

Today in Columbus History: On August 3, 1883, a notice for a Masonic meeting appeared in the *Columbus Daily Enquirer*. It was a meeting of the Columbian Lodge #7 Free and Accepted Masons – the oldest lodge in Western Georgia, organized Oct. 9, 1828. Early members included Luther Blake, Dr. Ira Scott, Asa Bates, Hiram Middlebrooks and a host of others. The first Worshipful Master of the Lodge was Luther Blake – a very colorful, but elusive character. Born in Alabama around 1800, Blake’s career revolved around Indian Affairs – the Creeks and Seminoles. He was the secretary when Creek Chieftain Little Prince made a treaty with the U.S. in 1826. He accompanied some of the Creeks on the Trail of Tears, and he joined a group of Columbus businessmen who bought up Indian lands in Alabama. In the 1850s he was sent to Florida as a U.S. agent to try to get the Seminoles out of Florida. In this endeavor he ended up escorting Chief Billy Bowlegs and a few other Seminoles to Washington, D.C., where they met President Millard Fillmore. Bowlegs agreed to leave Florida, but when the group returned to their home, he refused. Luther Blake eventually got fired for some financial improprieties. He died after 1854 – but when and where is unknown (by this author at any rate).

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>

MASONIC NOTICE.

A CALLED MEETING of CO-
LUMBIAN LODGE, No. 7, F.
and A. M., will be held THIS
(Friday) EVENING, 3d instnat,
at 8½ o'clock, for work in the E. A. degree.
Brethren in good standing are cordially
invited to attend
By order of the W. M.
L. MEYER, Sec'y.





COLUMBIAN LODGE No. 7, FREE & ACCEPTED MASONS COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

Organized October 9, 1828, Columbian Lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Georgia in December 1828, as No. 28. In 1849 it became No. 7. It is the oldest Lodge in western Georgia. First Worshipful Master was Luther Blake. The Lodge was organized two months before the City of Columbus was incorporated in Muscogee County, then in Indian border territory.

Numbered among the many prominent Georgians who have been members of Columbian Lodge: Colonel James W. Fannin, Master in 1929, a martyr at Goliad in the War for Texas Independence. Mirabeau Bounaparte Lamar, editor, poet, soldier, statesman, hero of San Jacinto, and second President of the Texas Republic; Philip T. Schley, Grand Master of Georgia Masons 1836 through 1841 and again in 1843.

During its nearly 150 years of continuous existence as a vital influence for good, Columbian Lodge has furnished many outstanding citizens and brethren in the field of public and fraternal service.

Always steadfast in its adherence to the gentle philosophy of Freemasonry, Columbian Lodge No. 7 is the mother lodge of the Chattahoochee River Valley.

MARKER PLACED BY THE EDUCATIONAL & HISTORICAL COMMISSION, GRAND LODGE OF GEORGIA, F. &A.M. 1975

For a list of the early members of the lodge see

<http://columbian7.homestead.com/earlymembers.html>



Billy Bowlegs, Seminole Chief, 1858. Billy finally left Florida in 1858 -- forced to move to the Indian Territory with his 2 wives, 1 son, 5 daughters and \$10,000 in his pockets (bribe from the U.S. Government). From Wikipedia.



The Flowers Building in downtown Columbus (1st Ave. and 12th St.) was originally built by the Columbian Lodge in 1902. They sold it to the Flowers family in the 1940s.