New York, Johnson became particularly well known for his short stories and articles that were published in such noted periodicals as the *Saturday Evening Post*.

Of the numerous stories written by Johnson that were published in the *Saturday Evening Post*, twelve or so featured the fictional town called "Riverside," which was, in fact, patterned after Johnson's hometown: Columbus, Georgia.

It was, however, in Hollywood that Johnson would achieve his greatest fame. There in the 1930s he began his career as a screenwriter, producer, and director of major motion pictures. Some of the most memorable movie titles to Johnson's credit include "The Grapes of Wrath," "Jesse James," "The Three Faces of Eve," "The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit," "The Dirty Dozen," and "The World of Henry Orient."

Johnson, who died in 1977, was honored by Columbus High School when its chapter of the Quill and Scroll (journalism honorary) was named for this celebrated man of the Hollywood motion picture industry.

Johnson Elementary School was named for Johnson's mother, Mrs. James Nunnally Johnson, who organized the first Parent-Teacher Association in Columbus in 1905.

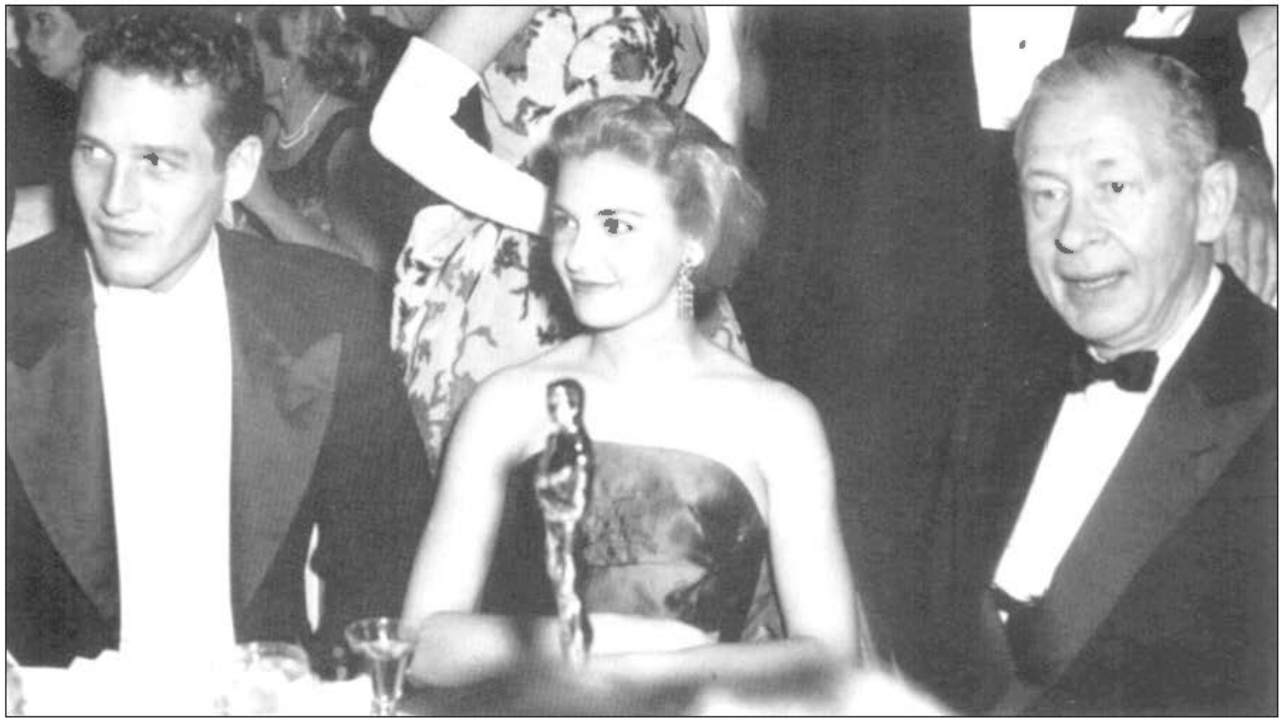


PHOTO 124: Columbus native Nunnally Johnson (at the right) is pictured here at the 1957 Academy Awards ceremony with Hollywood stars Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward. Ms. Woodward won the Best Actress award that year for her performance in *The Three Faces of Eve*. Johnson wrote the script for the movie; he also produced and directed it.

1959	*1969*	*1979*	*1982*
Hawaii becomes 50th state of the United States of America	*American astronaut Neil Armstrong becomes first man to set foot on the moon, July 21st*	*Truman Capote, celebrated Southern author, reads from his works at the Springer Opera House on the evening of December 15th*	*The Columbus Hilton is opened in downtown Columbus; this location of the international hotel chain was formerly Empire Mills, which produced flour and meal for generations of area citizens*

In 1940, within months of this country's entry into World War II, a first novel was published that would change the course of the life of the native Columbusite who wrote it.

The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter, published when Carson McCullers was only twenty-three years old, was the masterpiece that marked the beginning of a celebrated literary career which spanned more than twenty-five years and included five novels, two plays, a number of short stories, essays, and poems.

Both of her plays, *The Member of the Wedding* and *The Square Root of Wonderful*, were performed on Broadway in New York City.

Born Lula Carson Smith in 1917, in a house that no longer stands in downtown Columbus, this celebrated author lived in her hometown until shortly after her graduation from Columbus High School in 1933.

The following year — drawn to the "big city" atmosphere and to the stimulation that it would offer her artistic sensibilities — the young Miss Smith left Columbus to live in New York. An accomplished amateur pianist who was apparently torn between furthering her musical studies and exploring more profoundly her interest in writing, McCullers would ultimately perceive her New York experience as the true beginning of her life as a serious writer.

While living in Fayetteville, North Carolina with her husband, Alabama native Reeves McCullers, Carson McCullers completed the tale that would be published as her first novel, *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*.

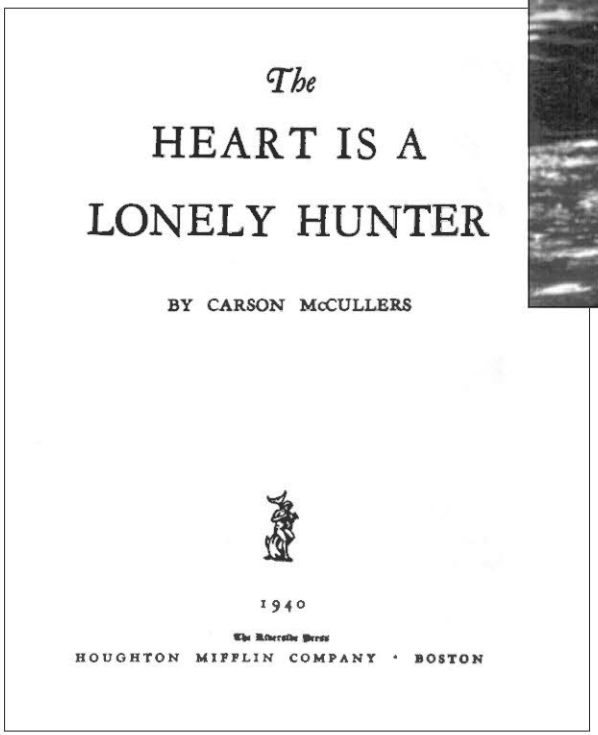
By the time of her death in 1967, McCullers had achieved international fame as one of the finest writers in American literary history.

Major motion pictures have been made from four of her five novels: *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, *Reflections in a Golden Eye*, *The Member of the Wedding*, and *The Ballad of the Sad Cafe*. These cinematic productions — ranging from the 1950s to the 1990s — feature such American dramatic talents as Julie Harris, Ethel Waters, Elizabeth Taylor, Marlon Brando, Brian Keith, Cicely Tyson, Alan Arkin, Vanessa Redgrave, and Keith Carradine.

