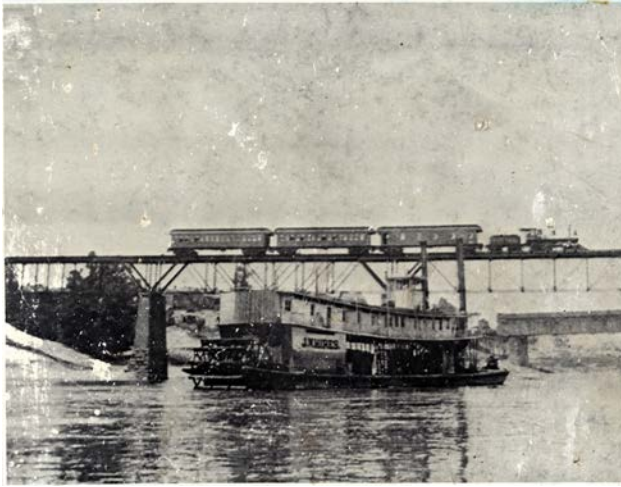


Columbus History from the River:

Historical Narratives for *White Water Express* River Guides



Old and new transportation systems come together in Columbus, GA. No date.
(Courtesy Columbus State University Archives and David A. Rush.)

Authors: Dr. Amanda Rees and students from
Cultural Geography GEOG 3108 Spring 2014
Columbus Community Geography Center, Columbus State University
May 2014

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Project Overview

Introduction: In 2013, the first year of urban whitewater rafting on the Chattahoochee River, *WhiteWater Express* guides introduced Columbus to over 15,000 rafting visitors. Over 90 percent of those visitors were from outside the local community. Understanding the importance of providing whitewater guides familiar with local history, Whitewater Express partnered with CSU's Columbus Community Geography Center (CCGC). CCGC students in Dr. Rees' Cultural Geography course at Columbus State University developed a semester project to create interpretive materials for the river guides and a new map of the river.

Methodology: To prepare for this project the students read articles on the importance of narratives as inclusive and engaging for all visitors to a community. They read about the potential of the strong affective or emotional connection between visitor and community that can be forged by well-informed and engaged river guides. Eleven students and their professor took two rafts and made a video record of the river trip in two parts posted on YouTube to support their subsequent research. CSU White Water Part 1 covers the river from the raft "put in" to around the float section, while CSU White Water Part 2 covers the river from the float section to the end of the trip:

- Part 1: <http://youtu.be/GRB6NQJEsTE>
- Part 2: http://youtu.be/vwHoWg8Lh_w

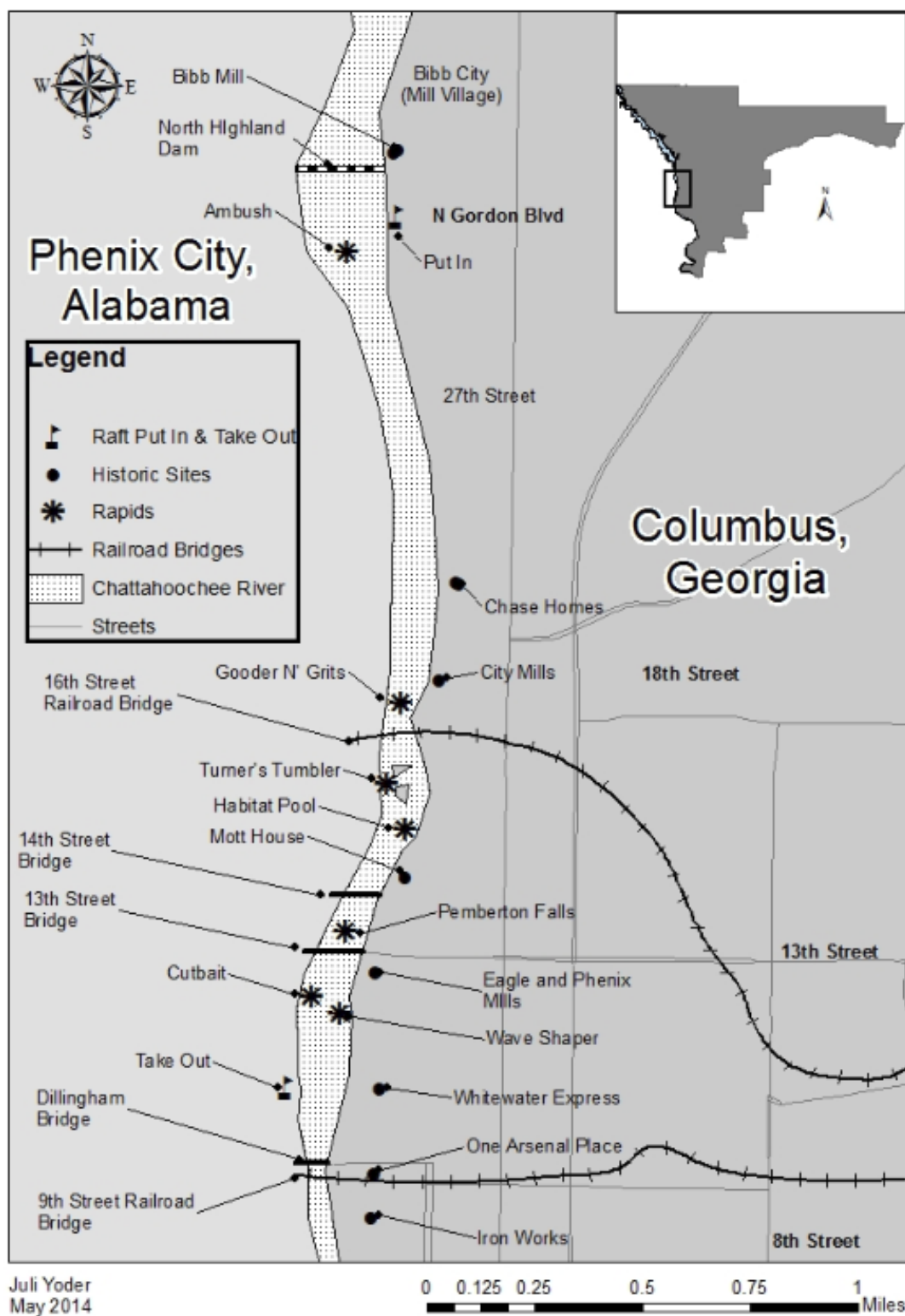
We had three goals for the rafting trip:

1. Gaining firsthand experience of whitewater rafting as a recreational activity;
2. Gaining firsthand experience of the river guide's work as story-tellers;
3. Analyzing what can be seen from the river to identify visual queues for establishing individual narratives.

