

Today in Columbus History: On Wednesday, May 19, 1858, *The Daily Sun* announced D.P. Ellis's "Silver Enterprise" – basically, a raffle. In a few days, Ellis came out with an announcement that "due to "circumstances beyond my control," he was postponing the enterprise until June 26. Curiously, there was no follow-up in the paper regarding the winners. D. P. was actually Davenport Phelps Ellis, born in 1814 in New York. By 1839 he had moved to Columbus, where he opened an auction house. He married Martha Osborne in 1848. The family lived in Wynnton from the 1850s till the 1870s, but then moved to Atlanta. Martha died there in 1883 and D.P., in 1886. They are both buried in Atlanta's historic Oakland Cemetery. BTW, D.P. had a brother named Roswell Ellis who married Lizzie Rutherford, the woman credited with starting Confederate Memorial Day.

Compiled by Callie McGinnis, Muscogee Genealogical Society

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>

SILVER GIFT ENTERPRISE.
DRAWS 25th MAY NEXT.

BESIDES many useful and valuable prizes in my Scheme, the following prizes are especially desirable:

1 Silver Eperque, (cost originally \$1,000,)...	\$800
1 Fine Gold Repeating Watch.....	310
1 Fine Magic Case Watch.....	240
1 Rosewood Piano (cost 650).....	450
1 Silver Water Urn.....	310
1 Mechanical Clock.....	160
1 Silver Dish, with cover.....	125
2 Silver Dishes, with covers, (each \$110,).....	220
1 Set English plated Dish Covers.....	85
2 Silver Wine Stands, (each \$93,).....	186
1 Lady's Gold Hunting Case Watch.....	50
1 Silver Butter Stand.....	75
2 Silver Cake Baskets (each \$75,).....	150
2 Silver Pitchers, (each \$75,).....	150
212 Valuable Prizes, (no trinkets.)	

TICKETS FIVE DOLLARS.

Send in your orders soon, as there will be no postponement.
Columbus, April 27-td

D. P. ELLIS,
Manager.



The ad lists a "silver eperque," originally purchased for \$1,000.00. No doubt referring to an "epergne" -- a large table centerpiece with containers for flowers, food or candles. Here's a picture of an antique silver epergne. (Wikipedia).