Carson McCullers is buried in Nyack, New York, where she had lived for over twenty years.

A historic marker, provided by the Friends of Carson McCullers, Inc., stands in front of McCullers's childhood home, which is located in Columbus at 1519 Stark Avenue.

PHOTO 126: Title page from the highly acclaimed novel.



The

HEART IS A

LONELY HUNTER

BY CARSON McCULLERS

1940

The Riverside Press

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY · BOSTON

PHOTO 125: Carson McCullers in the spring of 1938. Her first novel, *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*, would mark the beginning of her career as one of this century's most outstanding literary talents.

With the bombing of Hawaii's Pearl Harbor by the Japanese on December 7, 1941 came America's official entry into World War II, and with the war came the immediate need for thousands of well-trained soldiers.

Answering the call for military assistance, just as it did in World War I, Fort Benning quickly became one of the most important centers for military training in the United States.

By the spring of 1940, Fort Benning was "home" to 45,000 troops, which represented every type of U.S. Army combat unit. Only months earlier, in the winter of 1939, there were 29,000 men on the post.

In 1941, training obligations at Fort Benning had increased to such a dramatic extent that the Army found it necessary to purchase 11,722 additional acres on the west bank of the Chattahoochee River in Russell County, Alabama.

So great was the enthusiasm in Columbus over the American efforts in World War II that groups and individuals throughout the city hosted festivities on a regular basis to honor and to entertain the troops who found themselves at Fort Benning. Soldiers from every state in the country were among the ranks of those men who came to this area during the war years.

Among the most important developments that took place at Fort Benning during World War II was the creation there of the Officer Candidate School — "O.C.S." — which graduated the bulk of the infantry platoon leaders and company commanders in the war.

The creation of the Parachute School, which trained many of the American soldiers who landed by parachute on the beaches of Normandy (France) on "D-Day," June 6, 1944, was another major development at Ft. Benning during this era.

General Omar Bradley (b.1893-d.1981), one of the most prominent figures in World War II, is pictured here with members of the 501st Parachute Batallion, which trained at "Benning" during the first years of the war.

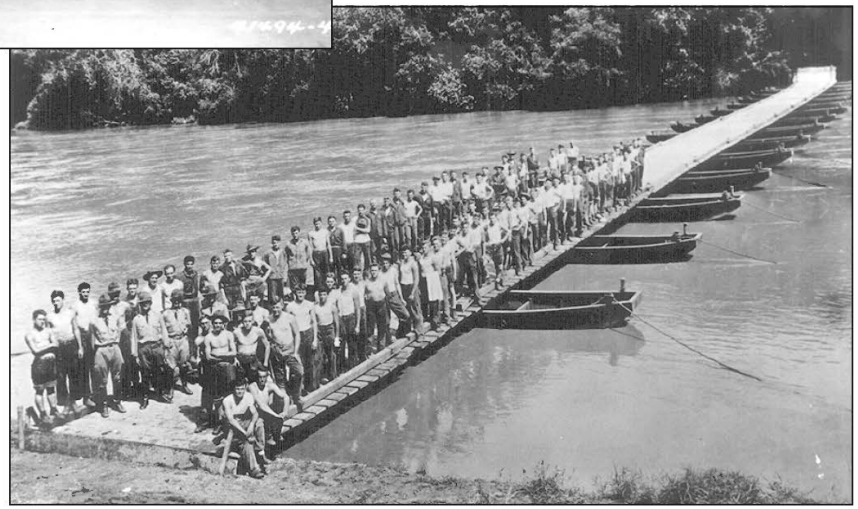
At that time (1941-1942), Bradley was Commandant of the Infantry School at Fort Benning. Bradley, a five-star general, was a 1925 graduate of the Infantry School and taught at the school between 1929 and 1933.

At the end of World War II, in 1945, Bradley commanded four U.S. armies — a total of 1.3 million men — which was the largest force ever commanded by an American field commander.

PHOTO 127: General Omar Bradley (at left) is pictured in this ca. 1941 photograph with members of the 501st Parachute Batallion that trained in the first years of World War II at Fort Benning.

PHOTO 128: Parade on Broadway in the first year of the country's involvement in World War II. Notice tanks in street, people standing on rooftops, and the general appearance of the buildings on the street at that time.

PHOTO 129: This World War II period photograph shows men involved in field training at Fort Benning. Notice the pontoon bridge that spans the Chattahoochee River.



Although orchestras had been in existence *off and on* since the mid-1800s in Columbus, it was not until 1949 that the city's first *permanent* musical group of this type was established — the Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

With the support and guidance of the Columbus Symphony Women's Association, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra continues to be a major force in the cultural life of Columbus.

Since the late 1970s, the orchestra has performed regularly in the Three Arts Theatre on Talbotton Road. There, concert-goers are able to enjoy the musical talents of orchestra members, as well as the talent of out-of-town artists who are often invited to perform with the Columbus Symphony.

In addition to its indoor performances, the orchestra is featured periodically at *outdoor* concerts. Called "pops" concerts, these occasions offer great numbers of people the opportunity to enjoy "popular" music out-of-doors, often while sharing a picnic with family or friends in Weracoba Park.

The Columbus Symphony Orchestra offers citizens of Columbus from all walks of life musical enjoyment, while providing area residents a deeper appreciation for the artistic achievement on the part of the composers and the musicians themselves.

PHOTO 130: The Columbus Symphony Orchestra, made up of some seventy-five musicians, includes a number of young performers from local high schools and Columbus College.

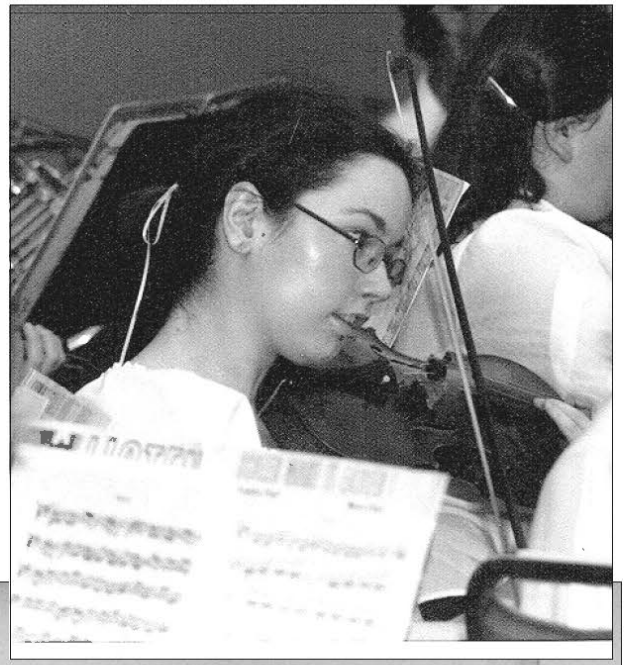


PHOTO 131: Columbus Symphony Orchestra, pictured with Music Director/ Conductor George Del Gobbo, on the stage of the Three Arts Theatre.

With the founding of the American Family Life Assurance Company here in 1955 came the beginning of an era that would mean more and more participation by Columbus in the national and international world of business.

Under the leadership of Alabama native John B. Amos — the principal company founder who was Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board —the American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus (AFLAC) steadily grew into one of the most successful corporate empires in the international business community.

As the company that sells more cancer policies than any other insurance business in the world, AFLAC has made great strides in strengthening international relations between the Columbus area and regions around the globe. Aside from its insurance coverage, AFLAC has also provided jobs for some 1,500 area residents who work in its home office on Wynnton Road.

