

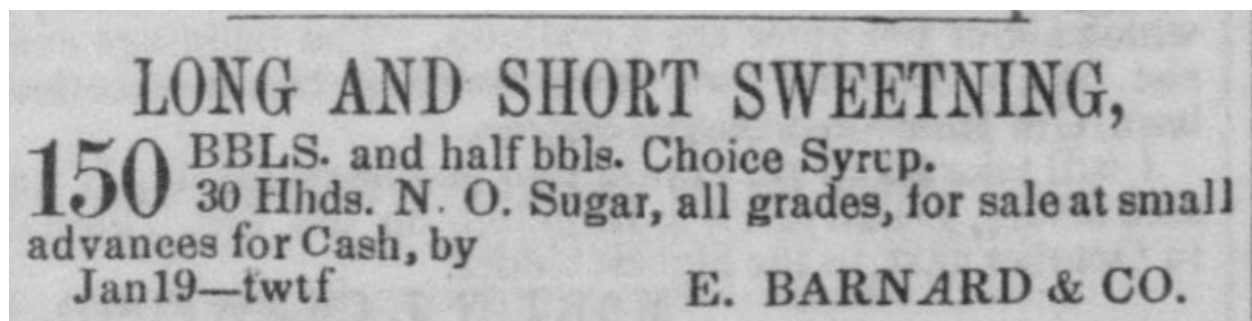
Today in Columbus History: On June 22, 1858, an ad appeared in the *Weekly Times and Sentinel* for products available at Ed Barnard's grocery store. To most of today's readers, it's probably difficult to grasp the gist of this ad. It features "Long and Short Sweetning," and there are a few puzzling abbreviations. Well, a bit of research will reveal that long sweetening is molasses and short sweetening is regular ole' sugar! These were terms especially used in the South. In some parts of the country, long sweetening was honey or sorghum syrup. So Mr. Barnard is selling molasses by the barrel (BBLs) and half barrel -- and he has 150 barrels of it! He also has 30 hogsheads (HHDS) of sugar. In Louisiana where sugar was grown and refined, a hogshead was a very large barrel, weighing up to 1000 pounds! That was a lot of molasses and sugar! Mr. Edward Barnard (1812 - 1873) came to Columbus around 1834 and lived here until his death in 1873. His store had a reputation of always carrying "the best!" Note: Included in the attachments is a short story about a couple of non-Southerners learning the difference between long and short sweetening.

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>



LONG AND SHORT SWEETNING,
150 BBLs. and half bbls. Choice Syrup.
30 Hhds. N. O. Sugar, all grades, for sale at small
advances for Cash, by
Jan 19—twtf
E. BARNARD & CO.



A Sugar Hogshead -- illustration (1848) from the British Museum.

At their first meal Mrs. Emory asked them whether they would have long or short sweetening in their coffee. Neither of them had any notion of what the "long" or "short" might be, but they did not want to appear ignorant, so Mr. Hurst said that he would take long sweetening; whereupon Mrs. Emory poured about two tablespoonfuls of molasses into his coffee. Seeing this, his assistant at once asked for short

sweetening. Of course he was not sure what it was, but he was ready to take a chance rather than have his coffee spoiled with molasses. He was relieved to see Mrs. Emory put sugar in his coffee. Mr. Hurst made the best of the situation and drank his molasses-sweetened coffee with seeming relish, as though he had been raised on long sweetening. At breakfast the next morning he had decided that he would call for short sweetening, but Mrs. Emory remembered his preference and, before he had a chance to speak, liberally

sweetened his coffee with molasses. His assistant chuckled all that day over Mr. Hurst's hard luck.

This story is from "Life in the Leatherwoods," by John Quincy Wold, Sr. (University of Arkansas, 2000). The story takes place in Arkansas...