

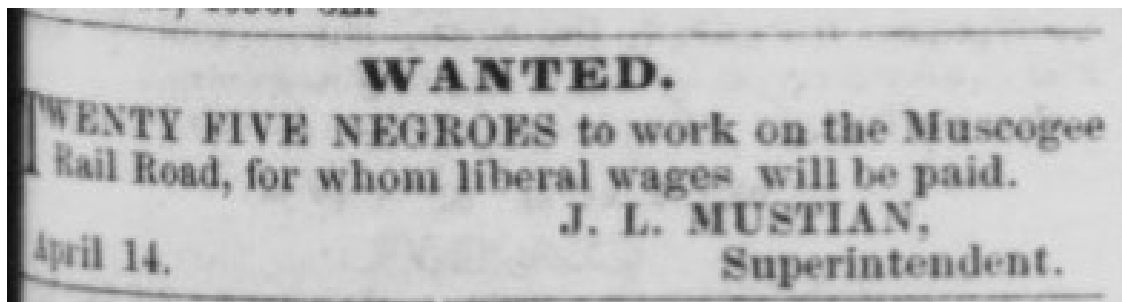
Today in Columbus History: On Friday, May 23, 1856, *The Daily Sun* carried an ad in which John L. Mustian advertised for 25 Negroes to work on building the Muscogee Railroad. Mustian, who also owned a stagecoach line, had purchased the railroad the previous year, with partner Richard Patten. The ad highlights the fact that in pre-Civil War Columbus, slaves weren't just working in the fields. Some owners hired out their slaves for manual labor, as well as for jobs requiring special skills such as painting, carpentry, plastering, etc. Mustian was one of the wealthiest men in Columbus; he and Randolph Mott were brothers-in-law (they had married the Jeter sisters). A side note: Mustian also owned property in Warm Springs, which his granddaughter, Miss Georgia Wilkins, later sold to Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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>





John L. Mustian, portrait from Findagrave.