

## Today in Columbus History:

On October 7, 1879, an article appeared in the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun* under the title "Will Fight No More" announcing the death of a chicken. However, this was not just any chicken. This particular bird, apparently known as "Shake Bag Hero" was a shawl neck of the fighting variety. The fame of this chicken was such that the Weekly Messenger and Telegraph in Macon reported its death, as well.

Cockfighting predates Roman times and was one of many blood-sports engaged in by them. The practice was legal in Georgia in 1879 and is legal in some parts of the world, today (including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands). Even where it is illegal, there are still those who breed game-fowl for show purposes. President Grover Cleveland (elected in 1884 and 1892) and his wife Frances kept shawl neck chickens as pets in the White House stable.

The \$1,000 fight mentioned may refer to a fight in New Orleans between Kentucky birds and Georgia shawl necks that took place in February of that year. The results of that fight appeared on the front page of the February 25, 1879 Columbus Enquirer. Cockfighting was legal in Louisiana until 2008.

A "shake-bag" was a type of fight where the handler turns the bird out of a bag to begin the fight. Evidently, Captain Moore's bird excelled at this. The gaffs mentioned were artificial spurs attached to the birds' legs to enhance their ability to damage and possibly kill their opponents.

The bird's owner, Capt. Tiffany T. Moore, commonly known as Tiff Moore was born in Alabama in 1838. He was the son of James Sackett Moore, a New York merchant who came to Columbus in 1832 and died in March 1879 (the same year as his son's chicken). Tiff Moore was a well-connected member of Columbus society. His brother was M. M. (Montague Montgomery) Moore, the clerk of the city council whose wife was the sister of city attorney John Peabody. He was a photographer by trade but held various positions in law enforcement later in life.

Tiff Moore was appointed interim sheriff in March 1875, following the death of sheriff H. G. Ivey. However, he lost an election to the sheriff's son the next month. During his brief time in office, Moore had charge of the prisoners accused in the murder of Orlando Holland – police officers W. L. Cash and Tom McEachern and Cash's brother Babe. After losing the election, Moore joined the city police and was elected captain by the city council in May 1875. Moore ran for the office of Marshal in 1876 and won, keeping that position for several years. Chickens were not his only pasttime. He was also involved in another popular blood-sport in Columbus, using pistols.

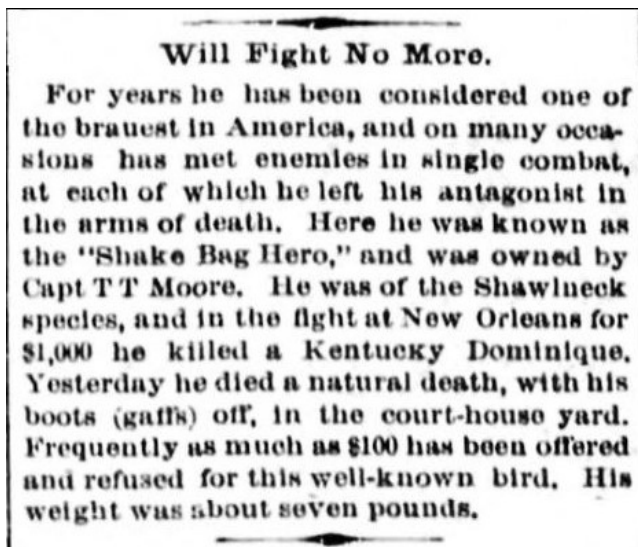
Tiff Moore's story does not end as peacefully as that of his bird. He was murdered in Columbus on Christmas Eve in 1884 at the hands of Harry Holland and Dave Bishop. An argument broke out between Moore and Holland at the Middlebrook's bar across from the Perry House. After a loud exchange of words, one punch landed and one gun drawn, the parties went their separate ways. They reconvened a short while later at the same bar. This time all three drew guns and fired. Moore was hit three times and staggered into the back room to die while Holland and Bishop fled across the river.

As noted in a Savannah paper, it was the third death in a years-long feud dating back the death of Harry's father, Orlando Holland in 1875, followed by Colonel W. L. Salisbury in 1878. While Salisbury and Moore were not directly involved in the original murder of Orlando Holland, their support for the other side put them in the cross hairs of the Holland family. Unlike the previous two killings, this one never went to trial. The grand jury refused to indict Holland.

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.*



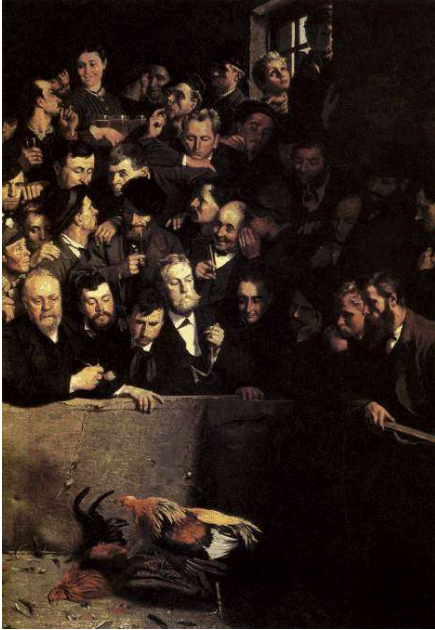
Article from *Columbus Enquirer-Sun*, October 7, 1879, courtesy of Georgia Historic Newspapers (Galileo)



Roman mosaic courtesy of Wikipedia.org: Naples National Archaeological Museum / Public domain



Gaff or Cock-spur used in Phillipines (1879) courtesy of Wikipedia.org, Henry Nottidge Moseley, Challenger Expedition / Public domain



Cock Fight in Flanders by Emile Claus (1882) courtesy of Wikipedia.org

From the *Enquirer* we learn of another hero who has gone to his rest:  
For years he has been considered one of the bravest in America, and on many occasions has met enemies in single combat, at each of which he left his antagonist in the arms of death. Here he was known as the "Shake Bag Hero," and was owned by Capt. T. T. Moore. He was of the Shawneck species, and in the fight at New Orleans for \$1,000 he killed a Kentucky Dominique. Yesterday he died a natural death, with his boots (gaffs) off, in the Court-house yard. Frequently as much as \$100 has been offered and refused for this well known bird. His weight was about seven pounds.

Article from *Georgia Weekly Telegraph and Georgia Journal & Messenger*, October 14, 1879, courtesy of Georgia Historic Newspapers (Galileo)

No arrests have been made at Columbus in the Moore and Holland homicide case as yet. Mr. Holland, it is ascertained, received a bullet in the left shoulder, where it is now imbedded. Mr. Holland states that he is ready for trial when called on, and will deliver himself up. Dave Bishop, one of the participants, is reported to have fled. The difficulty was the result of a feud, all arising first from the killing of Col. Land Holland, the father of Harry Holland, several years since, by W. L. Cash, which the Hollands claim Mr. Moore was indirectly a party to. This makes three men who have been killed from this first cause—Col. Land Holland, Maj. W. L. Salisbury and Capt. T. T. Moore.

Article from the *Savannah Morning News*, December 28, 1884, courtesy of Georgia Historic Newspapers (Galileo)