## **Today in Columbus History:**

On Tuesday, March 3, 1886, the Columbus City Council met, and Alderman Joseph S. Garrett introduced an ordinance to change the names of the streets running north and south through Columbus. This was the second reading and the ordinance passed. This followed a similar change to the streets running east and west the year before. After almost sixty years, the grid-patterned streets of Columbus adopted the numbered avenues and streets that we know today. The *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun* announced the change the next day. Notices followed for several days. As this was the second name change within a year, people were used to the idea. At least one person voiced the opinion that it was not the names that needed fixing. The editor of the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun* stated: "Changing the names of the streets will not make the ditches cleaner." However, the new names were here to stay.

Not every street name changed. Like the east-west streets Church and Chapel, the north-south streets of Broad, Bay, and Short Streets remained. Although Broad Street eventually became Broadway in the late 1920's. The street names were not the only thing that changed at this Council meeting. They also changed the numbering of buildings. Notices for this change accompanied the name change notice and continued until mid-April. For genealogists and local historians, it is important to know when these changes happened. You can end up in the wrong place using the naming and numbering from a pre-1886 record to determine a current location. This is particularly true where First Avenue changed to Seventh Avenue; Second Avenue changed to Eighth Avenue, and so on.

Alderman Joseph Simpson Garrett was a local whiskey dealer and did business under the name J.S. Garrett & Sons or simply Garrett & Sons. He was originally from North Carolina and married Virginia Heard in Columbus in 1858. They had eight children but only four were living by 1900. He became an alderman in 1885 in a special election to replace J. W. Woolfolk, who had resigned. Garrett remained on the City Council until 1890. After living in Columbus for many years, Garrett moved to Midland by 1910, when it was known as Steam Mill. Garrett lived to the ripe old age of 92, dying in 1923. He is buried along with his wife in Whitley Cemetery in Midland. They named Garrett Road out in Midland in his honor.

Compiled by Daniel A. Bellware, Muscogee Genealogical Society

Clipping from Georgia Historic Newspapers (GALILEO).

Our weekly snippets of Columbus history are usually based on a few days-worth of searching through the most popular sources for Muscogee County history. Meant to inspire readers to explore more about Columbus history, they are not exhaustive dissertations on the topic and may contain mistakes. If you have corrections or additional information, feel free to share them with the group.



Street signs in the Historic District, notice that Chapel Street never changed (Photo credit: Daniel A. Bellware)



Headline from the article on the City Council meeting that mentions "An Ordinance Changing Streets to Avenues" from the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, March 4, 1886, <a href="https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/">https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/</a>.

## ORDINANCE CHANGING NAMES OF STREETS.

It is ordained by the City Council of the city of Columbus that the name of

Oglethorpe street be changed to

First avenue,

Jackson street be changed to Second avenue,

Troup street be changed to Third avenue

Forsyth street be changed to Fourth avenue.

McIntosh street be changed to Fifth avenue.

Mercer street be changed to Sixth avenue,

First avenue be changed to Seventh avenue.

Second avenue be changed to Eighth avenue,

Third avenue be changed to Ninth avenue.

Fourth avenue be changed to Tenth avenue

Adopted in Council March 3d, 1886

M M MOORE, Clerk Council

## ORDINANCE IN RELATION TO NUMBERING HOUSES, ETC.

It is ordained by the City Council of the city of Columbus,

First, That all the business houses and dwellings situated within the corporate limits of the city of Columbus shall be numbered according to the plan or system here inafter described.

Second. The initial or staring lines shall be fixed on Broad street north from First street and east and west from Broad street, and allowing 100 numbers to each block

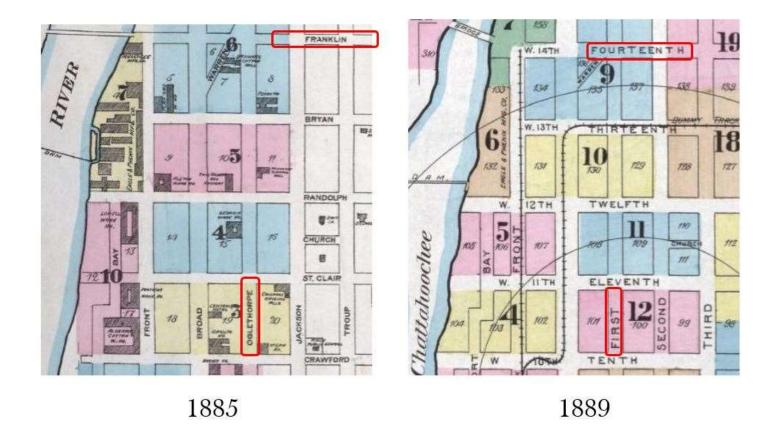
Third, The even numbers shall be put on the right side of the streets and the odd numbers on the left side of the streets, allowing not more than twenty five feet to each number, and the figures shall not be less than two and a quarter inches high.

Fourth, It shall be the duty of the chief of police to see that all new buildings which may hereafter be erected or changes in the fronts of buildings already erected shall be supplied with the number or numbers to which they shall be en titled under this ordinance by the owners thereof, and in all cases the figures shall correspond with the plan or system herein contained.

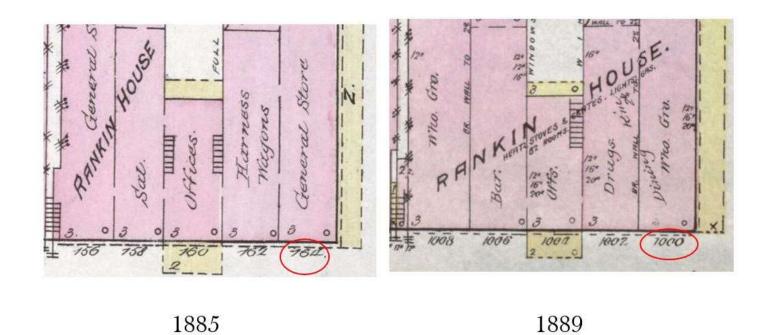
Adopted in Council March 3d,

CLIFF B GRIMES, Mayor, M M MOORE, Clerk Council.

Notice of ordinances changing street names and numbers *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, March 5, 1886, <a href="https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/">https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/</a>.



Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps showing the street names in 1885 and 1889. The highlights show where Franklin changed to Fourteenth and Oglethorpe changed to First Avenue.



Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps showing that 164 Broad in 1885 changed to 1000 Broad in 1889.



Full page ad for the "Belle of Bourbon" placed by Garrett & Sons, from the March 26, 1887 *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/.

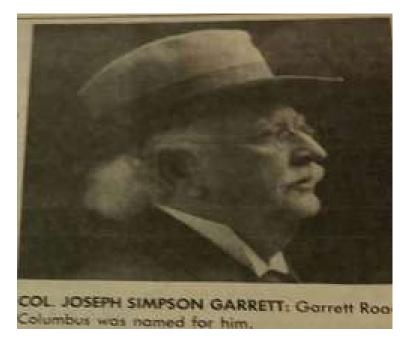


Photo of Joseph S. Garrett from FindAGrave.com

Changing the names of strests will not make the ditches cleaner; and good men deserve better things than having dirty streets named for them.

Commentary from the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, April 17, 1886, https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/.