

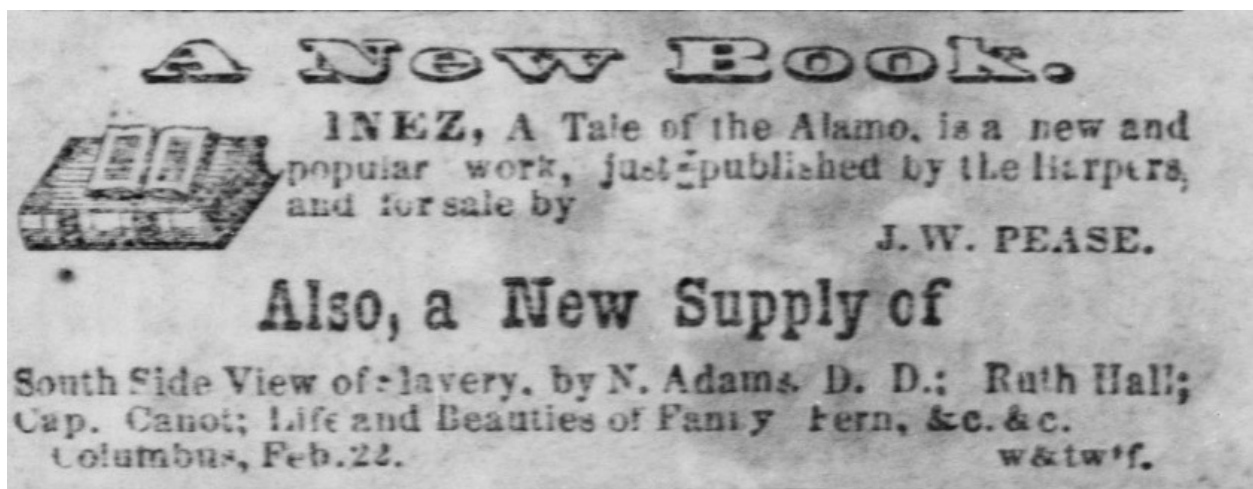
Today in Columbus History: On June 6, 1855, in *The Times and Sentinel Tri-Weekly*, J.W. Pease, bookseller, had an ad for a new book: *Inez, A Tale of the Alamo*. It had been published that year by Harper & Brothers, but there was no author listed. Turns out, the author was a young Columbus-born woman who'd started writing the novel at the age of 15 – having it published when she was just 20 years old. Her first published work! And who was this mystery writer? None other than renown 19th century fiction-writer Augusta Jane Evans (later Wilson)! Augusta was the daughter of Matthew Evans and Sally Howard Evans. Mother Sally was the sister of Mary Howard, who had married Seaborn Jones and lived at the house we now call St. Elmo. It had been called El Dorado in the early days, but was renamed in honor of Augusta's famous novel, St. Elmo.

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).

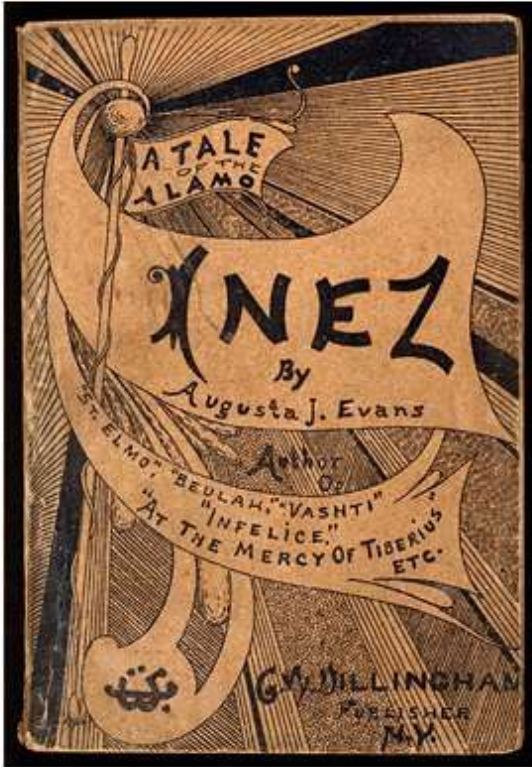
<https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu>



A New Book.
INEZ, A Tale of the Alamo, is a new and popular work, just published by the Harpers, and for sale by
J. W. PEASE.

Also, a New Supply of
South Side View of Slavery, by N. Adams. D. D.; Ruth Hall; Cap. Canot; Life and Beauties of Fanny Fern, &c. &c.
Columbus, Feb. 22. w&tw'f.

Inez: A Tale of the Alamo



Augusta Jane Evans began writing *Inez: A Tale of the Alamo* at age 15. Published in 1855, it reflected her early anti-Catholic views and sold poorly.

Courtesy of University of Alabama W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library

A later edition of "Inez," cover showing author's name. From the University of Alabama.



Photo from [Wikipedia.com](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augusta_Jane_Evans).

"She (Wilson) was born Augusta Jane Evans on May 8, 1835, in Columbus, Georgia. The area of her birth was then known as Wynnton (now MidTown). As a young girl in 19th-century America she received little in the way of a formal education. However, she became a voracious reader at an early age. Her father, Matthew Evans, suffered bankruptcy and lost the family's Sherwood Hall property in the 1840s. He moved his family of 10 from Georgia to San Antonio, Texas, in 1845. Evans's time there would inspire her first published literary work. In 1850, at the age of 15 she wrote "Inez: A Tale of the Alamo", a sentimental, moralistic, anti-Catholic love story. It told the story of one orphan's spiritual journey from religious skepticism to devout faith. She presented the manuscript to her father as a Christmas gift in 1854. It was published anonymously in 1855."

Blurb from [Biblio.com](https://www.biblio.com/).