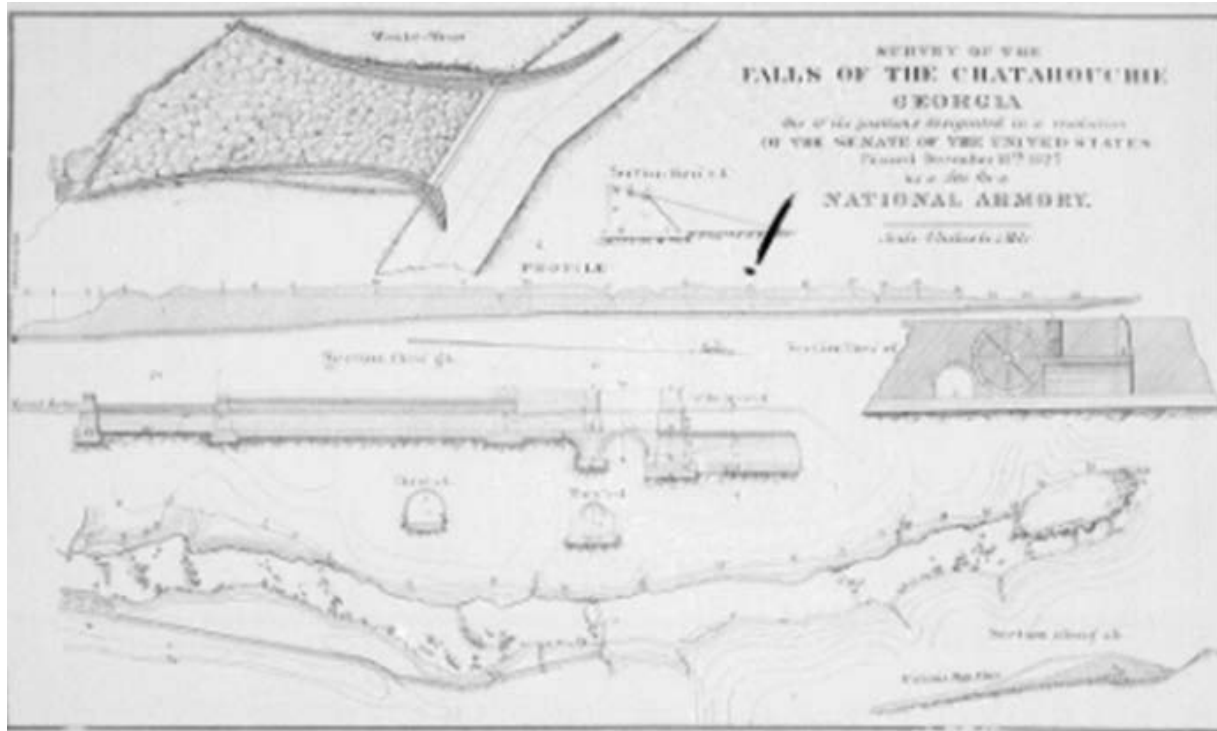
Conclusion: This project offered an excellent confluence of history and geography and the students in the Cultural Geography class hope that their historical narratives and maps will support the continued efforts to enrich visitor experiences on the Chattahoochee River.

Outcomes: Students developed short, focused histories of several historic industrial buildings, historic homes, and the natural environment along the river. They created a companion map, unique to this project. The map combines both the newly created whitewater rapids and the historically important sites along its banks they referred to in the narrative. This material is published in this document. Finally, students created an interactive map that is published on the CSU Archives website.

Chattahoochee River Whitewater History Map by Juli Yoder



Fall Line Rapids by Eugene Foster



Water Power Development at Falls of the Chattahoochee, Chattahoochee River, Columbus, Muscogee County, GA (1827) (Courtesy of Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pn/p/pp.print>)

Short Summary

Like its sister cities Macon, Milledgeville, and Augusta, Columbus, Georgia is located on the fall line. This predominant geological feature divides the more resistant geology of the piedmont and the sedimentary rock coastal plain. The city is home to a number of cascades that occur with the rapid drop in elevation of 125 feet in 2.5 miles. Columbus was the northernmost point on the Chattahoochee River navigable to steam ships. The river was eventually dammed at multiple points to power a water-driven gristmill and cotton and wool textile production. In the 1890s the city harnessed the river for electrical power that made modern Columbus possible. With the removal of several dams in 2013 the city now embraces the river as a recreational center with its 14-mile river walk and whitewater-rafting course.

Extended Summary

The rapids of the Chattahoochee River are the product of the fall line, a geologic feature that traverses the state from Augusta to Columbus. It is here that the Georgia sediment changes from

the hard rock of the Piedmont to the sandy rock of the Coastal Plain. The water drops over 300 feet in thirty miles, which culminates here in Columbus, which would have been the shore of the Atlantic Ocean around 150 million years ago. At this point the river is navigable from Columbus to the Gulf of Mexico. The fall line prevents any further navigation to the north. The river flows 430 miles from its beginning as a mountain spring until it converges with the Flint River at Lake Seminole at the Florida state line. Together, they form the Apalachicola River.

The word Chattahoochee comes from the Creek Indians and means “painted rock.” A variety of birds can be seen from the river. These include red-tail hawks, bald eagles, wood ducks, great egrets, blue herons (with their archaic squall), belted kingfishers, and the often seen double-crested cormorants. These large black birds are frequently seen on the river rocks with their wings spread to dry. There are also two varieties of Pond Sliders, the red-eared and yellow-bellied. These water turtles are often seen basking in the sun on rocks and are often clumped together. One can hope to encounter river otters that are active in the day and are graceful swimmers. The Chattahoochee RiverWarden has noticed a resurgence of the gulf-striped bass and the possible return of an aquatic plant, the shoal spider lily, both of which are attributed to the removal of the dam system. It is also home to several endangered or “at risk” mussel species.

Creek Indians by Timetrice Thomas



Creek leader William McIntosh who ceded Creek territory in the Treaty of Indian Springs, 1825 (Courtesy Columbus State University Archives).

Short Summary

The Creek Indians and British and Spanish colonists established trading relationships in the American southeast in the seventeenth century. The Creeks were adept diplomats between these two European powers. However, with the formation of the United States, these two colonial powers withdrew. This one, dominant power-block focused on expansion and settlement meant that the Creeks relationships shifted from trade between indigenous people and colonial powers to facing a new nation that desired to control their lands. Southeastern tribes were forcibly removed during the 1830s. The forced migration of the Creeks from the moist and verdant Chattahoochee Valley began in earnest in 1834. This period saw the removal of Creeks to the dry plains of Oklahoma.

Extended Summary

At the time of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas, archeological evidence indicates that indigenous groups, known as the Mound Builders, lived in the Chattahoochee River Valley between 350 and 900 years ago. Around 1400, the mound- building societies saw large political

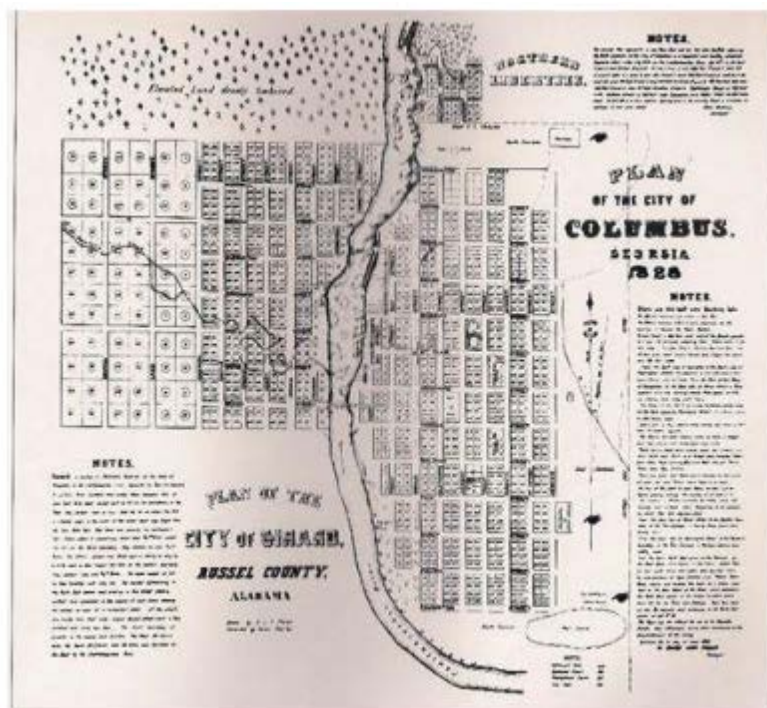
chiefdoms collapse. Spanish incursion in the American Southeast in the 1500s, and the subsequent introduction of smallpox, led to a population collapse of 90 per cent. Surviving chiefdoms shifted with a complex set of political alliances between native groups, and between native groups and colonial groups (Spanish and British). Early Georgia history is largely a story of the Creek Indians, and throughout the colonial period, Creek Indians outnumbered both enslaved Africans and European colonists. It was only at the eve of the creation of the United States in the 1760s that Creeks became the minority population in Georgia. A complex and expansive trade, chiefly in deerskins, encouraged closer cultural connection between natives and newcomers. Georgia traders often lived among the Creeks in towns along the Chattahoochee River, intermarrying and encouraging Georgia's native population to engage in the plantation economy expanding throughout the region. Two factions of Creek Indians developed as Creeks either welcomed or opposed Euro-American settlement and the plantation system. The division in Creek society led to a civil war in 1813 between two rival factions, the Red Stick band, who were opposed to American settlement, and the Lower Creeks. The war ended in 1814 with the resounding defeat of the Red Stick Creeks at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Through several subsequent treaties that were driven by bribery and fraud, the Creeks ceded their lands in southern Georgia. Creeks then disposed of their remaining lands in the Treaty of Indian Springs (1925), as Georgia agents bribed Creek leader William McIntosh to sign away the rest of the Creek territory in Georgia. Euro-American settlers in Georgia then worked to remove 20,000 Creeks from Alabama, resulting in the Creeks signing a treaty agreeing to relocate to Indian Territory (now Oklahoma) in 1832.

