

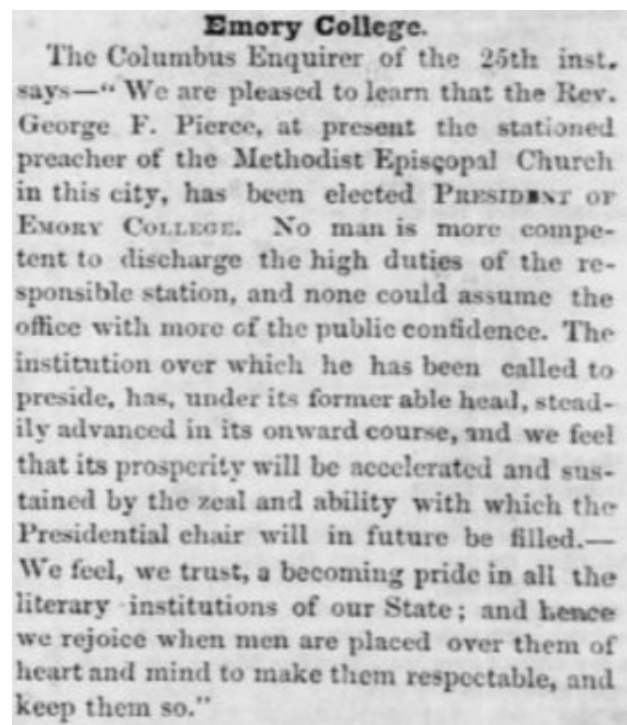
Today in Columbus History: *The Daily Constitutionalist* in Augusta carried a short piece on July 27, 1848, about Columbus resident George Foster Pierce being appointed President of Emory College. Born in 1811 in Greene County, Georgia, George was the son of renowned Methodist minister Reverend Lovick Pierce and his wife Ann Martin Foster Pierce. George graduated from Franklin College of the University of Georgia and shortly thereafter was admitted to Georgia Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1831 -- the only college graduate member at the time. Before going to Emory, he served as President of the Georgia Female College (now Wesleyan), He was the first Emory President who had been educated in Georgia. During his tenure, Pierce campaigned statewide to raise money for the college; in 1853 the first non-wood building was erected on campus at a cost of \$15,000. When he was elected bishop in 1854, he resigned his presidency. However, he continued to raise money for the school. Pierce died Sept. 3, 1884 at his home, Sunshine, 3 miles from Sparta, Georgia.

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>



Emory College.
The Columbus Enquirer of the 25th inst. says—" We are pleased to learn that the Rev. George F. Pierce, at present the stationed preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church in this city, has been elected PRESIDENT OF EMORY COLLEGE. No man is more competent to discharge the high duties of the responsible station, and none could assume the office with more of the public confidence. The institution over which he has been called to preside, has, under its former able head, steadily advanced in its onward course, and we feel that its prosperity will be accelerated and sustained by the zeal and ability with which the Presidential chair will in future be filled.— We feel, we trust, a becoming pride in all the literary institutions of our State; and hence we rejoice when men are placed over them of heart and mind to make them respectable, and keep them so."



George Foster Well Pierce. From Pierce-Turner Family Tree at [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com).



Pierce's monument in Sparta Cemetery. From [Findagrave.com](https://www.findagrave.com).



Emory College Debate Hall, built early 1850s;restored 2018. From Georgia Historic Trust.