Given the particularly strong efforts made by John Amos to offer insurance coverage to as many people in Japan as possible, the Japanese Government awarded him its highest award given to a non-Japanese citizen: the Second Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Star. However, Amos, who died on August 13, 1990, did not live to receive the award, which was made *posthumously* and received by his widow, Elena Diaz-Verson Amos, at a Washington, D.C. ceremony held less than six months after Amos's death.

In 1974, AFLAC became the first American insurance company granted a license to do business in Japan since World War II.

By the end of 1991, the company was insuring 35 million people around the world.

The tremendous success of AFLAC (a company with assets of over $10 billion) has, doubtless, made Columbus increasingly attractive to other national and international businesses, such as Pratt & Whitney (American makers of jet engines) and MUTEC (a Japanese manufacturer of batteries).

In fact, Muscogee County contains eighteen business locations owned by foreign interests and represented by seven companies: GNB Inc.; OMI Georgia, Inc.; MUTEC; Oneda Corporation; Swift Textiles, Inc.; Polychrome Corporation; and Swift Spinning.

This kind of local growth in the city's business community — growth that has taken place only within the last two decades — indicates clearly that Columbus holds significant interest in the eyes of the leaders of the industrial and business world.

PHOTO 132: John B. Amos, founder of the American Family Life Assurance Company of Columbus (AFLAC).

PHOTO 133: Frank K. Martin (center), Mayor of Columbus, and Aldric Hayes, Chairman of the Board of the Columbus Chamber of Commerce (at Martin's right), greet Japanese businessmen who came to Columbus in 1991 to announce plans for the opening of a Matsushita Electric Industrial Company plant in the city.

Boasting an enrollment of some 285 daytime students — all attending classes held in the old Shannon Hosiery Mill on Talbotton Road — Columbus College was officially opened on September 30, 1958.

For more than a decade, city fathers and the community as a whole had pursued the idea of such a facility for higher education in the area, but it was not until this time that the need in the community was met.

In 1963, the college's permanent campus was dedicated, and in 1965 the college was named a senior unit of the University System of Georgia.

Over the last thirty years, Columbus College's campus has continued to grow. Some of the most significant structural additions to the campus include the Fine Arts Hall, the Simon Schwob Memorial Library, the Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center for Continuing Education, and the building that houses the D. Abbott Turner School of Business.

The most recent addition to the campus is the Whitley Clock Tower, dedicated in 1991 and named in honor of Dr. Thomas Y. Whitley, who served from 1958-1979 as the college's first president.

Given the fact that Columbus College has made it possible for thousands of area citizens to achieve their academic goals without having to go elsewhere for a college education, this educational institution could certainly be considered one of the most important positive forces in the evolution of the city of Columbus over the last three decades.

PHOTOS 136-140: Columbus College students enjoy a wide variety of academic and extra-curricular activities on the ever-growing campus.

PHOTO 134: The Whitley Clock Tower, located on the college campus, was dedicated in 1991 as a permanent memorial to Whitley and to his commitment to the college during its first two decades of growth.

PHOTO 135: Dr. Thomas Y. Whitley, who served as the first President of Columbus College (1958-1979).

Almost two years to the day after Columbus College's official opening, the city was abuzz with talk related to another momentous occasion in the history of Columbus.

The arrival in town of then-Senator John F. Kennedy (b.1917-d.1963) on October 10, 1960, marked the high point in "JFK's" local campaign for the Presidency of the United States. Hundreds of men, women, and children turned out for Kennedy's arrival by plane at the Columbus Metropolitan Airport. There onlookers hoped to catch a glimpse of this member of America's most famous family.

Senator Kennedy's visit to the area was divided between his campaign parade in Columbus — which found him seated on the fold-down top of a white convertible — and a speaking engagement on the porch of Roosevelt's Little White House in Warm Springs.

Kennedy would make history one year later when he was elected the 35th President of the United States. Not only was he the first Roman Catholic to become President of the United States, but he was also the youngest man ever elected to the White House (at forty-four years of age).

On November 22, 1963, citizens in Columbus and around the world were stunned by the news of Kennedy's assassination, which took place while the President was riding in an open limousine through Dallas, Texas.

Kennedy, a Democrat, spoke in his January 10, 1961 Inaugural Address of the American public's need to "bear the burden of a long twilight struggle...against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease, and war itself." However, he is best remembered for the plea made on that same occasion: "Ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country."

His grave in Arlington National Cemetery, near Washington, D.C., bears an eternal flame.

PHOTO 141: President John F. Kennedy waves from the convertible in which he rode through the streets of Columbus during his visit here in the fall of 1960. Kennedy was accompanied by Georgia Governor Ernest Vandiver (left) and Senator Herman Talmadge.

PHOTO 142: That same day in October, Kennedy visited the Little White House in Warm Springs.

The struggle on the part of black citizens in Columbus for civil rights was outwardly a rather calm one in the 1960s. Yet the fierce determination on the part of countless individuals here and across the country during the national civil rights movement eventually resulted in a better way of life for blacks and other minority groups.

With their principal inspiration being the words and deeds of an Atlanta native, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., thousands of blacks and liberal whites strove to follow his example of "peaceful demonstration." Nevertheless, before the political and educational "equal rights" had been granted blacks by the end of the decade, race riots and other violent demonstrations of unrest had taken place in cities across the country.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, the strongest civil rights bill in U.S. history, affected Columbus citizens and all others around the country with its orders to businesses serving the public to "serve all people without regard to race, color, religion, or national origin." This same piece of legislation barred discrimination by employers or unions and established the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to enforce fair employment practices.

In Columbus, as a result of the civil rights movement, black and white children found themselves attending schools together for the first time. This *integration* of schools was initiated by the federal government in an effort to break down racial barriers and to make educational opportunities more equitable for children of all races.

William H. Spencer (b.1857-d.1925), perhaps the most outstanding name in the history of education for blacks in the city, was a Columbus native who served for fifty years in various capacities: teacher, principal, administrator. From 1912 until 1925, he served as Supervisor of the Colored Schools in Muscogee County.

William H. Spencer High School, which was opened in 1930 as the first public high school in Columbus for the education of black students, was named in his memory. In 1991, a historic marker was erected at the sight of the original Spencer High School (Tenth Avenue at Eighth Street), a brick structure that was burned and later razed in the early 1980s.

Because of his impact on the local black community and on the Columbus community as a whole, William Spencer holds a prominent place in the "pre-civil rights" educational developments that led to equitable education — for children of all backgr ounds — in the 1960s.

PHOTO 143: Spencer (at extreme left in photograph) pictured in 1905 with his faculty members on the steps of Columbus's St. James A.M.E. Church.

PHOTO 144: The William H. Spencer House, located at 745 Fourth Avenue, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PHOTO 145: Five seniors from the first graduating class of Spencer High School, 1932.

Columbus's Confederate Naval Museum, the only one of its type in the country, was officially opened in 1962 and remains one of the most important tourist attractions in the metropolitan area.

Named the James W. Woodruff, Jr., Confederate Naval Museum, because of Woodruff's extraordinary interest in and financial support of the effort to establish such a museum in Columbus, the Naval Museum features the "remains" of two Confederate vessels: the gunboat "Chattahoochee" and the ironclad ram called the "Jackson" (or the "Muscogee").

Both boats were sunk during the raid on Columbus by Union forces in the spring of 1865, and both remained submerged in the Chattahoochee River until they were brought ashore in the early 1960s.

These vessels are two of only a few Civil War ships that are preserved and on display in the country.

The "Chattahoochee" was a 130-foot-long steam-powered gunboat that was built in 1861-1862 in Early County, Georgia, some one hundred miles south of Columbus on the Chattahoochee River. The boat was intentionally sunk about ten miles south of Columbus at the end of the Civil War, in order to prevent the boat's capture by Union forces.

