

Today in Columbus History: On June 23, 1855 an ad for an itinerant portrait artist, John Antrobus, appeared in the Times & Sentinel Tri-Weekly. Antrobus, a Brit who had come to the U.S. around 1850, had previously been in Savannah. He first appeared in Columbus in April 1854, when he opened a studio in Temperance Hall, painting portraits, landscapes and animals. In addition to painting, he also offered drawing and painting lessons (with special classes for the ladies). In April of 1855 he held a raffle, auctioning off 10 of his works, "The Hebrew Children in Captivity" being the prize painting. This ad in June of 1855 is that last one in Columbus papers for Antrobus. He moved to Montgomery and then on the New Orleans. He joined the Confederate Army, "but then changed his mind" and moved to Chicago. His claim to fame is that he painted the first portrait of Ulysses S. Grant. Antrobus died in Detroit in 1907.

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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>





Supplication (1856) -- possibly painted in Montgomery.
From Americangallery.wordpress.com



Facsimile of Antrobus's portrait of U.S. Grant, Library of Congress.