The Chattahoochee River gets its Creek Indian name – meaning “painted rocks” – from the colorful rocks that make up the fall line geology.

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Establishing Columbus by Grace Hazlett



Plan of the City of Columbus and Plan of the City of Girard Columbus, GA original completed circa 1840s. Traced February 8th, 1927, Office of the City Engineer, City of Columbus, GA. (Courtesy Columbus State University Archives).

Short Summary

There were settlements on both banks of the Chattahoochee prior to the founding of Columbus. The community of Wewoka was home to three hundred people who lived in log cabins and tents along the eastern banks of the river. Residents were involved in trading with Creek deer hunters and Wewoka hosted a major ferry and Inn operated by two Creek chiefs. In 1828 the village was abandoned when Columbus was formally established as a trading town just to the north. The city sits at the highest navigable point on the Chattahoochee River, which, on joining the Flint River to become the Apalachicola River, flows into the Gulf of Mexico.

Extended Summary

Prior to the formal establishment of Columbus, Georgia, there were a number of trading communities along the Chattahoochee River, including the community of Wewoka, home to 300 people, a ferry crossing, and an inn operated by two Creek chiefs. Desire for expansion into Creek Territory propelled the Treaty of Indian Springs (1825), which removed the Creeks from the banks of the Chattahoochee. Muscogee County was established by the state legislature on December 11, 1826. This quickly led to a formal charter establishing the town of Columbus, Georgia, in 1828. In 1828 the village was abandoned when Columbus was formally established as a trading town just to the north. The city sits at the highest navigable point on the

Chattahoochee River, which, on joining the Flint River to become the Apalachicola River, flows into the Gulf of Mexico.

Columbus was established as a trading city and the city commissioners were directed to survey and identify “no less than 500 building lots of half an acre each and to reserve one square containing ten acres for the public buildings of Muscogee County. The county was to have the privilege of selling off any surplus land within its square” (Mahan 1986, 22). The city was to have nine streets that would run parallel to the river and thirteen streets that would run perpendicular to the river. The state legislature identified a five-mile-square reserve located at Coweta Falls to establish a town that included 500 building lots of .5 acres each and ten acres for public buildings. The town was then granted permission to sell land.

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- Lynn Willoughby, 1999. *Flowing Through Time: A History of the Lower Chattahoochee River*. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press.

Establishing Phenix City by Illana King



Plan of the City of
Girard, Russell
County, a Detail View.
(Courtesy Columbus
State University)

Short Summary

In June 1832, local entrepreneur Daniel McDougal and Macon native Robert Collins paid \$35,000 for the one square mile grant directly across the Chattahoochee from Columbus that the Creek Indian Treaty had awarded to a mixed blood named Benjamin Marshall. They published in the newspaper that they intended to sell lots in a town created on the falls “for milling and manufacturing purposes.” Early in its existence the community was called Sodom. This eventually became Girard. A second town, Brownsville, was located to the north of Girard, and Brownsville was renamed Phenix City in 1883. From its early frontier status, the city evolved in the later part of the nineteenth century as a bedroom community for mill laborers who crossed the bridge each morning to work at the Eagle and Phenix Mill. Girard and Phenix City were consolidated in 1923 and retained the name Phenix City.

Extended Summary

After the Creek Removal, two cities developed: Girard, the county seat when Russell County

was formed on December 18, 1832, and Brownsville. Girard, which would eventually form the southern half of Phenix City, took its name from Stephen Girard, a Philadelphia philanthropist and slave dealer. The city was incorporated on December 8, 1890, with a population of 3,840. The county seat moved around multiple times, going from Girard to Crockettville (now Crawford) in 1842 and then to Seale in 1868. The northern part of what eventually would become Phenix City was called Brownsville. In the ten years after the Civil War, Dutch and German settlers created the Chattahoochee Brewery in Girard before moving to Columbus. A large group of female weavers was brought in to teach local workers in the Eagle and Phenix Mill. The mill's bedroom community was across the river in Alabama. In August 9, 1923, the cities of Girard and Phenix City were consolidated, with a combined population of 10,374. A group of citizens petitioned to change the name to Brandon after Governor William W. Brandon, but the name Phenix City was retained.

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<http://www.encyclopediaofalabama.org/face/Article.jsp?id=h-2133/> Last accessed May 14, 2014.

Slavery and Trade by Shukena Smith

Chattahoochee Plantation.
FOR SALE.

 THE subscriber offers for sale, one of the  most valuable Plantations on the Chattahoochee River, lying in Russell county, Alabama, on the road from Columbus to West Point, nine miles above Columbus, Ga., eighteen miles from the Montgomery and West Point Railroad, and nine miles from the Girard and the Muscogee Railroad. The surveyed line of the Opelika Railroad is within three and a half miles, and the West Point within one half mile.

This plantation, containing about fifteen hundred acres, and seven hundred and fifty acres in a fine state of cultivation and improvement, is in as healthy a region as any in Georgia or Alabama, and every field is well watered. It may be advantageously divided into two tracts of about 1200 and 300 acres. The former will contain the Buildings, 600 acres of cleared land, about two-thirds low-lands, and not ten acres of poor land. The latter, 150 acres cleared, and an excellent building site, convenient to a fine spring.


The Dwelling-house is framed, with five rooms, a passage 14 feet wide, front rooms 20 feet square. The overseer's house, and the negro cabins are framed, with brick chimneys. They are situated in a large oak grove, and convenient to a free stone spring remarkable for purity and coolness.

The neighborhood is good, Schools and Churches convenient, the place very accessible, and the public works converging to this point must continue to enhance the value of real estate here.

 Persons wishing to purchase, must make early application to the undersigned, at Columbus, Ga.

ROBT. S. HARDAWAY.

June 1, 1852

 Macon Journal and Messenger, Savannah Republican, and Charleston Courier, will copy four times.

Advertisement for Plantation sale.
Columbus Tri- Weekly Enquirer. June 1, 1852. (Courtesy Columbus State University Archives).

NEGROES! NEGROES!!

 WE are continually receiving from Virginia and North Carolina a large and well selected stock of 
Men, Women, Boys and Girls,
including Field Hands, House Servants, Mechanics, &c., bought by one of the firm expressly for this market, and our friends may rely on getting negroes of good character, coming up fully to our representations-- as we sell none on commission.