The "Jackson" was begun at Columbus's Confederate Navy Yard in the last months of 1862 and launched on December 22, 1864. Nearly 225 feet long, the boat was armed with six large rifles and coated by four inches of iron plate, behind which was wood almost two feet thick. The "Jackson" was captured by Union forces when the city of Columbus was attacked in April of 1865. The day after its capture, the "Jackson" was set afire and allowed to drift some thirty miles down the river.

In addition to the gunboats on display, the museum also features exhibits containing ship models, weapons, relics, and uniforms, as well as other materials related to Confederate Naval history in general.

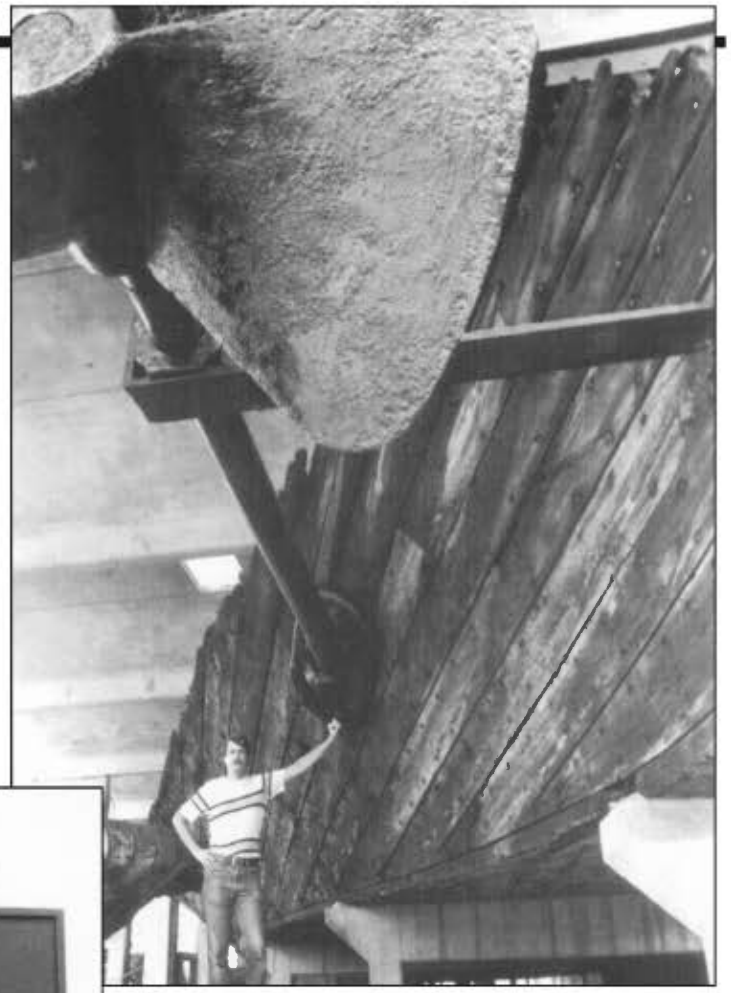


PHOTO 146: Robert Holcombe, Director of the Naval Museum, in a 1977 photograph, standing alongside the *Jackson*, one of two Confederate gunboats on display at the museum.

PHOTO 147: Marker on the grounds of the Confederate Naval Museum.

With the protection and preservation of the city's architectural heritage as its major concern, the Historic Columbus Foundation was organized in 1966.

The reopening of the Springer Opera House in 1965 had called attention to the fact that many of Columbus's oldest structures were in serious need of attention. Not only were these buildings deteriorating, but — in many cases — they were being directly "targeted" for demolition. Demolition of a structure would enable the property owner to "build again"; frequently, however, the new structures would not be in keeping with the *built environment* of the immediate vicinity.

In 1969, the Historic Columbus Foundation — with significant support from the Junior League of Columbus and the Housing Authority of Columbus — managed to secure protection for a large portion of what is called the *original city*. That year, structures that were located between Fourth Street (on the south), Ninth Street (on the north), the Chattahoochee River (on the west), and the median of Fourth Avenue (on the east) were placed on the National Register of Historic Places. The area in which this large group of buildings is located became classified as the city's first Historic District.

Among the most exceptional structures in this area is "The Folly," the only known *historic* double-octagon house in the United States. Located at 501 First Avenue, the structure was named a National Historic Landmark in 1974.

Also included within these boundaries is the southernmost part of another of the city's three National Historic Landmarks: the Riverfront Industrial District.

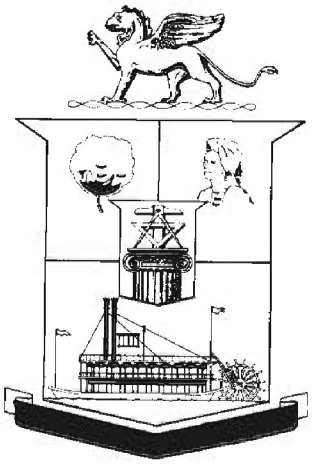
Columbus's third National Historic Landmark is the Springer Opera House.

Over the first twenty-five years of the Historic Columbus Foundation's existence, the city has seen an increased awareness of the need to preserve and a growing appreciation for the "adaptive use" concept. Countless groups and individuals in Columbus have effectively turned vacant buildings of every description into vital, attractive homes and businesses.

Striking examples of adaptive use in downtown Columbus include the renovation of the former Trailways Bus Station (1329 Broadway) for use by Country's Barbecue as a restaurant; renovation of the Columbus Iron Works for use as the city's convention and trade center; and renovation of the Empire Mills building for use as the Columbus Hilton.

The Historic Columbus Foundation, in cooperation with the Consolidated Government of Columbus and the Southern Railway System, achieved one of the most significant "eleventh-hour" building rescues of the 1980s, when the passenger train station on Sixth Avenue was saved from the wrecking ball and later sold to Total System Services, Inc. This imposing brick structure, which houses the offices of Total System Services, is one of the most impressive examples of *adaptive use* in the city.

More and more, the Historic Columbus Foundation serves in an advisory capacity, in an effort to guide and educate as many individuals as possible in the advantages of historic preservation. More and more, the Foundation works to promote a deeper understanding of the motto: "Preserve the past to deserve the future."



Historic Columbus Foundation

PHOTO 148-150: Headquarters of the Historic Columbus Foundation, located at 700 Broadway. This house, built about 1870, was restored in 1976.

In the early summer of 1975, with the official end of the Vietnam War having been declared in April of the same year, Columbus and other cities in the United States welcomed large numbers of refugees who had fled to this country for safety and the opportunity to lead productive lives.

So urgent was their need to leave their homeland that most of the 130,000 South Vietnamese who came to the United States that year arrived in this country with only "the clothes on their backs" — and with great concern over their ability to find jobs once in America.

The Vietnam War had lasted for eighteen years — the last ten of which involved American forces. The defeat of the South Vietnamese by the North Vietnamese meant devastation in the lives of these people on whose side the more than 2.5 million American troops had fought during the war.

Columbus churches, as well as families and individuals throughout the metropolitan area, were particularly sensitive to the plight of Vietnamese refugees and took an active role in reaching out to the families and orphans who had come to the Columbus area to live.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial — the dramatic black granite "wall" built across from the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. — was dedicated in memory of the American soldiers who lost their lives during the Vietnam War. The wall contains the names of the more than 58,000 dead and missing in Vietnam. In 1984, a travelling "copy" of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial came to Columbus and was exhibited at the Chattahoochee Valley Fairgrounds.

That same year, the statue "Three Fighting Men" was unveiled on the grounds of the Veterans Memorial in Washington.

During the years of the Vietnam War, the longest war in which the United States had a part, thousands of soldiers came to Fort Benning for training at the U. S. Army Infantry Center and School.

Columbus's own permanent memorial, honoring area veterans of all wars in which the United States has played a part, was unveiled on the grounds of the Government Center in May of 1991. The marble monument, which bears an eternal flame, was dedicated only a matter of months after the return of the first American troops from combat in the Persian Gulf War — a conflict that will be remembered historically as *Operation Desert Storm*.

