

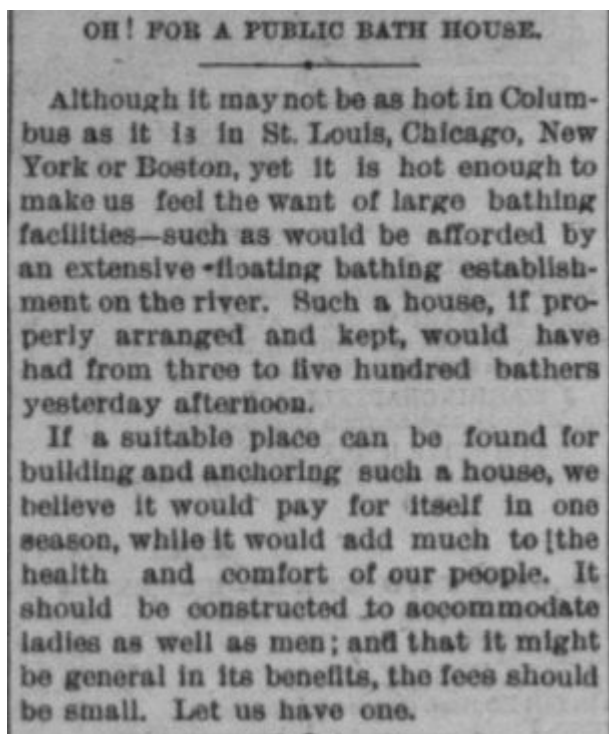
Today I Columbus History: On July 20, 1878, the *Columbus Daily Times* posted an article proposing the city create a floating bath house on the Chattahoochee River – to provide relief from Georgia's intense summer heat. Floating baths in the U.S. began appearing in the late 1830s. New Orleans was one of the first cities to have them. In fact, a g-g-g-uncle of mine operated one on the Mississippi River – on the west bank in Algiers (because the east bank shore was valuable real estate for shipping). The bath consisted of a couple of barges with a space in between that held a large underwater cage-like structure – to keep swimmers from being pulled into the strong current. On deck, men could drink whiskey and play cards – no women were allowed. My uncle made a lot of money off of his bath house venture – until it sank! Not sure if Columbus ever got a floating bath...

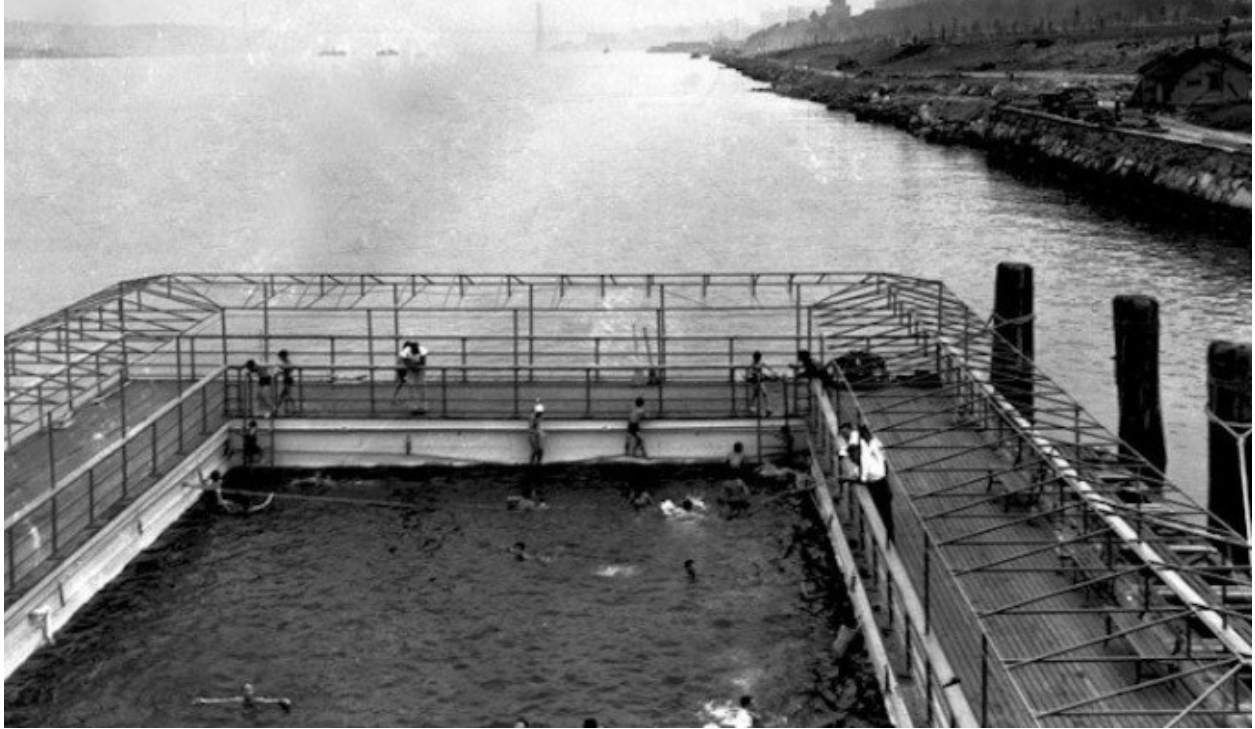
Compiled by Callie McGinnis, Muscogee Genealogical Society

*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>





Early public floating bath, Hudson River. Image: New York City Department of Parks and Recreation.



Battery Swimming Baths, Battery Park, N.Y. From Getty Images, New York Historical Society.