

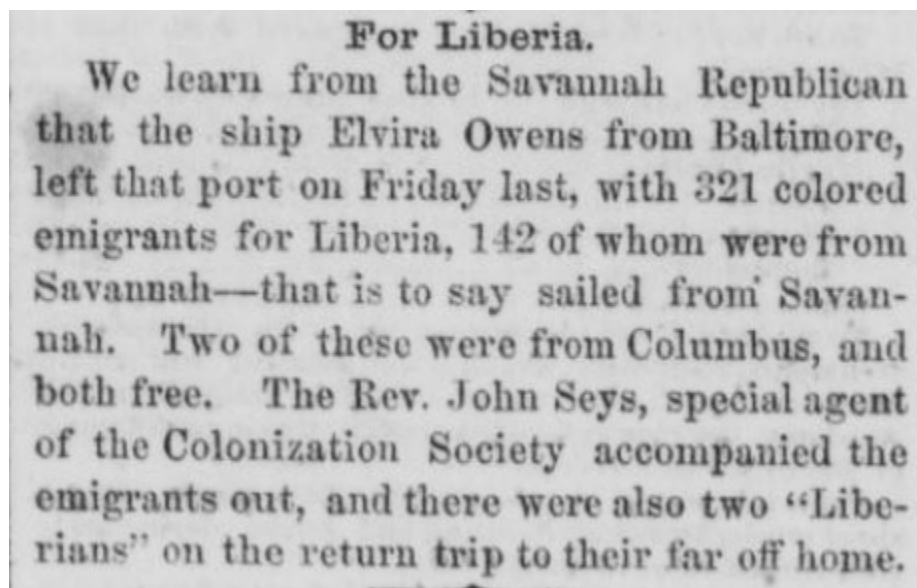
Today in Columbus History: On June 24, 1856, *The Daily Sun* carried an article about a group of black Americans departing Savannah bound to the colony of Liberia. Among the 321 passengers on the "Elvira Owens" that day were two unnamed Columbus free men of color. A few years earlier in 1853, another Columbus F.M.C., Matthew Hill, had been the first Columbus black to venture to Liberia. These trips were supported by the American Colonization Society, which had started transporting blacks to Liberia beginning in 1820. Up until 1904, the ACS assisted with the emigration of about 15,000 African Americans to Liberia. Of that number, 457 were from Columbus. The majority of the Columbus emigrants left in 1867 and 1868. For more information on this topic consult Matt McDaniel's detailed account: *Emigration To Liberia from the Chattahoochee Valley of Georgia and Alabama, 1853 - 1903* (Montgomery: New South Books, 2013).

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>



For Liberia.
We learn from the Savannah Republican that the ship Elvira Owens from Baltimore, left that port on Friday last, with 321 colored emigrants for Liberia, 142 of whom were from Savannah—that is to say sailed from Savannah. Two of these were from Columbus, and both free. The Rev. John Seys, special agent of the Colonization Society accompanied the emigrants out, and there were also two "Liberians" on the return trip to their far off home.



Illustration from a donor certificate from the New York chapter of the ACS, depicting the arrival of American blacks to Liberia. From "How a Movement to Send Freed Slaves to Africa Created Liberia." <https://www.history.com/.../slavery-american-colonization...>

LIST OF EMIGRANTS FOR LIBERIA,

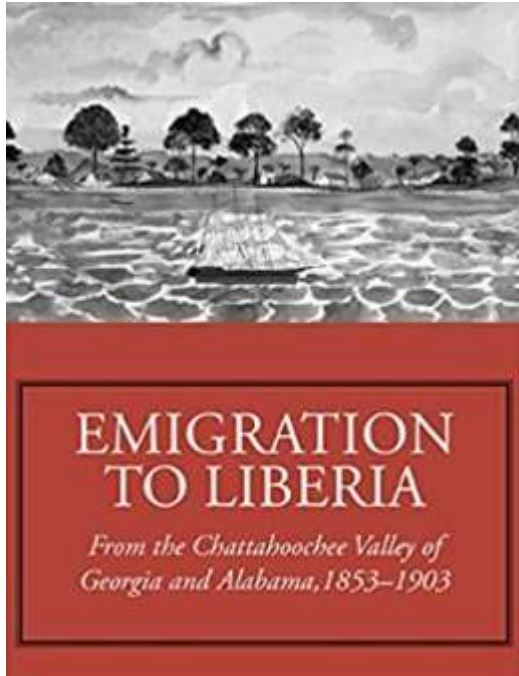
BY THE SHIP GOLCONDA, FROM CHARLESTON, S. C., NOVEMBER 18, 1867.

From Columbus, Georgia, for Berley, Grand Bassa County.

No.	Name.	Age.	Occupation.	Educa- tion.	Religion.
1	William J. Brooks.....	42	Cook.	R. & W.	
2	Ariminta C. Brooks.....	32	.....	R. & W.	Baptist.
3	Jos. G. Whittaker.....	26	Carpenter.	Read.	Methodist.
4	Hannah A. Whittaker..	30	.....	.....	Methodist.
5	Mary A. Bell.....	42	.....	Read.	Methodist.
6	Nora Bell.....	22	.....	R. & W.	Methodist.
7	Stewart W. Bell.....	16	.....	R. & W.	
8	Richard Sullivan	28	Blacksmith.	.....
9	Eliza Sullivan	23	.....	.....	Methodist.
10	Arthur Shivers.....	72	Minister.	R. & W.	Baptist.
11	Celia Shivers.....	71	.....	.....	Baptist.
12	Cudgel Johnson.....	35	Farmer.	Read.	

This is the beginning of the 1867 list of passengers published in v.43 of The African Repository, the journal of the ACS. 68 volumes of the The African Repository, 1826 – 1892, at

<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/009993477>.



Matt McDaniel's book on the subject.