PHOTO 151: Columbus's memorial to war veterans is located on the grounds of the Government Center.

PHOTO 152: *Three Fighting Men*, part of the permanent memorial to the Vietnam Veterans, is located in Washington, D.C.

PHOTO 153: This photograph of former South Vietnamese Major Bui Tran Vuong, his wife, six children, and mother-in-law, was taken on their arrival in Columbus in June of 1975.

The anniversary of the country's 200th birthday was celebrated in American towns and cities of every size and description on July 4, 1976. In fact, the *bicentennial* observance was a year-long celebration that influenced — in some way or another — everything from New Year's Day, to the Fourth of July, to Christmas!

Commemorative stamps, commemorative coins, commemorative books, commemorative Christmas tree ornaments, even commemorative neckties were produced for citizens across the country who were "caught up" in the spirit of this historical event.

Red, White & Blue were most definitely the colors of the year!

In Columbus, various observances and celebrations took place during the Bicentennial Year. However, among the most permanent local efforts to commemorate the bicentennial celebration is one that is still available to anyone who wishes to come to Columbus's Historic District for a walk along the banks of the Chattahoochee River.

The Chattahoochee Promenade was established in 1976 as an outdoor historical museum and as a lasting reminder of the city's observance of the nation's 200th birthday. The park extends from Ninth Street (behind the Iron Works Convention and Trade Center) down the riverbanks to Fifth Street and features gazebos, as well as historical markers, within this four-block-long "paromenade."

Also included on the promenade is a restored Victorian cottage, an amphitheatre (which seats over four hundred people), and a landscaped Victorian garden.

At the mid-point of the promenade (where Seventh Street and Front Avenue intersect) is the Bicentennial Plaza, which features an authentic copy of the Liberty Bell.

The original Liberty Bell is displayed in Liberty Bell Pavilion, near Independence Hall, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The bell became famous when it was rung July 8, 1776, along with other church bells, to announce the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.

The Bicentennial Year was also the year in which former Georgia Governor "Jimmy" Carter was elected the 39th President of the United States of America (1977-1981). Carter, a native of Plains, Georgia, named the Springer Opera House the "State Theatre of Georgia" in 1971, during his tenure as Governor.

The Presidential Box, containing seats inside the opera house reserved for the President, was "draped" with the presidential emblem when President and Mrs. Carter attended a performance at the Springer in 1977.

PHOTOS 154 & 155: Bicentennial parades took place throughout the country. Columbus and Phenix City celebrated with floats, flags, costumes, bands, and hundreds of people in the streets.

PHOTOS: 156 & 157: Mrs. James J.W. Biggers, Jr., Chairperson of the Bicentennial Commission in the area, is pictured above during a July 3, 1976 speech that she made to commemorate the local observance of the bicentennial. It was at that time that the Chattahoochee Promenade was dedicated.

PHOTO 158: Jimmy Carter's election to the Presidency of the United States in the Bicentennial Year resulted in his swearing-in ceremony, which took place in Washington, D.C., in January of 1977.

When Muscogee County Schools opened their doors at the beginning of the academic year in 1978, schoolchildren and the Columbus community at-large found at their disposal an important addition to the metropolitan area's educational offerings: the city's own planetarium.

The Patterson Planetarium, named for Columbus educator Dr. Nathan Patterson and owned/operated by the Muscogee County School District, is located on the campus of Fort Junior High School and features a theatre designed to simulate the night sky.

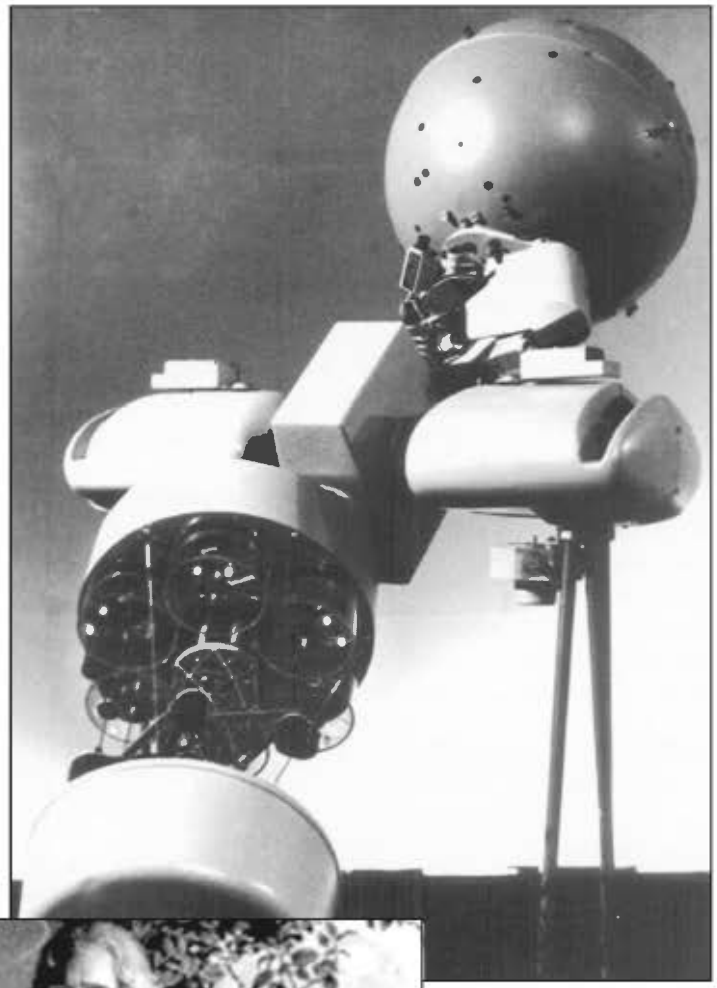
With the use of a tilted forty-foot hyposhere dome, an intricate star projector is able to project 3,300 stars, the moon, the sun, and the planets and also allows planetarium audiences to travel backward and forward in time! The overall experience of the visual presentations is enhanced by special effects lasers and a wraparound sound system.

All programs in the 84-person capacity auditorium are free to the public.

Perhaps a recent brochure sums up most effectively the goals of the Patterson Planetarium:

"To present the greatest of all sciences in an entertaining manner — this is the mission of the Patterson Planetarium. Under its dome, science, art and technology work in concert. Music and the spoken word, photographic and artistic skills, all meld with the beauty of the stars and planets to produce audio-visual presentations which feed the mind, stimulate the imagination, dispel myth and mystery — and yet enhance the majesty of the universe..."

PHOTO 159: Hyposphere dome inside the Patterson Planetarium, located on the Fort Junior High School campus.



PHOTOS 160 & 161 : Hipparcus (above) and Isaac Newton (right) were only two of countless men and women who over the centuries have been fascinated by the stellar bodies in the sky.

In 1987, Columbus's passenger train depot on Sixth Avenue was given a new lease on life by a major financial corporation interested in turning the 1901 train station into a suite of modern offices.

Because of the gradual decline of passenger train service in the area (a decline brought on by automobile and airplane travel), Columbus's passenger depot saw the arrival and departure of its last passenger train, "The City of Miami," in April of 1971.

"The Man O' War, " the popular passenger train that had travelled between Atlanta and Columbus on a daily basis since 1947, made its last run on May 16, 1970. Even in the early 1950s, passengers could travel round-trip on this train for less than $3.00!

Determined to save the train station when it was being threatened by demolition in 1984, the Historic Columbus Foundation, with the cooperation of the Southern Railway System and the Consolidated Government of Columbus, initiated a "Save Our Station" fundraising campaign and managed to secure the property until it was purchased by Total System Services, Inc., in 1987.