HATCHER & McGEHEE.
July 27, 1858 w tf

Advertisement for slave sale, Hatcher & McGehee. Columbus Tri-Weekly Enquirer July 27, 1858. (Courtesy Columbus State University Archives.)

Short Summary

Slavery was the backbone of Columbus' antebellum economy. Slaves built and worked in the mills, and they labored as blacksmiths, carpenters, and domestic servants. Because of slavery's central role, Columbus had three slave depots: Hatcher and McGehee; Harrison & Pitts; and S. Ogletree. Between 1858 and 1860, Hatcher and McGehee sold 465 slaves for an average of 1,000 dollars each. Cotton was not the only agricultural product in the region. A Jewish planter, Raphael Moses, came to Columbus in 1849, pioneering the careful packing of peaches in champagne crates, revolutionizing peach production in the state. However, the peach industry did not become fully established until the early twentieth century. Steamboats, and later railroads (1853), linked the city and its agricultural hinterland to regional, national, and international markets.

Extended Summary

Of the 10 to 16 million Africans who survived the voyage from Africa to the New World, the vast majority landed in either Brazil or the Caribbean. Only 6 percent arrived in the United States. However, with the outlawing of slavery in most of the Western Hemisphere in the early nineteenth century, by 1860, two-thirds of enslaved Africans were in the American South. Georgia banned the African slave trade in 1798 and the United States Congress banned the importation of slaves in 1807. However, the use and trade of slaves continued until the Civil War. In 1860, Georgia's population passed 1 million residents. While 591,000 of those residents (56 percent) were white, nearly 466,000 (44 percent) were black. Six percent of white Georgians held nearly half the state's property, in land and slaves. Known as the planter class, this group of Georgians was defined as owning 20 or more slaves with plantations of between 200 to 500 improved (farmable) acres.

During the revolutionary era, Georgia planters began to cultivate cotton for domestic use. In the early nineteenth century the Chattahoochee Valley's plantation economy was concentrated on the production of cotton. With the invention of the cotton gin in 1793, cotton became a major industry and the demand for slave labor increased dramatically. In the Columbus region, slaves worked in the fields that produced the cotton bales that were taken to Columbus for transport to the world market. Slaves also worked in the city in local stores, as domestic servants, and as blacksmiths and carpenters. Lastly, female slaves and young children usually served as domestics, tending to the master's family as cooks, servants, and housemaids.

Cherokee Indians had cultivated peaches since the mid-seventeenth century. Peach production began to expand in Georgia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Raphael Moses was a huge distributor of peaches in Columbus, Georgia and has been credited as the first person to expand distribution outside of the South. By 1928 Georgia peach production had risen to eight million bushels, it's all time high. Today approximately 2 million bushels are produced each year. A bushel is 8 gallons and is a measure of volume for dry items.

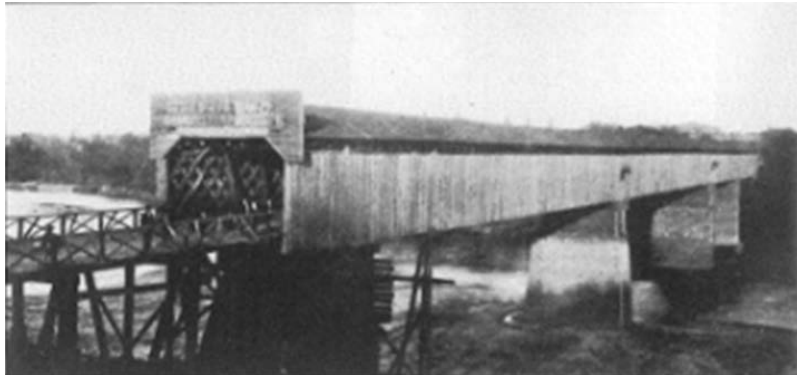
References

Carey, A., 2011. *Sold Down the River: Slavery in the Lower Chattahoochee Valley of Alabama and Georgia*. Alabama: University Alabama Press.

Horace King, Bridge Builder by Sara Snyder



Portrait of Horace King
(Courtesy Columbus State
University Archives).



One of Horace King's covered wooden bridges that linked Columbus to Phenix City. No date. (Courtesy Columbus State University Archives).

Short Summary

Born into slavery in South Carolina, Horace King (1807-1885) and his owner John Godwin moved to Columbus in 1832 to support the rapid development of recently ceded Creek lands. King and Godwin's initial contract was to build Columbus' first bridge connecting Georgia and Alabama, now known as the Dillingham Bridge. King worked widely throughout the southeast. Only one of Horace King's original constructions (bridges and buildings) is still standing in Columbus. Built in 1865, it is the WC Bradley Warehouse at the SW corner of Front Avenue and 11th Street, formerly known as the Fountaine Warehouse. All current bridges in the downtown area (except the 13th Street Bridge) were built on the exact locations of King's bridges. In the post-Civil War period, King was elected to Alabama's House of Representatives twice before moving to La Grange, Georgia.

Extended Summary

As a slave, King worked as foreman under his master John Godwin. In the early 1830s, Godwin and King moved to Columbus, Georgia, to help develop the recently ceded Creek lands now

known as Phenix City. Godwin and King were given a contract to build the Dillingham Bridge, the first bridge in Columbus to connect Georgia and Alabama. After obtaining his freedom, King kept working with Godwin across the southeast, and became increasingly involved in the booming mill economy of Columbus in the late nineteenth century. The devastation caused by the Civil War and the reconstruction of the city following the conflict gave King (by this time, an independent and established architect) an overabundance of work. As a result the majority of King's structures were produced between 1865 and 1870. During this time King headed eight massive projects, including the W.C. Bradley warehouse and four bridges included the Dillingham and Fourteenth Street bridges. King was elected to Alabama's House of Representatives twice before moving to La Grange, Georgia in 1872. The legacy and impact of Horace King on the Columbus Chattahoochee River landscape is vast to say the least. Only one of King's original bridges is still standing in Columbus. The locations of all current bridges in the downtown area (except for the 13th street Bridge) are representative of King's former constructions.

References

John Lupold & Thomas French. 2004. *Bridging Deep South Rivers: The Life and Legend of Horace King*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press.

City Mills by Jamie Turpin



City Mills Company, no date. (Courtesy Columbus State University Archives)



City Mills Company, Eighteenth Street & First Avenue, Columbus, Muscogee County, GA Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print>

Short Summary

Seaborn Jones, a wealthy planter and Congressman, moved to Columbus in 1828. Purchasing a tract of riverfront property, he built the city's first hydro-powered gristmill (corn and flour). In 1865, Union forces burned the City Mills. It was rebuilt in 1869. Horace King constructed one of the mill buildings at this site. In the 1890s the Columbus Railroad Company began generating electricity at the mill to provide power to homes and the city's streetcars. When its doors closed in 1988, the City Mills was the oldest continually run business in Columbus, as well as the oldest working mill of its kind in the United States.

