

Today in Columbus History: On July 23, 1885, an ad appeared in the *Columbus Daily Enquirer* for J. Albert Kirven's downtown store. Columbus-born Kirven had opened his dry goods store at the age of 27 in 1876. In the 20th century the business developed into a major department store in a building with 3 stories and a basement, occupying half of a city block – the only independent department store in Columbus. Later it featured the Patio Restaurant on the 3rd floor. Kirven's was the place to shop in downtown Columbus for decades. However, with the advent of Columbus Square Mall (1965), the store opened a second location there in 1975. Kirven's closed its downtown location in 1987 during the area's decline; its Columbus Square location closed in 1993. Department stores all over the country suffered due to the expansion of discount superstores. Now, in our current situation, retail business continues to change – relying heavily on online shoppers. Gone are the days...

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>

**SUMMER BARGAINS**

— A T —

**KIRVEN'S.**

8-4 Mosquito Bars at 35c,  
Paid India Linons at 12c;  
Plain India Linons at 5c;  
New stock Ladies' Linen Collars at  
5c to 15c.  
New stock Choice Pearl Buttons at 10c;  
Remnants! Remnants! Remnants!

GOOD BARGAINS can be had from every department. We may not have a remnant that you can use, but come and see any how. You may find just the thing you need. INDIGO CALICO reduced to 7 cents. Call for the Kirven Double Boned CORSET; it is the best for one dollar. Also the Kirven Extra Stitched CORSET at 50 cents can't be beat. MONEY, MONEY I need and must have. Bring your small change and large bills and see what bargains it commands at

**J. ALBERT KIRVEN'S**



Photo from interesting article on Joseph A. Kirven in SouthernViews magazine. <https://soviewsmag.squarespace.com/.../6/10/joseph-a-kirven>



Photofrom Andy Funderburk's photos  
@ [https://www.facebook.com/pg/ColumbusSquareMall/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/ColumbusSquareMall/about/?ref=page_internal)

Also check out a good piece on Columbus Square Mall  
at [http://skycity2.blogspot.com/.../columbus-square-mall\\_02...](http://skycity2.blogspot.com/.../columbus-square-mall_02...)