When the grand opening of Total System Services' new corporate headquarters was held at the Columbus Depot in 1989, local preservationists rejoiced at the end of another successful effort to "adaptively use" a worthy older building for a modern purpose.

For many Columbusites too young to remember the heyday of steady passenger train traffic in and out of the Columbus Depot during the 1930s, '40s, and '50s, it might be hard to imagine such "hustle and bustle" in a city that is now without a single passenger train.

However, that kind of traffic was for many years very much a part of daily life in Columbus!

PHOTO 162: The Columbus Depot, which for decades served the community as the passenger train station, became offices of Total System Services, Inc., in 1989. The structure was built in 1901 for the Central of Georgia Railroad.

PHOTO 163: Main lobby of structure, which used to be the depot's waiting room.

The Columbus Museum, which opened — fully renovated — to the public in April of 1989, is the second largest museum in Georgia (second only to Atlanta's High Museum of Art). A repository for collections concerning American art and history, with special emphasis on regional contributions in these fields, the museum offers a wide range of related exhibitions and public programs.

A focal point of the museum is its permanent history exhibit called the "Chattahoochee Legacy." With pottery, photographs, maps, drawings, and elaborate displays that recreate familiar scenes from life in the area "then and now," the *Chattahoochee Legacy* traces the history of the region in a chronological format from prehistoric times to the present.

At the center of the 86,000-square-foot museum facility is the structure that housed collections of the city's first museum, which opened in 1953.

Before it was used as a museum, this original building was the home of Columbus businessman W.C. Bradley. After his death in 1947, his house and the surrounding property were given to the Muscogee County School System and later transformed into the city's first permanent museum.

Bradley had acquired the *Tuscan* mansion in the mid-1920s from Brick S. Miller, the Columbus man for whom the house was built in 1912.

Perhaps Columbus's most prominent business and community leader of this century, Bradley was a philanthropist whose works continue to benefit the people of Columbus and the area.

Other noteworthy institutions affiliated with Bradley and his family include the W.C. Bradley Company, the Bradley Memorial Library, the Elizabeth Bradley Turner Center for Continuing Education at Columbus College, the Bradley Center (psychiatric hospital), Bradley Industrial Park, the D. Abbott Turner YMCA, and the D. Abbott Turner School of Business at Columbus College.

PHOTO 164: The stately Wynnton Road residence, built in 1912, which became the city's first museum in 1953.

PHOTOS 165 & 166: The museum during and after the renovation, which was completed in 1989. Notice the original residential structure at the center of the museum complex.

PHOTOS 167 & 168: Activities and exhibits inside the museum appeal to people of all ages.

PHOTO 171: William Clark Bradley, whose impact on the cultural, business, and educational life of Columbus continues to be felt throughout the city and the region.

PHOTO 170: Museum docent Judy Peek and visiting schoolchildren stand alongside the alligator that is part of the *Chattahoochee Legacy* exhibit.

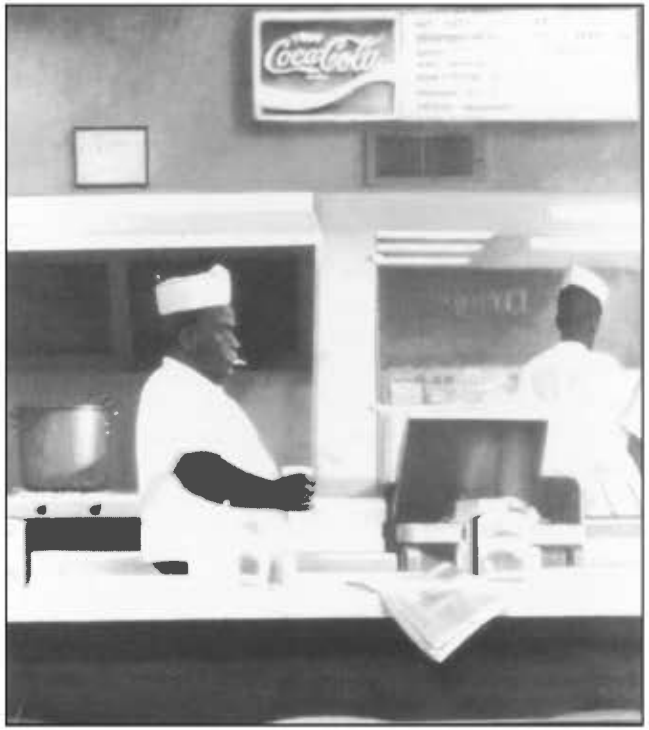


PHOTO 169: "A Moment in Dinglewood" (1979), a painting by Columbus native James W. "Bo" Bartlett, is part of the museum's permanent collection.

The Chattahoochee River, the most important natural resource in the Columbus area, stretches some 450 miles from its source as a small stream in the north Georgia mountains, near Helen, to the Gulf of Mexico. The longest river in the state, the Chattahoochee is thousands of years old and takes its name from ancient Indian words meaning "River of Painted Stones."

Over the decades since the founding of Columbus in 1828, the Chattahoochee has been utilized by area citizens in various ways. The natural boundary between the states of Georgia and Alabama, the Chattahoochee has served — and continues to serve — as an avenue for transportation, as well as an important source of food, water, and power.

Within ten years of the arrival of the first steamboat in Columbus in 1828, there were sixteen similar vessels making voyages between Columbus and Apalachicola Bay, Florida. These boats carried cargo — as well as passengers — up and down the Chattahoochee River, stopping along the way at various ports. Indeed, riverboats were very much a part of life in this region until well after the turn-of-the-century. Since waterfalls make passage north of the city impossible, Columbus is the northernmost navigable point on the Chattahoochee.

In the 1860s, during the Civil War, the river played a particularly important role not only in the history of Columbus, but also in the history of the Confederate States of America. With the Columbus Iron Works, the Columbus Navy Yard, and the Eagle Manufacturing Company (later the Eagle and Phenix Mills) all located on the banks of the Chattahoochee, Columbus became one of the most important manufacturing centers in the South. Many of the iron and textile products manufactured in Columbus were shipped to their various destinations on the waters of the Chattahoochee.

Although its steady river traffic was of great importance during the nineteenth century, the Chattahoochee has attracted mainly recreational boats to its waters since the first part of the twentieth century.

As its waters roll through the state of Georgia, making their way to the Florida coast, the Chattahoochee gives life to important crops such as cotton, peanuts, corn, and soybeans. Oysters and shrimp benefit from nurients that the Chattahoochee carries to its meeting with the Gulf of Mexico in Florida's Apalachicola Bay.

