

Today in Columbus History: On June 20, 1882, the death of one of Columbus's early citizens was noted in *The Georgia Register* -- a newspaper published just down the road in Talbotton, GA. The deceased was Samuel Koockogey, born 1794, who had come to Georgia from Pennsylvania. Koockogey came to Columbus in the fall of 1827 and stayed here until his later years, when he moved Talbotton. He was reputed to have a lot of Columbus "firsts": 1st child born in Columbus, 1st frame house built in Columbus, 1st death (that of Truman Thomas) occurred at his house, 1st house built in Wynnton...He also built the first house in Geneva, GA. A story is told that in 1853, during the first celebratory train run from Savannah to Columbus, Koockogey blocked the tracks at Geneva to make the train stop. When the passengers got off, he had a huge spread of refreshments, cigars and liquor, which they consumed with gusto. They so enjoyed themselves that the Savannah delegation gave Koockogey \$500 tucked inside a piece of silverware, and the Macon delegation gave him a gold-handled cane. Mr. Koockogey was described as "a well preserved man and possesses a memory like brass. Everybody likes him, and many is the yarn he can spin." FYI: Talbotton had at least 3 newspapers from the 1860s till the 1880s.

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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>

Death of an Old Citizen.

It is our painful duty to chronicle the death on yesterday of one of Talbotton's oldest and most esteemed citizens, Mr Samuel Kocotogey in his 19th year. He was a Pennsylvanian by birth, came to Columbus, Georgia, about 1828, being one of the early settlers of that place. He was one of the first settlers of Geneva, where from about 1852 to 1857 he kept a hotel. He had no active business during the declining years of his life. His health for several months past has been rapidly failing, and it was quite evident the brave hearted, generous spirited, genial old gentleman would soon be gathered to his fathers. He was the grandfather of Mrs W H Martin, of Talbotton, and of Mrs Rebecca Estes of Columbus. He died at the residence of Mr W H Martin, this place. His remains will be conveyed to Columbus by this morning's train, where they will be interred. Peace to his ashes.