

Today in Columbus History: On July 17, 1877, the *Columbus Daily Times* announced that a representative from the National Fish Commission was in Columbus to populate the waters of the Chattahoochee with "countless thousands of young shad." According to Encyclopedia Britannica, shad is "any of several saltwater food fishes of the [herring](#) family (Clupeidae) that swim up rivers to spawn." So, these juvenile shad were being put into the river to join their native cousins that had been hatched earlier that spring. Shad is an interesting fish. It is frequently used for bait to catch bass and catfish. It is also eaten – mainly the American shad (although it is very boney). Anybody ever eaten shad?

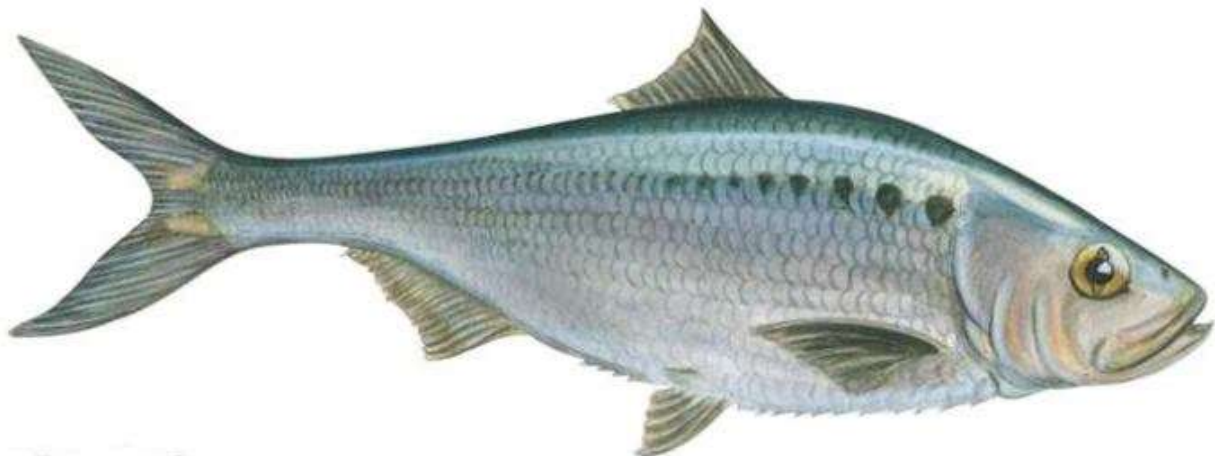
Compiled by Callie McGinnis, Muscogee Genealogical Society

*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>

**Shad for Our River.**  
Mr. Chas. D. Griswold, of the National Fish Commission, arrived in the city yesterday, with countless thousands of young shad for the Chattahoochee river. We hope they will all "live long and prosper."



An adult American shad can weigh between 3 and 8 pounds. Picture from Encyclopedia Britannica.



Two guys catching shad bait near the Riverwalk. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zCe4sXLiTS0>



Capt. Vince Russo of Savannah tells you more than you probably want to know about cleaning shad. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fTAgJWTTm4I>