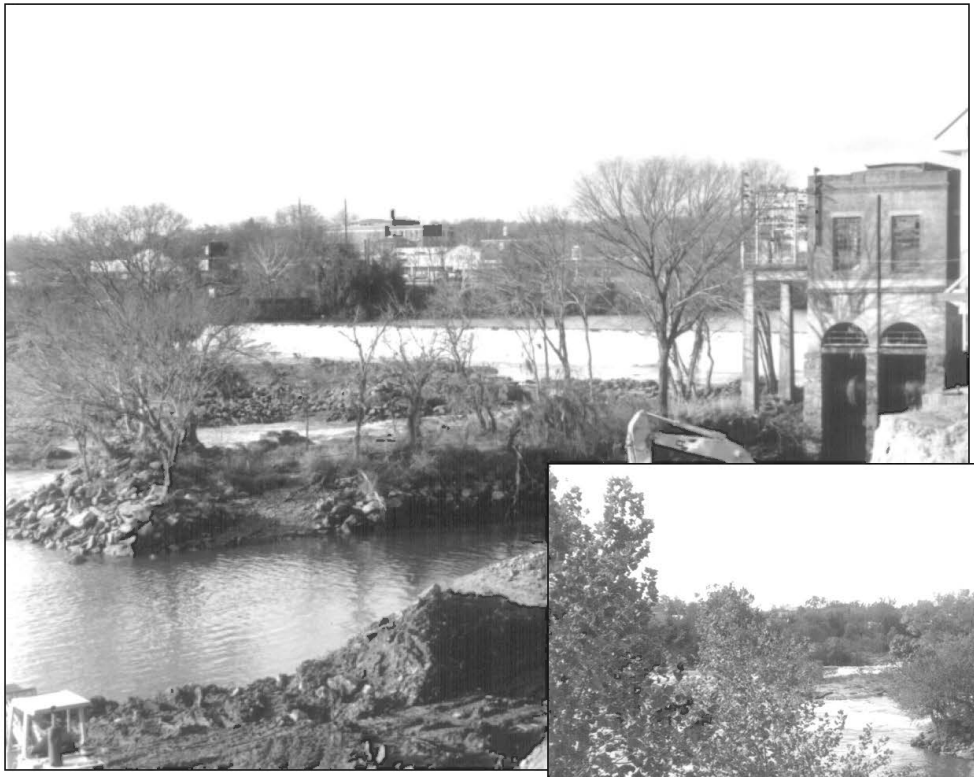


PHOTO 172: Buildings on the Alabama side of the river are visible in this photo, which was taken from a point immediately south of the Chattahoochee River Club in Columbus.

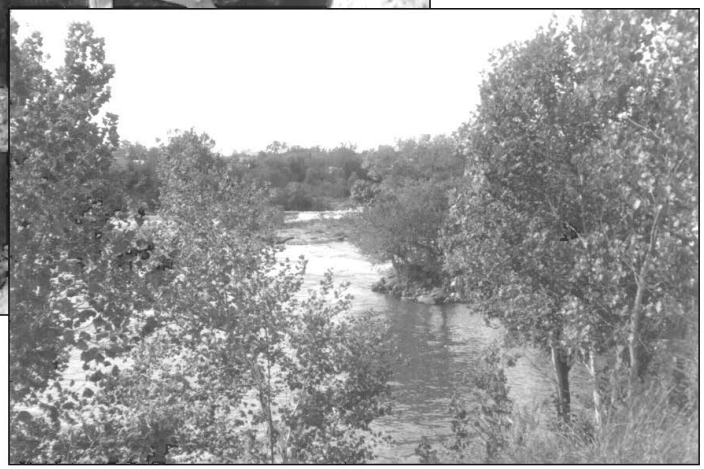


PHOTO 173: View of the Chattahoochee River from banks near Front Avenue and Twelfth Street.

The Chattahoochee provides "drinking water" for literally millions of people in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida each day. The Columbus Water Works, drawing water from Lake Oliver, filters 32 million gallons of water per day for some 185,000 residents of Muscogee County.

In addition, the mighty river plays a major role in turning hydro-electric turbines, which provide electricity for homes and businesses throughout the region.

Given the importance of the Chattahoochee River in the lives of past and present generations of people in the region, residents of the area are becoming more and more aware of the need to preserve and conserve what the river holds within its banks. Sportsmen worry that pollutants are damaging their fishing grounds, while residents worry that their water will not be pure enough to drink. In response, environmentalists and politicians are working to protect the Chattahoochee and the wildlife that it nurtures along its banks.

As a natural resource that has been the single most life-giving source for Columbusites and for the Indians who inhabited the Chattahoochee Valley thousands of years before the arrival of white and black men and women, the river is, finally, an eternal reminder of the cycles found at the core of men's lives then and now. Sidney Lanier, through the verses of his famous 1877 poem entitled "Song of the Chattahoochee," was one of countless men who have shown their appreciation for the mystery and the power of this famous Georgia river.

Song of the Chattahoochee

- 1 -

Out of the hills of Habersham,
Down the valleys of Hall,
I hurry amain to reach the plain,
Run the rapid and leap the fall,
Split at the rock and together again,
Accept my bed, or narrow or wide,
And flee from folly on every side
With a lover's pain to attain the plain
Far from the hills of Habersham,
Far from the valleys of Hall.

- 2 -

All down the hills of Habersham,
All through the valleys of Hall,
The rushes cried *Abide, abide,*
The willful waterweeds held me thrall,
The laving laurel turned my tide,
The ferns and the fondling grass said *Stay,*
The dewberry dipped for to work delay,
And the little reeds sighed *Abide, abide,*
Here in the hills of Habersham,
Here in the valleys of Hall.

- 3 -

High o'er the hills of Habersham,
Veiling the valleys of Hall,
The hickory told me manifold
Fair tales of shade, the poplar tall
Wrought me her shadowy self to hold,
The chestnut, the oak, the walnut, the pine,
Overleaning, with flickering meaning and sign,
Said, *Pass not, so cold, these manifold*
Deep shades of the hills of Habersham,
These glades in the valleys of Hall

- 4 -

And oft in the hills of Habersham,
And oft in the valleys of Hall,
The white quartz shone, and the smooth brook-stone
Did bar me of passage with friendly brawl,
And many a luminous jewel lone
— Crystals clear or a-cloud with mist,
Ruby, garnet and amethyst —
Made lures with the lights of streaming stone
In the clefts of the hills of Habersham,
In the beds of the valleys of Hall.

- 5 -

But oh, not the hills of Habersham,
And oh, not the valleys of Hall
Avail: I am fain to water the plain.
Downward the voices of Duty call —
Downward, to toil and be mixed with the main;
The dry fields burn, and the mills are to turn,
And a myriad flowers mortally yearn,
And the lordly main beyond the plain
Calls o'er the hills of Habersham,
Calls through the valleys of Hall.

Sidney Lanier
1877

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173. Photograph courtesy of the Historic Columbus Foundation; William Gantt, photographer.

INDEX

(Special appreciation goes to Patricia Howard and Sue Hoffman for their assistance with the index for Our Town.)

Our Town:

An Introduction to the History of

Columbus, Georgia

by

Roger Harris

with the sponsorship of

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation

The Historic Columbus Foundation

The Junior League of Columbus

The Muscogee County School District

and

Trust Company Bank of Columbus

Dedicated to

Janice Persons Biggers

and

Fleming Clason Kyle

whose extraordinary efforts in the preservation field

are worthy of the very highest praise

and

In memory of my grandmother

Alice Freeman Harris Grier

who first taught me to befriend the Past

Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.

Footprints, that perhaps another,
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother,
Seeing, shall take heart again.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
from *The Reaper and the Flowers*

INTRODUCTION

When I was attending Muscogee County public schools in the 1960s and '70s, I would have appreciated a book like this one. At that time, though, area educators had not yet heard the call to bring discussion of local history into the classroom; textbooks were traditional and dealt with everything *but* my native city. As a result, I went from kindergarten through the twelfth grade without ever studying about significant people, events, and structures in the history of Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley.

I did, however, have a grandmother who talked to me throughout my childhood and youth of *her* childhood and youth on the banks of the Chattahoochee River, some one hundred miles south of Columbus. Even though I might not have known it at the time, her reminiscences *were* the book on local history that I never saw in classrooms. With each tale that she told, a page was turned in my mind, and all of those people and events about which she spoke came alive in my imagination — despite the fact that I never saw photographs of many of the individuals and places that made up her memories.

Growing up on her grandfather's plantation in the 1890s — miles from even the closest small town — she had watched riverboats such as the "W.C. Bradley" and the "Queen City" pass up and down the Chattahoochee; she had attended classes in one-room schoolhouses; she had helped churn fresh milk into butter; she had heard the Civil War stories told by her parents and grandparents; she had been "neighbors" with former slaves, their children, and their grandchildren; she had visited relatives living in the shadows of the ancient Kolomoki burialground and had heard tales of the Indians who once lived on that land.