Extended Summary

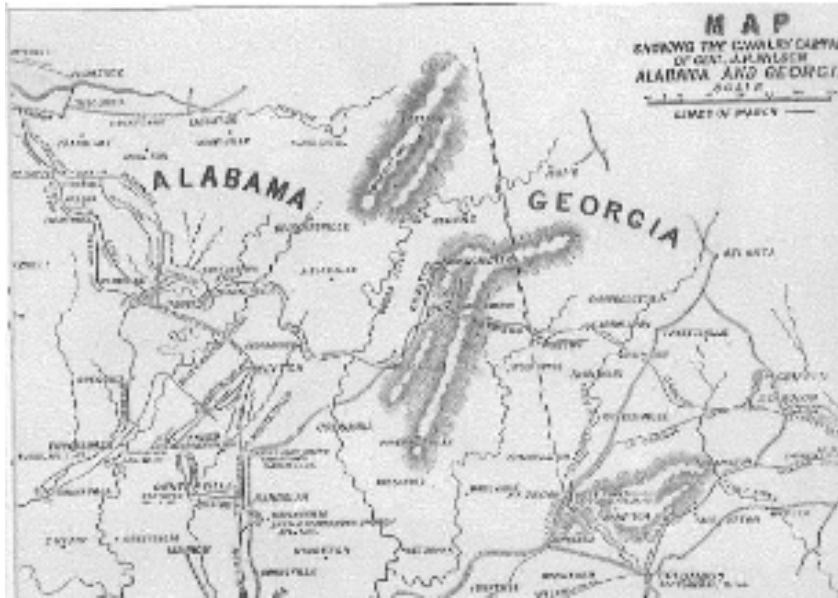
Seaborn Jones, a wealthy planter and Congressman, moved to Columbus in 1828. Jones opened and operated a very successful law firm in Columbus with his son, who was killed at the battle of Gettysburg. Jones purchased a tract of land and built the first hydro-powered mill in Columbus. The City Mill began production of cornmeal in 1828. In 1865, the City Mill was burned by Union forces. It was rebuilt in 1869.

Starting in the late 1890s, the Columbus Railroad Company generated electricity at the mill to provide power to homes and the city's street cars. The City Mills produced cornmeal and flour until its purchase in the 1960s by the Bowers family, who began producing animal feed. When the doors closed in 1988, the City Mills was the oldest and continuing business in Columbus, as well as the oldest working mill of its kind in the United States. Since the mill closed, it has been sitting empty, waiting for a new life, but is slowly deteriorating. In 2004 two, grain silos located on the City Mills property were demolished without proper permits and/or permission. One of the silos demolished was the original wooden structure built by Horace King in 1869.

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Civil War at the 14th Street Bridge by Ryan Boyette



Portrait of Union Map of the General J.H. Wilson's Cavalry Campaign, Alabama and Georgia, March and April, 1865(Courtesy Columbus State University State University Archives).



General J.H. Wilson, (Courtesy Columbus State University State University Archives).

Short Summary

On April 16th, 1865, in the final days of the Civil War, Union General James Wilson arrived on the west side of Girard, now Phenix City, Alabama. Having taken the cities of Selma and Montgomery, Wilson planned an attack on one of the major industrial hubs in the South, Columbus, Georgia. The city had been protected until that point by its extreme southern location. In a rare night confrontation, Confederate and Union forces met at the gun emplacements and small forts that stretched along the Alabama side of the river. Both forces made a headlong run for the 14th Street Bridge at the same time. The retreating Confederates tried to get back to Georgia and the Federals tried to capture the bridge to prevent its destruction. The final confrontation happened in front of the bridge on the Georgia side. In the hectic haze of battle, and with little illumination, soldiers could not tell Union from Confederate, and Wilson took both the bridge and the city shortly before midnight. Wilson destroyed war-related industries. This skirmish was one of the last confrontations between Union and Confederate soldiers in the Civil War.

Extended Summary

In early 1865, as Union General Sherman made his infamous “March to the Sea,” he sent General James Wilson to capture and control major cities in both Alabama and Georgia. Wilson had already captured Selma and Montgomery, and on April 16th, 1865, Wilson arrived on the west side of Girard, Alabama, now Phenix City. With a cavalry force of 4,000 men, Wilson sought to capture Columbus, Georgia. The Confederate forces in Columbus attempted to recruit enough men for a defense but could only gather a force of 2,000 men to create a defense of the city, which had become one of the major industrial hubs in the Confederacy.

Before the Civil War, Columbus was fast becoming the leading urban and industrial area in the South. At a population of 9,621 inhabitants Columbus was ranked 3rd among cities in Georgia, behind Savannah and Augusta, and 15th among all the cities in the Confederacy. At 8 o’clock on the night of April 16th, General Wilson launched a rare nighttime attack on the Columbus defenses. Confederate and Union forces met at the gun emplacements and small forts stretched along the Alabama side of the river. Darkness blanketed the battlefield, causing much confusion on both sides. Only the dim lights of Girard and the muzzle flashes from Union and Confederate weapons illuminated the ground. In the midst of the fighting, both forces made a desperate headlong run for the 14th Street Bridge at the same time. The retreating Confederates tried to get back to Georgia, while the Federals tried to capture the bridge to prevent its destruction. Since the bridge had no gas lines to provide light, the chaos reigned. What ensued was a crowded congregation of both Union and Confederate troops on the bridge. Confederate reinforcements could not see how to engage and, therefore, could not provide support. The final confrontation happened in front of the bridge on the Georgia side. Wilson took the 14th Street Bridge and the city shortly before midnight. He destroyed war-related industries in Columbus. The “Battle of Columbus” had taken place five days after General Robert E. Lee’s surrender (8th April) at Appomattox. Because the Civil War was being fought from Pennsylvania to Texas and New Mexico to Florida, there were many locations for skirmishes after the official closure of the war at Appomattox. Thus, Columbus’s 14th Street Bridge would become one of the last skirmishes of the Civil War along with Raleigh, North Carolina, Princeton Arkansas (29 April) and the skirmish at Palmito Ranch, Texas (12 May).

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The Mott House by April Lester



Historic American
Buildings Survey
Photograph by Harold
Bush-Brown Printed and
Enlarged by L.D. Andrew
May, 23, 1936 FRONT
CORNER VIEW - Griffin-
Mott House, Mott Street &
Front Avenue, Columbus,
Muscogee County, GA
Library of Congress Prints
and Photographs Division
Washington, D.C. 20540
USA

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/p.p.print>

Short Summary

Built by slave labor, the Mott House was completed in 1839 for James Calhoun who was both a mill owner and the city's mayor. Calhoun, a cousin to Vice-President John C. Calhoun, was one of the major land speculators who benefited from fraudulent claims to Creek land. James Calhoun later moved west and became Governor of the Territory of New Mexico. A subsequent owner, Colonel Randolph Mott, was both a Union sympathizer and a businessman who supplied Confederate troops. When Union General James Wilson took control of Columbus, Mott offered his home as Wilson's headquarters.

Extended Summary

The Mott House had three prominent individual owners in the nineteenth century: Calhoun, Griffin, and Mott. In 1839, the Mott House was built by James S. Calhoun on the east banks of the Chattahoochee River. James S. Calhoun, the second mayor of Columbus, built the structure for his family. Sparing no expense, Calhoun designed an elaborate red brick mansion that stands three stories high, signifying his family's status. Its features include Greek columns, a portico (front porch) with lacy iron railings, four chimneys, and a cupola with a picturesque view of the river. Cousin to Vice-President of the United States John Calhoun, Calhoun was one of the major land speculators who benefited from fraudulent claims to Creek land. Calhoun subsequently moved west and became Governor of the Territory of New Mexico. Calhoun served in Georgia's legislature, built a dam and factory in the city, was involved in banking and served as mayor of Columbus. Nancy, Calhoun's wife, would not enjoy the home for long, as she died on July 16, 1841. Calhoun eventually relocated and became the Governor of the Territory of New Mexico because of his close friendship with President Zachary Taylor.

