

Today in Columbus History:

On April 11, 1880, the *Columbus Daily Times* ran a story advertising the "Grand Fete Champetre," a garden party, at the home of Mrs. Hines Holt in Wynnton. Although the story doesn't mention it, the purpose was to raise money for the new public library. Both the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun* and the *Columbus Daily Times* also ran notices for ladies interested in the party to meet at Mrs. Holt's home at 5 p.m. that day, as well, presumably to plan the event.

Mrs. Holt was the former Sarah Perry and widow of Hines Holt II, whom she married in May 1838. He was an attorney and former Georgia congressman, state senator, Confederate congressman, and delegate to the Georgia Constitutional Convention in Milledgeville in 1865. He died while attending the convention on November 4. The Holt home is known today as the Wynn House. Hines Holt purchased it in 1855 from Henry Hurt who purchased it in 1852 from the original owner Col. William L. Wynn.

The garden party followed an amateur performance of *Red Riding Hood*, a musical stage production at the Springer Opera House, managed by Lila Howard with the assistance of Emma Moffitt Tyng, a former Columbus resident who was visiting from New York. In this version of the story, the Fairy Queen, played by Stella O'Brien banishes the Wolf, played by James Benet. Sallie Preer played *Red Riding Hood* with Addie Mason playing her little sister along with a host of supporting characters. The performance received good reviews and raised about one hundred and fifty dollars for the library. The shoe store of J. Marion Estes also did a brisk business in elegant slippers for the girls performing in the show.

One feature of the Grand Fete Champetre was a reception that included some of the characters from the *Red Riding Hood* play, including *Red Riding Hood* and "Mrs. General Ulysses S. Grant, in full toilet." Other activities included a toxophilite gallery (archery), croquet and other games, swinging, and dancing to Prof. H. W. Card's Orchestra. An omnibus provided transportation for the partygoers from St. Luke church, ferrying them to the event for 15 cents (10 cents for children).

Petitioners for the new library read like a *Who's Who* of Columbus and included G. Gunby Jordon, Geo P Swift, A. O. Blackmar, John King, Lionel Levy, W. A. Little, J. J. Slade, F. W. Golden, John Peabody, Cliff Grimes, J. Rhodes Browne, and others. The paper published the application for the new library's charter in several editions. There had a previous Library Association in the 1870s that failed to catch on.

The local newspapers rated the party was an overall success. Although it had a slow start, things picked up in afternoon. Prof. Card's Orchestra kept the partygoers dancing into the night with the grounds lit with festive colored lanterns. The papers also assumed it was a financial success, but they failed to report the amount raised from this event.

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.

GRAND FETE CHAMPETRE

In the grounds and woods adjoining the residence of Mrs. Hines Holt, in Wynnton, Saturday, April 17th.

Reception of Red Riding Hood party and Mrs. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in full toilet, from 3 to 10 p. m. in the parlors.

Omnibus and Hack Line from St. Luke Methodist Church yard, going and returning every 25 minutes, capable of accommodating 50 persons each time, from nine o'clock. Fare, 10c. for round trip for children; for adults, 15c.

Admittance to the grounds, 10c.; to reception, 10c.; Vehicles of every kind including baby carriages, 10c.; Velocipedes free; Equestrians, 15c.

Toxophilite Gallery, 5c.

Games, Swinging, &c., free.

Card's Orchestra has been engaged. Dancing in parlors, on platform and on the green with May Pole. Music, Vocal and Instrumental, everywhere.

Police to insure from intrusion.

Refreshments and flowers in great variety.

Tickets at the Book and Drug Stores.

ap18 3t

From the *Columbus Daily Times*, April 11, 1880, <https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>.



Mrs. Sarah (Perry) Holt from Find A Grave.com, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/34284214/sarah-ann_charlotte-holt

Those Interested in Fete Next Saturday.

The ladies interested in the Fete Champetre, are requested to meet at the residence of Mrs. Holt on Monday, 5 o'clock, P. M.

From the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, April 11, 1880, <https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>.

"Red Riding Hood."

This entertainment for the benefit of the public library will be given at Springer Opera House to-night. The sale of seats has been very good, and no doubt the house will be crowded. The following is the programme:

Characters—Red Riding Hood, Little Sister, Mother, Wolf, Fairy Queen, attendants, Heralds and carnival characters.

Scene I—Introduction and chorus of Fairies. The queen warns them of a monster hiding in the wood, and invokes their protection for Little Red Riding Hood. They promise obedience and join in dancing "May Pole Dance," and depart singing, "Naught shall harm the good of earth."

