

Today in Columbus History: On July 16, 1850, the *Columbus Enquirer* carried an ad for a free barbeque to be held on July 18 – but a barbeque with a purpose. Over a decade before the start of the Civil War, a group of local men were asking people to come together to discuss the preservation of the union. This was a mixed group; some were unionists/abolitionists, while others supported slavery. Randolph Mott and John G. Winter were the former. Mott flew the American flag at his house on the river during the war, while John Winter (once the wealthiest man in Columbus), went back to New York once the war started (returning only in a coffin to be buried in Linwood Cemetery). James Kivlin was also a unionist; he named his daughter Mary Unity Kivlin. On the other hand, Hines Holt supported slavery and became a member of the 1st Confederate Congress. Dr. Robert A. Ware's son, Lt. James Henry Ware, died at Mechanicsville, VA 1862, while the doctor's wife was an officer in the Ladies Memorial Society. Both sides were represented. Oh to be a fly on the wall...

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>

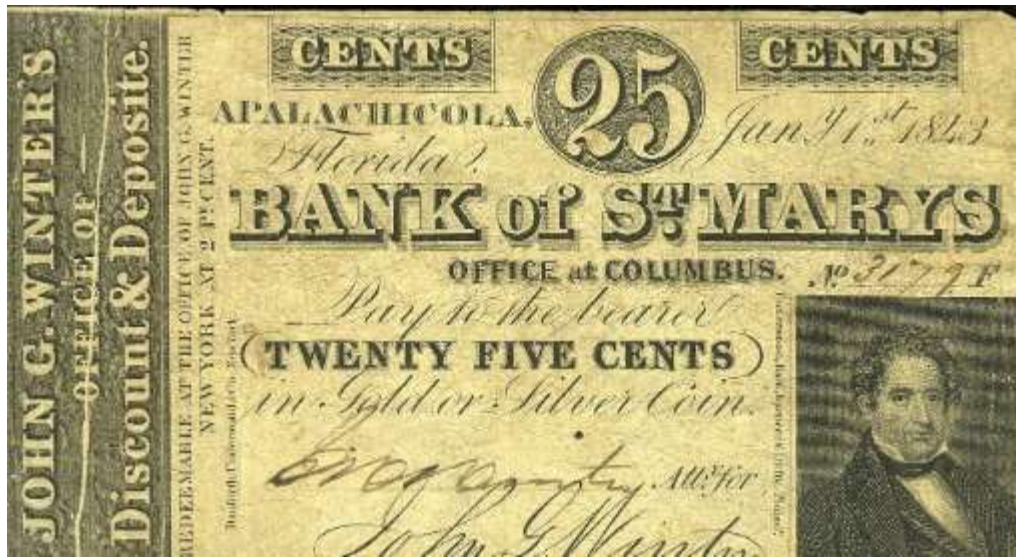
Free Barbecue.

The citizens of Muscogee, favorable to the preservation of the Union, and to an immediate adjustment of the slavery question on terms honorable both to the South and the North, and at the same time consistent with the Constitution as it is—are invited to partake of a Free Barbecue in this city, on *Thursday, the 18th instant*; and to unite with us in deliberating upon measures of resistance to the mad schemes of the Abolitionists of the North, and the disunionists of the South.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

Robert B. Alexander,	James Wimberly,
James F. Bozeman,	James Kivlin,
George Hargraves,	Abram Odum,
William L. Wynn,	Robert A. Ware,
Robert M. Gunby,	Hines Holt,
Joseph E. Webster,	James Johnson,
Randolph L. Mott,	John G. Winter.

July 9, 1850.



John Gano Winter was a prominent industrialist from New York. He owned the Bank of St. Mary's and even put his portrait on their currency. In 1850 the bank had around \$900,000 in assets. Winter was involved in many Columbus businesses including mills and the Rock Island Paper Co. He also served a term as mayor of Columbus.



See Hugh Rodgers's article on James Kivlin in the Linwood Newsletter, May 2006: <http://linwoodcemetery.org/newsletters/newsletterv9no4.pdf>



Portrait by C.R. Parker from Wikipedia. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hines_Holt