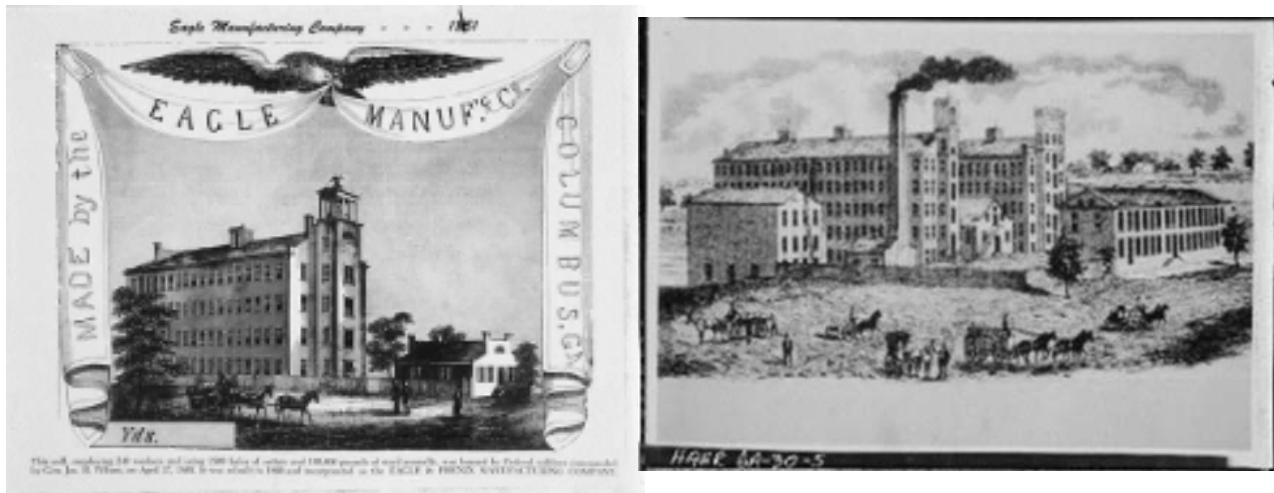
Around 1849, Daniel Griffin acquired the Calhoun home, as it was then called, for \$8,000. Sparing no expense, the Griffins decorated the home with silver and mahogany furniture. They held many lavish parties. Griffin, a civil engineer, was involved in the development of the telegraph line in the city. He added the house's mansard roof, which has four sloping sides, each becoming steeper halfway down. In addition, he created a landscaped garden that ran from the house to the water's edge. The garden included everything from camellias to gardenias and was often referred to as Mott's Green.

The Mott House played an important role in the Civil War. In 1865 Union General Wilson and his Raiders spared the destruction of the Mott House as its then owner, Colonel Randolph L. Mott, was a Unionist who kept a United States flag hung in his home. A successful businessman, Mott offered the house to Wilson to serve as the Union headquarters. In 1974 the Mott House was placed on the National Registry for Historic Places. TSYS, or Total System Services, Inc. now owns the Mott House. Established in 1959, TSYS is the 2nd largest credit card processor in the world.

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Worsley, E. (1951). Columbus on the Chattahoochee. Columbus, Georgia: Columbus Office Supply Co.

Eagle and Phenix Mill by Amanda Rees



Eagle & Phenix Mills, Front Street (1200-1300 Blocks), Columbus, Muscogee County, GA
Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA
<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print>

Short Summary (only)

Owned by William Young, the Eagle Mill was built in 1851. Throughout the city, seventy percent of the mill workers were women and children as they had small and more dexterous hands, and they were cheaper to hire. During the Civil War, Columbus became among the top five Confederate producers of war materials. The Eagle Mill produced gray uniform tweed, cotton duck for tents, cotton for army shirts, and cotton jeans. After being burned by Union troops, it was quickly rebuilt and renamed the Eagle and Phenix Mills. Celebrated as an impressive factory that produced a vast array of woolen and cotton items, the mill also saw tensions between workers and owners. In 1896 the mill weavers went on strike and formed the first local of the National Union of Textile Workers in the American South. In the post-Civil War period, African Americans were used as manual labor in the mill, but prior to the 1960s, they were not allowed to run mill machines. Twentieth century owners included Pillowtex and Fieldcrest. The mill closed in 2003.

Reference

The Historic American Engineering Record (HAER). (June 2, 1980). Columbus State University Archives, Columbus, GA. MC14 Collection, "Historic American Engineering Record Collection". Box 1, Folder 7. Footnotes, no. 2.

Damming the Chattahoochee River by Rodney Foskey



Hydroelectric Power
Development North
Highlands, Thirty-Eighth
Street on Chattahoochee
River, Columbus, Muscogee
County, GA (Courtesy
Library of Congress Prints
and Photographs Division
Washington, D.C. 20540
USA

[http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.
print](http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.pnp/pp.print)

Short Summary

The Chattahoochee River was an essential resource and reason in deciding where to locate the new city of Columbus, Georgia in 1828. The city soon witnessed the construction of five dams; this short summary will focus on three of those dams. As the city was established, the City Mills dam was built to capture power to grind corn and wheat and saw lumber for the growing community. It eventually generated electricity for the Columbus Railway Company. The second dam, completed in 1851 generated power for the Eagle Mill. The third dam is the North Highlands, which began generating power in 1900 for the Bibb City Mill. North Highlands Dam is still in operation today. In 2013, the City Mills and Eagle Mill dams were blown up to create the whitewater recreation course through the center of Columbus.

Extended Summary

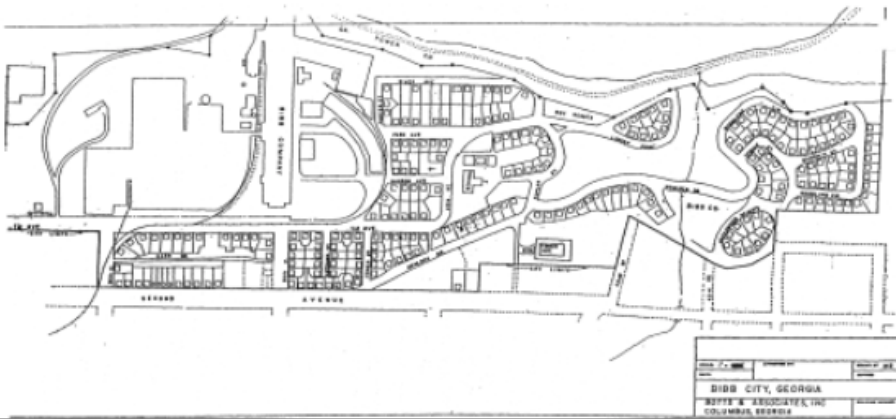
The location for Columbus was chosen in order to establish a new trading town that would utilize the Chattahoochee River for transportation to the Gulf of Mexico so that goods could be transported to the North and across the Atlantic. The river would also power Columbus' first mill (City Mills), founded started by Seaborn Jones in 1829. The mill ground wheat and corn and produced lumber. Subsequently, the mill generated electricity for the city's railway company. City Mills Dam was the first hydro-electric generating station in Columbus, Georgia.

The second hydro-electric generating station was established at Eagle Mill. The mill was built by William H. Young in 1851. The Eagle Mill was the largest textile producer south of Richmond, Virginia, by 1860. After its destruction at the hands of Federal troops in 1865, the Eagle Mill was rebuilt in 1866 and rechristened the Eagle and Phenix Mills because of its rebirth from the ashes of war (although the “O” would be dropped from name). The final dam, the North Highlands Dam, was built in 1900 to power the Bibb Mill, which produced textile products. North Highlands Dam is still in operation today, and the remains of the mill can still be seen adjacent to the dam.

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The Historic American Engineering Record (HAER). (June 2, 1890). Columbus State University Archives, Columbus, GA. MC14 Collection, “Historic American Engineering Record Collection”. Box 1, Folder 7. Footnotes, no. 2.

Bibb Mill & Mill Village by Ashley Terrell



Aerial View of Bibb City Mill and part of Bibb City (Industrial Index, March 12, 1924).
Map of Bibb Mill & surrounding mill village. (Courtesy Columbus State University Archives.)