Scene II—Dialogue and duett between Mother and Red Riding Hood. Mother sending gifts of fruit and "pot of butter" to sick grandmother.

Scene III—Wolf enters the wood, intercepts Red Riding Hood—dialogue and hurries on to "get to Granny's house before you do." Fairy Queen and attendants on his track. She bids her fairies fly to hunt them, and sings, "Oh, I am a Fairy Queen."

Scene IV—Wolf personating Granny, after having devoured her, bids Red Riding Hood "pull the bobbins." Dialogue. Song by Little Sister, "To Cheer His Rheumatiz." Red Riding Hood begins to investigate long ears, big eyes, etc. Wolf springs at her to show the mission of his teeth. Enter Fairy Queen and attendants, who dismiss him, wounded and disgraced to the woods. In honor of the rescue she proclaims a fete.

Scene V—A carnival, fairy tableaux, singing, presentations, dancing, chorus, "Follow, Follow in Delight."

From the *Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*, March 31, 1880, <https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>.

Beautiful Show Case.

One of the prettiest sights in the city is the show case displaying the elegant line of Slippers just received by Mr. J. Marion Estes. It contains the most beautiful line of Slippers ever brought to Columbus, and are sold at remarkably low figures. They are the dot for the girls taking part in Little Red Riding Hood, and already Mr. Estes has sold a dozen pairs to the amateurs.

Ad for slippers tied to the Red Riding Hood show from the *Columbus Daily Times*, March 30, 1880, <https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/>.

GEORGIA, MUSCOGEE COUNTY:

In re } Application for Charter
G. Gunby Jordan } In Muscogee Superior Court,
et al. } May Term, 1880.

STATE OF GEORGIA, Muscogee County.

To the Honorable Superior Court of Said County:

THE petition of G Gunby Jordan, L Meyer, George P Swift, A O Blackmar, John King, C M Kinsey, Lionel C Levy, James A Barnett, Joseph Hanserd, J J Slade, F W Golden, J O A Cook, Cliff B Grimes, J Rhodes Browne, John Peabody, Thomas K Wynne and William A Little, respectfully shows that they are citizens of said State and county and desire with such other persons as may be associated with them, to be made a body corporate under the name of "The Columbus Public Library," with all the rights powers and privileges which are in law incident to corporations of like character.

Your petitioners further show that the object of their association is to establish and locate a Public Library, to provide and maintain such a collection of books, magazines, newspapers, periodicals and other publications as may be considered useful, instructive or entertaining, together with such works of art, ornament and design, maps, charts, &c., as they may be able to procure and by the use of any other consistent means to afford opportunities for the dissemination of knowledge and the encouragement of letters.

Your petitioners further show that they desire said Library to be located in the city of Columbus in said State and county.

Your petitioners further show that the objects of the r association being purely to promote the intellectual advancement of members and subscribers, and not for the purpose of pecuniary gain, that they have no capital stock and none to be paid in, but rely upon donations from individuals and the public, subscriptions among themselves and associates, together with fees and dues from members and subscribers for the supply of means to furnish such books and other property as may be held by said Columbus Public Library

Your petitioners further show that they desire the period of their incorporation to be twenty years, with the privilege of renewal and amendment of their charter as may be necessary from time to time. The premises being considered your Petitioners pray that after the notice and advertisement hereof as by the statute provided, that an order be passed declaring this application granted under section 1676 of the code of Georgia and such acts as may be amendatory thereof and that your petitioners and their associates may become a body corporate as herein set forth, with power to contract and be contracted with; to sue and be sued; to have and use a common seal; to have, hold, enjoy and use all such real and personal property as may be needful or requisite to carry out the objects of their incorporation and increase the usefulness of the same, with the privilege of alienating and encumbering said property at their pleasure for the purpose of promoting the general design and prosperity of said Public Library: to receive and hold donations of real and personal property; to make and prescribe by-laws, rules and regulations for the government and protection of said Library and its property; to prescribe fees for the use of books and papers, and impose and collect dues; to appoint or elect such officers and agents for the management and control of said Library and its property as may be deemed necessary and generally, to do and perform all such things consistent with law, as will best promote the objects herein contemplated.

And your petitioners will ever prayer, &c.
WM. A LITTLE,

Attorney for Petitioners.

GEORGIA, Muscogee County.

Filed in the Clerk's office of the Superior Court of said county, February 27th, 1880.

GEO. Y. POND,

feb29law4w

Clerk S. C. M. C., Ga.