

Today in Columbus History: On June 3, 1858, an ad for a local jewelry store appeared in *The Daily Sun*. This is an interesting ad – especially for antique enthusiasts. First, the ad mentions jeweler S. B. Purple. That would be Samuel B. Purple, who was in business in Columbus 1840s – 1850s with a fellow-New-Englander named William Foster. The company of Foster and Purple made coin silver dinnerware (from melted-down silver items, including coins). Very collectible these days. Second, the store advertised “Hair Platting.” They were not doing hair extensions – they were making “Mourning Jewelry” out of the hair of deceased loved ones. Again, very collectible. Finally, they were selling “Pebble glasses,” with lens made from rock crystal; these had been popular since before the American Revolution. Also, very collectible.

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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>

THOMAS S. SPEAR,
Successor to
S. B. PURPLE,

HAS on hand a new stock of Rich Jewelry, Watches, Clocks, Silver and Plated Ware, Guns, Pistols, Table Cutlery, &c., to which he would invite the attention of all. He will have manufactured to order Silver Spoons, Forks, Tea Sets, and all articles of Silver Ware.



HAIR PLATTING.

I have in my employ, workmen to do all styles of Hair Platting—Necklaces, Bracelets, Broaches, Ear-Rings, Crosses, and Trinkets of every description. Diamonds reset and Jewelry made to order.

Watches, Clocks and Jewelry,
Repaired by experienced workmen and warranted.

Lettering and Engraving,
Neatly done.

PEBBLE SPECTACLES,
Of Gold and Steel frames, of the best quality, manufactured.



PURPLE'S OLD STAND
February 8, 1858. tf Jones' Building.



From Michael Hall Antiques, Nashville, TN.



Foster and Purple forks. Michael Hall Antiques, Nashville TN



Mourning jewelry pin from Children's Museum of Indianapolis.



Pebble glasses from Worthpoint.