Short Overview

Opened in 1902, the Bibb Mill used electrical power generated by the newly built North Highlands dam located next to it. Until 1998, Bibb City was a dynamic mill village with its own mayor and police force. The Bibb Mill provided for thousands of workers and their families by building and renting worker housing, and by offering recreational amenities such as a golf club and swimming pool. The mill, like others in the city, was racially segregated until the 1960s. The “Bibb,” as it was often referred to, was one of the largest cotton mills in the southeast. It ended production in 1998. On Halloween night 2008, a massive fire destroyed the Bibb City Mill, but the 200 mill village homes remain and offer a unique industrial mill village in the heart of Columbus.

Extended Summary

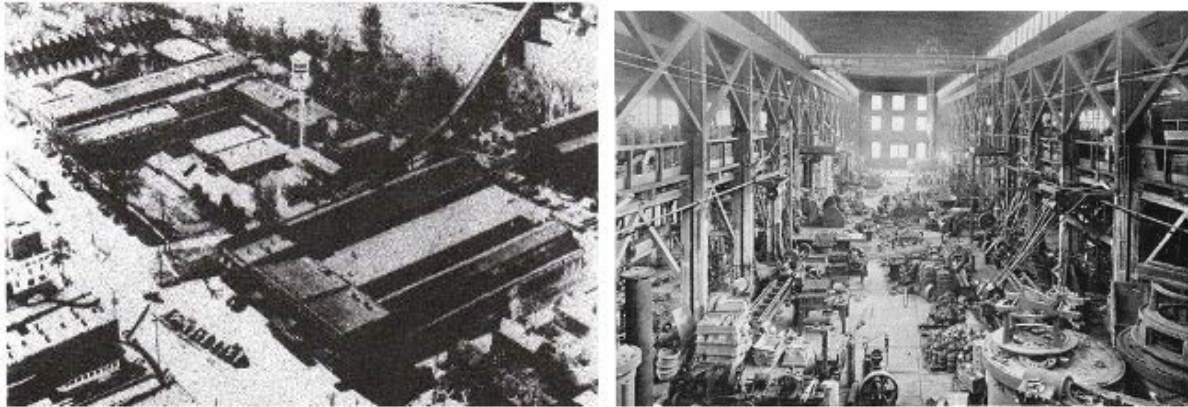
The Bibb Manufacturing Company, headquartered in Macon Georgia, purchased a dam site on the Chattahoochee River from Columbus Power Company and built the dam in 1900 to generate power for its latest factory, Bibb Mill. Between 1902 and 1998, the Bibb Mill and its attendant village functioned as a separate political entity, a city. Originating in 1876, the Bibb Manufacturing Company employed 700 workers by 1895 and processed 20,000 bales of cotton annually. The dam powered the mill which, at that time, was the largest cotton mill in the United States. Completely surrounded by the city of Columbus, Bibb City ran its own school, offered free kindergarten, and supported a small police force, all overseen by its mayor. Today Bibb City is part of the city of Columbus.

The mill, like others in the city, was racially segregated until the 1960s. Bibb City Mill began a slow decline the 1950s. Bibb Manufacturing closed its doors on March 20 1998. On Halloween night 2008 a massive fire destroyed the Bibb City Mill, but the 200 mill village homes remain and offer a unique industrial mill village in the heart of the city.

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Web site: <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/bibb-manufacturing-company> (Last accessed Web. 14 May 2014.)

Iron Works & the Arsenal by Christopher Lockhart



Columbus Iron Works, Front Avenue between Eighth & Tenth Streets, Columbus, Muscogee County, GA. (n.d.). [Photograph] Courtesy Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, HAER GA, 108-COLM, 22--30. Washington D.C.

Short Summary

After their founding in the mid-19th century, the Columbus Iron Works and One Arsenal Place manufactured agricultural tools for the local plantation economy. By 1860 the Iron Works manufactured a wide variety of merchandise: kettles and ovens; brass castings; cast-iron columns and store fronts; sugar, a grist, and saw mills; and steam engines to power these mills, cotton gins, and riverboats. During the Civil War, these facilities became a lead producer of textiles and gunboat parts for the Confederate navy. After Union troops burned these important industrial targets at the close of the war, they were quickly rebuilt and subsequently produced industrial ice machines and, more recently, Char-Broil grills. In 1975, the city of Columbus decided to convert the Iron Works into a Convention and Trade Center, and it is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places. One Arsenal Place is home to Columbus State University's departments of History and Geography, Art, and Theatre.

Extended Summary

In June 1862, the Confederate Navy leased the Columbus Iron Works. James H. Warner, formerly a Chief Engineer in the U.S. Navy, converted the C. S. (Columbus) Naval Iron Works into the largest manufacturer of naval machinery within the Confederacy. Its engines and boilers drove at least half of the steam-powered vessels built by the Confederacy, including the gunboat Chattahoochee and the ironclad Muscogee. (Portions of the Chattahoochee's engines, extremely

rare Civil War artifacts, are preserved at the National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus). The C.S. Naval Yard, a separate organization, built the Muscogee in cooperation with the adjacent C.S. Naval Iron Works. Workers from both facilities joined other militia units who tried to prevent General James Wilson from capturing Columbus on the night of April 16, 1865. The next morning, eight days after Robert E. Lee's surrender, Union troops burned the city's cotton warehouses, the Muscogee, and all the war-related industries, which collectively had supplied the Confederacy with more manufactured goods than any other city besides Richmond.

The company's location gave it access to customers both within the city and, because of its proximity to the riverboat landing, within the rich agricultural region to the south. The firm sold finished lumber as well as mill and building supplies in each area. Its tremendous volume of agricultural products, plows, cane mills, cotton screws, and other implements led to the creation of a subsidiary, the Southern Plow Company, in 1877. Using the skills developed during the war, the Iron Works continued to fabricate a wide range of steam engines for plantations, mills and riverboats. By 1880, only the Columbus Iron Works was manufacturing steam engines within Georgia.

The technique which the company perfected while building steam engines allowed it to become a pioneer in the refrigeration industry. In 1872, the Iron Works, directed by George J. Golden, erected the city's first ice machines, but similar devices were already operating in other southern cities. The Columbus Iron Works, however, was one of three companies within the United States to begin mass-producing ice machines in the early 1880's. For the next twenty years, the Iron Works produced the nation's best selling ammonia-absorption machines. Its H. D. Stratton models (which froze from 3 to 100 tons of ice per day) were installed in ice plants throughout the U.S., Latin America, and Canada (at prices ranging from \$4,400 to \$45,500).

On April 11, 1902, the Columbus Iron Works burned. Within the two-block complex only the 1890s foundry survived. Undaunted by this second destruction, the owners built the massive new facility, which remained unchanged for sixty-five years. In the foundry (now the South Hall), molten iron from the cupola furnace was poured every day into hundreds of sand molds that lined the floor. In the machine shop (now the North Hall), ice machines, steam engines, stoves, cane mills, and hundreds of other products were machined and assembled. In the power house, farther to the north, a steam engine (until 1930) turned the plant's electrical generator. The building beyond the railroad trestle housed the shops of the Southern Plow Company.

In 1975, the city of Columbus decided to convert the southern portion of the Columbus Iron Works into a Convention and Trade Center. The importance of the site had already been

recognized in 1969 by its inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1978, as part of the Columbus Historic Riverfront Industrial District (which also includes Bibb City, Muscogee, Eagle & Phenix Mills), the Columbus Iron Works was declared a National Historic Landmark. The transformation of the building, with Rozier Dedwylder as the architect, began in 1977 with funds provided by a local beverage tax and federal grants. The \$8 million cost was probably \$4 million less than a new building with the same space. This revitalized structure will serve as a model for future adaptive re-use projects.