As a young woman, she had ridden in horse-drawn buggies through the last years of the nineteenth century and well into the first years of the twentieth; she had watched wood-burning stoves being replaced by those heated with electricity and gas; she had seen kerosene lamps evolve into lamps lighted by bulbs; she had marvelled at the usefulness of the telephone; she had even made her first long trip by train—when she eloped with my grandfather, both in their teens, in order to be married in a neighboring county.

By the time of her death at age ninety-two, she had watched a brother sail to France for service in World War I; she had experienced the financial hardships brought on by the Great Depression; she had seen five sons go around the globe to serve in World War II; she had watched the country go to war in Vietnam; she had even seen the first men walking on the moon — those men whom she saw on that magical screen called the television.

If I were to explain how or why I have become committed to the importance of *heritage education* — and to the importance of this book, in particular — I suppose that I would have to talk about the impact of my grandmother's story on me. Although hers was only one life, that one life spanned nearly a century — and it represented many contacts with many people from many backgrounds, many events on many levels of importance, many places, and many changes over all of those years. Through the stories that she told of her life and the lives of those around her, I was able to appreciate not only the *"differentness"* of what had come before me, but also the *"sameness"* that linked my life with the lives of all of those who peopled the exotic tales of this region at another era in history. Whereas she watched riverboats in her childhood, I watched motorboats pulling daredevil water-skiers; nevertheless, the Chattahoochee River that she played alongside as a girl was the same river that I crossed in an automobile, two generations later, as a boy.

In this book, I have tried to present an introduction to the history of Columbus that would reflect, in some way, my personal fascination with the way in which one mid-sized Southern city can contain such a colorful assortment of evolutions. It is, truly, an assortment that represents ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds as diverse as the range of ambitions and capabilities at the center of the lives that have played major and minor roles in the city. Looking back over the lives and the events that have touched Columbus, a reader cannot help but appreciate the great variety that, on the surface at least, takes the form of people and things different from those today. However, that which I would like to convey through these pages is the *"sameness"* that connects the thoughts, the needs, the hopes of Columbusites who came before us to those of the present generations.

I believe that an appreciation of the achievements and the desires of even the earliest people in Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley will enable us to better understand *our place* in *our time* in *our town*. This same appreciation, ideally, will lead us to understand that the example of one life — or of one city — can help us to be more sensitive to the changes in our own lives and more respectful of the lives of others.

Roger Harris
Historic Columbus Foundation
Spring 1992

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Among those who assisted me as I compiled information and collected photographs for *Our Town* are certain people to whom I am especially grateful for their contributions of time and effort. Unless otherwise designated, those recognized here are residents of Columbus.

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I would also like to commend and thank Jon Haney, Media Production Supervisor of Columbus College's Media Services department, for the excellent copy-work that he so patiently produced for me over the months that I spent borrowing and reproducing photographs for this book. I thank him, also, for the several photographs that he took himself and allowed me to borrow.

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I would like to extend thanks and *commendations* to the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the Historic Columbus Foundation, the Junior League of Columbus, and Trust Company Bank of Columbus for the financial support that has allowed me to make this book a reality. As sponsors of this publication, these groups have exhibited their strong commitment to the heritage education ideal and, with the cooperation of the Muscogee County School District, have managed to place this particular tool in the hands of young people throughout the city.

For her assistance in developing the very important teacher's guide to accompany *Our Town*, I am grateful to Aminta Jordan. Her conscientious work, along with that of numerous other members of the Junior League of Columbus over the past several years, has underscored the League's ongoing devotion to accomplishments in the education and preservation fields in the city.

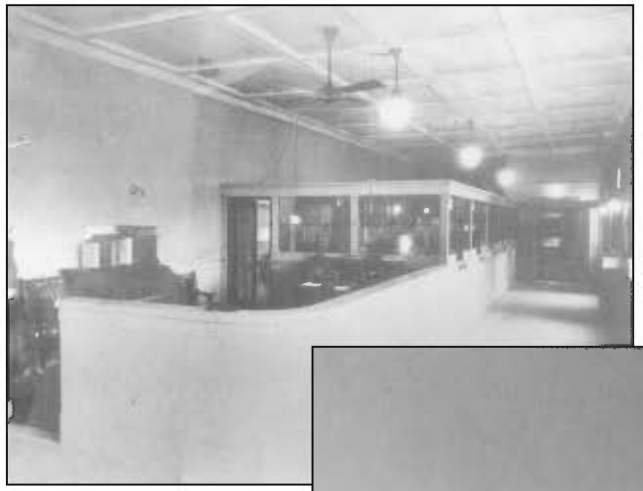
I would also like to thank Beth Agnew and Sarah Jordan, faithful interns at the Historic Columbus Foundation, for their excellent contributions to the creation of the teacher's guide.

Finally, I am grateful to Patricia J. Howard, Executive Director of the Historic Columbus Foundation, for all that she has done to promote this book and to coordinate interests shared by the publication's major sponsors. With her help, *Our Town* has evolved from an idea into an instructional tool whose potential for positively affecting young minds is great.

Toward the end of the nineteenth century, Columbus was beginning to emerge from the destruction of the city's economy during the Civil War. Electric light and power had been introduced to the city. The railroads and mills had been rebuilt. The city was growing to the north and east outside the green belt that had surrounded the original city. The 1890 census counted 17,303, the first time Columbus's population had exceeded 17,000 since before the Civil War. Historian Etta Blanchard Worsley, wrote, "Columbus having regained its place in the sun, with the building of cotton mills and railroads, enjoyed prosperity that was evidenced in the gaiety of the people at the balls given at the fashionable Rankin House and Perry House..."

To serve this growing, prosperous community, a group of businessmen in January of 1892 created a new financial institution known as the Fourth National Bank of Columbus, Georgia. Original paid-in capital was $79,200. This was increased to $94,200 shortly thereafter. Earnings for the first year of operations were $10,683.38, of which $5,000 was retained as "surplus."

By the 1920s, Columbus's population had grown considerably, World War I had seen the establishment of Fort Benning, and the movies had come to town. Fourth National Bank was on the move, too, from its original location at the corner of Broad and Tenth to the corner of Broad and Twelfth. Fourteen years later, in spite of effects of the Great Depression, the bank once again moved to new quarters in the Murrah Building at the corner of First Avenue and Twelfth Street. Also, in that year, the bank became a part of the Trust Company family when a majority interest of its stock was purchased by Trust Company of Georgia.



Trust Company Bank facilities *then* (above) and *now* (right). The bank's *Big T* logo has become one of the most recognizable symbols in the region.

The 1940s and '50s brought World War II and the Korean War, as well as a wave of growth and expansion of the city, including the establishment of Columbus College. The Bank followed these patterns of growth with a new main office at the corner of Thirteenth Street and First Avenue, as well as two branch banking locations, one on Thirteenth Street and another in the Cross Country Plaza shopping center.

Fourth National Bank continued to expand both its presence in Columbus and the services it offers to the people of the city during the 1960s, '70s, and '80s. The Northside, Southside, Medical Center, Simons Plaza and Peachtree branches were opened during this period. Credit cards, the Big T Checking Package, Money Management Accounts, and Investment Banking were among the innovative banking services catching on with Columbus's residents.

Trust Company people played important roles in the progress of the city during this period, too, providing leadership to the Chamber of Commerce and numerous other civic-minded organizations. This was an era that saw the completion of I-185, opening of the new Medical Center Hospital, the Iron Works Convention and Trade Center, and the consolidation of the city and county governments. Also, during the period, Trust Company of Georgia purchased the balance of the Bank's stock, and the name was changed to Trust Company Bank of Columbus in 1985.

In this, its one hundredth year, a bank that began with assets of $79,200 now has assets of over $330,000,000. But more importantly, it has the sense of satisfaction that comes from knowing that it has well served the growth and progress of its community.

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