

Today in Columbus History: On Sunday, May 6, 1888, the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun* announced the death of Mrs. Lucy McNorton, a member of St. Luke Methodist Church. According to the article, Mrs. McNorton died of **ice cream poisoning**. In the late nineteenth century, with advances in refrigeration, ice cream became more popular – and cases of ice cream poisoning became more common. The poisoning was caused by bacteria of one sort or another in the product. In Columbus, in the summer of 1893, an entire family of six people, the Colliers, were poisoned after eating contaminated ice cream; two of them – the father and a daughter – died.

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Our 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.

Clipping from Georgia Historic Newspapers (GALILEO).

<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>

Died From Ice Cream Poisoning.

Mrs. Lucy McNorton died at the residence of her brother-in-law, Mr. J. M. Waddail, of Girard, at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Mrs. McNorton is one of the patients poisoned by eating ice cream last Sunday night. She was fifty-six years old, and was a devout member of St. Luke Methodist church, in this city. The family have the sincere sympathy of their many friends.