Today, One Arsenal Place is utilized by Columbus State University for faculty offices for the departments of History and Geography, Art, and Theatre. The building also provides classrooms and student housing. Both the Iron Works and One Arsenal Place remain valuable components to their community, possessing a similar impact as they once had on the development of Columbus throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

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Phenix City Story by Logan Copley



[unidentified author]. (n.d.). No Title [image]. Hugh Bentley/Phenix City Cleanup SMC 20. Courtesy Columbus State University Archives.

Short Summary

In the first half of the twentieth century, Phenix City, Alabama, became a notorious haven of crime. Prohibition in Alabama began in 1915 (ended in 1933) and Phenix City developed as a large-scale alcohol manufacturing and distribution hub, along with gambling and prostitution. Widespread voting fraud maintained the criminal syndicate's control over the city, and it became known as "sin city." Local soldiers arriving at Fort Benning for basic training often fell victim to Phenix City's vice trade. One local lawyer, James Albert Patterson, ran for attorney general in Alabama to challenge the criminal syndicate that controlled the city. Shot three times on the streets of Phenix City (1954), Patterson's murder investigation exposed the depth of corruption. Martial law was established in the community, and within six months, the city had been cleaned up. The Hollywood film noir movie, *The Phenix City Story* premiered the following year (1955), helping to capture that period in dramatic fashion.

Extended Summary

If Columbus could have been called the mother-in-law of the Army, Phenix City could be called the mistress of the military. Phenix City, from its founding, was an independent, extralegal territory occupied by Creek Indians and white fugitives. Early in the twentieth century, powerful criminals asserted their influence to take control of the city. Soon the city was filled with brothels, gambling houses, and alcohol manufacturing and distribution centers. Rampant criminality was the doleful juxtaposition to Columbus's burgeoning economy and textile industry, even as it housed many of the mill workers from the Eagle and Phenix mill. The dangers to soldiers in Phenix City prompted General George Patton to threaten to raze the city with tanks.

City officials were coerced, selected, and rejected on the whim of the crime organization's leaders, such as Hoyt Shepherd. Though a criminal syndicate, he controlled city politics, its citizens were not uniformly supportive. Many residents, such as business owner Hugh Bentley, worked at the grass roots for change. Local attorney Albert Patterson also took on a central role in challenging the entrenched power brokers in the city. Patterson was a decorated and wounded World War II veteran who decided to run for election as the state of Alabama's attorney general. He vowed to "clean up" up "sin city." Soon after his primary victory, Patterson was assassinated in the streets of Phenix City.

Patterson's murder investigation exposed the depth of corruption. Martial law was established in the community by Governor Gordon Persons, who sent in the Alabama National Guard to take over law enforcement. The governor also sent in special prosecutors, as well as special agents from the Alabama Department of Public Safety (what is now the Alabama Bureau of Investigation), to investigate the murder. Within seven months, a special grand jury brought 734 indictments. The indictments included charges against many law enforcement officers, local business owners, and elected officials. The Hollywood film noir movie *The Phenix City Story* premiered the next year (1955), helping to capture the period in dramatic fashion.

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Chase Homes by Amanda Rees



108 residences are included in the Chase Homes developed along the bank of the Chattahoochee River. Source: The Housing Authority of Columbus, Georgia [online]
<http://www.columbushousing.org>

Short Summary (only)

Completed in 1952, the 108 brick apartments on the east side of the Chattahoochee were given the name Chase Homes. This public housing development was named after Louis T. Chase, a musician who directed the Columbus Symphony. Chase was also president of the Chase Conservatory in Columbus that trained high school and college students. Chase Homes is part of a larger city district called City Village that runs along the banks of the Chattahoochee from the North Highlands dam to the 14th street pedestrian bridge.

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Columbus at Play by Hart Mizell



A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium - football (constructed in 1916). [Online] Columbus Parks and Recreation Department. Source: <https://www.columbusga.gov/parks/southcommons/southcommons.htm>



Golden Park Stadium – baseball (original 1926) [Online] Columbus Parks and Recreation Department. Source: <https://www.columbusga.gov/parks/southcommons/southcommons.htm>



Jonathan Hatcher Skateboard Park. Established [Online] Columbus Parks and Recreation Department. Source: <https://www.columbusga.gov/parks/southcommons/southcommons.htm>

Short Summary

From the Creek game of stickball (from which the game of lacrosse developed) in the nineteenth century along the banks of the river, to the twenty-first century whitewater rafting, Columbus' recreation history is rich and colorful. Recreation occurred at South Commons, just outside the historic downtown. In 1834, the city hosted horse races at the Chattahoochee Course. The races would continue into the twentieth century. By 1887, this racetrack housed a grandstand holding

5000 people. The city's first professional baseball team arrived in 1884, and its baseball stadium, Golden Park, was built in 1926. Today, South Commons is home to the A.J. McClung Memorial Stadium (1916), which has hosted and continues to host several annual collegiate football games, including the Georgia-Auburn game until 1958. It currently hosts the annual Tuskegee-Morehouse Classic. In 1996 the city built a softball complex and welcomed Atlanta Olympic softball events. That year also saw construction of the Columbus Civic Center, which is home to the Columbus Cottonmouths hockey team.

Extended Summary

Recreation existed in the Columbus area far before its founding. Native Americans had been playing stickball, the grandfather sport of modern-day lacrosse, at nearby Fort Mitchell in Alabama well before the establishment of Columbus in 1828. As early as 1834, the city hosted horse races at the Chattahoochee Course. By 1887, this racetrack housed a grandstand holding 5000 people. It remained a functioning racecourse deep into the twentieth century.

Columbus first played host to a professional baseball team in 1884 and would continue to host a team until 2008, making it one of the oldest and longest-lasting host cities in the South. In 1906 a field would be constructed near downtown Columbus, and in 1926 Golden Park Stadium would be erected. Golden Park is one of the oldest professional baseball stadiums in Georgia. Many famous baseball players, such as Hank Aaron, Mickey Mantle, Jackie Robinson, Babe Ruth, and local legend and Columbus High alumnus Frank Thomas, have played there. The team was named the Columbus Stars in 1884, and went through over ten names until the Columbus Catfish team left in 2008.

In 1996, in preparation for hosting the softball portion of the Atlanta Olympics, a new softball complex at South Commons would be completed. Extensive renovations to Golden Park would also be made. Golden Park would host both medal games, with the USA capturing the gold medal over China. In addition to the softball and baseball renovations, South Commons would also witness the construction of the Columbus Civic Center in 1996. With the construction of the Civic Center came Columbus's first professional hockey team, the Columbus Cottonmouths.

The most prominent form of recreation in Columbus, Georgia, is fishing. Fishing, whether in reference to the sport of fishing or just to the act itself, is widely popular among Columbus residents. While fishing may find its roots in the necessity of putting food on the tables of local families, it has since developed into a fixture of local recreation. The most notable of these bodies of water is the Chattahoochee River, which flows to the west of South Commons and creates the state line between Georgia and Alabama.

Part of the South Commons area is the Johnathan Hatcher Skateboarding Park. Hatcher was a student at Columbus State University when he died in 2005. Hatcher had been an advocate for a skate park in Columbus, working with the Columbus Youth Advisory Council until his death. Skateboarding is still consistently used as a casual form of recreation amongst the local youth and adults.

Walking and biking have become mainstays in the recreational life of those residents in the downtown area. With the creation of the RiverWalk bordering the Chattahoochee River, Columbus citizens have a premier walking track from which they can fully enjoy the views provided by the river while maintaining close proximity to the city center. In addition to the RiverWalk, there is also an extensive paved bicycle path that extends from the Downtown area of Columbus up into North.

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*Color Map of Chattahoochee River Whitewater and History by
Juli Yoder*



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