

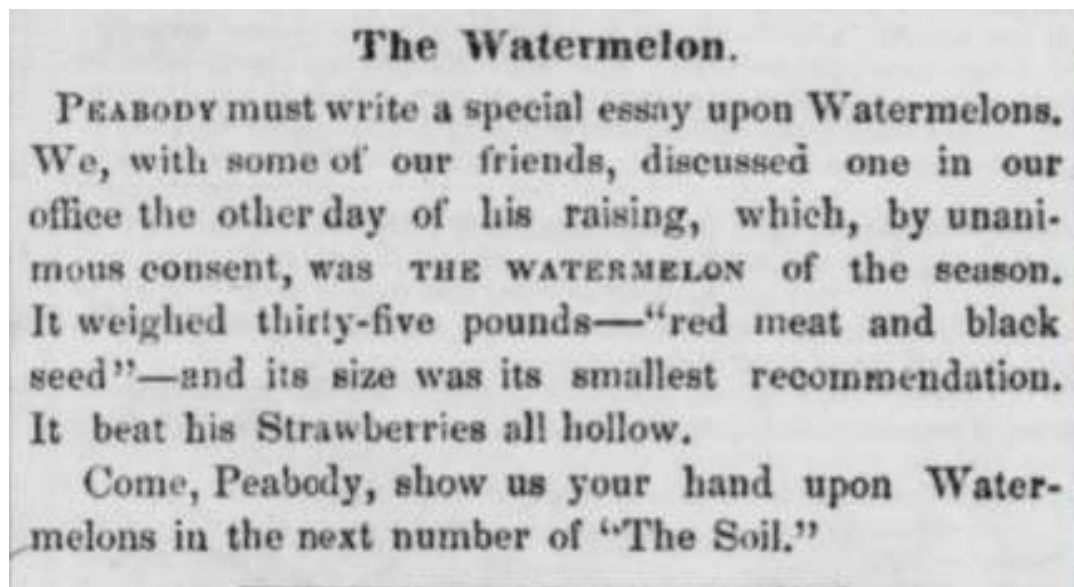
Today in Columbus History: On July 15, 1853, the editors of the *Tri-Weekly Times and Sentinel*, expressed their appreciation to local horticulturalist Charles A. Peabody for gifting them a delicious 35-pound watermelon. They said it was even better than his strawberries (for which he was famous) and begged him to share his secret for growing such a delicious specimen. It's unclear if Peabody ever shared his secret – although a couple of years later he published a piece about mammoth fruits and vegetables – saying bigger was not always better. In another, he touted the value of compost manure in growing his melons – as opposed to guano, which was being used by other Columbus gardeners.

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>



MAMMOTH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES.

In this age of excitability and novelties, mammoth fruits and vegetables are all the rage ; fruits are puffed for their immense size ; insipid *pound* pears are taking the place of the luscious little *sekel*. The sweet nutritious little beet is given up for the coarse grained mammoth. The large thick skinned tomato, takes the place of the little thin-skin red. A melon is forced to weigh forty or fifty pounds, at the expense of all other melons on the vine. Figs must now be as large as pears, and these mammoth figs, with the acid juices of their skin, causing blisters to the lips, are supplanting the little sweet sugary fig.

In horticulture, as in everything else, merit is too often overlooked for great *nothings* ; give us the productive melting fruit ; we care not for its size ; the wholesome tender vegetable, even if they are little ; the finest tomatoes we ever ate, were not larger than walnuts. The best and most profitable fruits and vegetables are those of medium size. Take heed how you purchase trees of mammoth fruit, or seeds of mammoth vegetables!

Peabody in 1856 -- from Soil of the South.



Be sure and get your watermelon for Aug. 3rd! BTW the Cordele Annual Watermelon Festival was cancelled. They grow 200 million pounds of watermelons a year!