

Today in Columbus History: On Thursday, May 15, 1884, the following ad appeared in *The Columbus Daily Enquirer-Sun*. It announced a one-night performance at the Springer Opera House of a "powerful society drama" featuring actress Louise Rial (1850 – 1940). Rial, whose acting career began in 1878, when she appeared in "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Rial was active in theater until about 1915, when she began working in silent movies as a supporting actress. She was in "Sin," a 1915 film starring Theda Bara. The magnificent Springer Theatre had opened its doors early in 1871; it had been built by local grocery merchant Francis Joseph Springer, a native of Alsace. Throughout the end of the 19th century and into the early 1900s it featured class acts, including Tom Wiggins (Blind Tom), Edwin Booth, Oscar Wilde, Tom Thumb, Booker T. Washington, John Philip Sousa, Lily Langtry and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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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>

SPRINGER OPERA HOUSE.
For One Night Only
Monday, May 19th.
The last Dramatic Event of the season 1883
and 1884,
The Latest Parisian Success!
A powerful Society Drama in 4 acts,
A Life's Atonement
Presented by the young, handsome and
accomplished actress,
MISS LOUISE RIAL.
The talented young Southern Actor (a
graduate of the Military College
of Georgia),
MR. JAMES NEILL,
And a select company of actors and actresses.
Rich, elegant and costly wardrobe,
every accessory supplied to attain a per-
fect representation of this the strongest
society drama of modern times.
Scale of prices as usual. Reserved seats
now on sale at Chamberlains. my15 4t



Louise Rial around 1878 -- advertisement for "Uncle Tom's Cabin." From Worthpoint.com.