

Today in Columbus History: On August 11, 1855, the notice of a sale of desirable real estate appeared in the *Times and Sentinel Tri-Weekly*. The property had been the residence of John A. DeBlois, deceased, a local merchant (Hall & DeBlois), and it was located on Possum Ridge in the city of Columbus. This was an area on the north side of town, probably around 3rd Ave, and 15th St. DeBlois is not a name you hear a lot in Columbus. John A. DeBlois was of Huguenot heritage – his early ancestors had settled in Boston, where they were successful merchants. John's grandfather, Gilbert DeBlois, was actually a Loyalist during the American Revolution, and moved to England by himself in 1776, dying there in 1791. Grandson John Amory (the subject of this ad), was born 1797 in Boston and graduated from Harvard in 1816. He came to Columbus around 1837, became an active member of Trinity Episcopal Church and operated a warehousing business known as Hall & DeBlois. He married Emily Ruse, daughter of John C. and Ann Ruse in 1843 at Trinity Church. A year later his brother Nathaniel James DeBlois married Emily's sister Angelica Ruse Hurd (widow of Homer Hurd). These families moved to Newport, R.I. after John A.'s death. However, Emily Ruse did have a sister named Elvira who married Columbus physician Edward Worthington Starr. John's in-laws, Elvira and Edward Starr are buried in Linwood Cemetery. John and most of his family are buried in Newport and Boston – John, who died in Columbus in 1855, supposedly at Mount Auburn.

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*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>





Portrait of Gilbert DeBlois (paternal grandfather of John A. DeBlois),, painted in 1770s by John Singleton Copley. <https://collections.mfa.org/objects/35028/gilbert-deblois...>



The Gilbert Deblois Family -- Important Chippendale Carved and Figured Mahogany Desk-  
And-Bookcase with Carving Attributed to John Welch, Boston, Massachusetts, Circa 1756.  
This piece was auctioned by Sotheby's. Their catalog has a long, interesting piece on Gilbert  
and his family. The desk ended up in the possession of John's wife  
Emily. <http://www.sothebys.com/.../important.../lot.294.html>



Thomas Amory DeBlois, son of John A. and Emily. Born Columbus 1848. Graduated from Dartmouth Medical College 1878. Laryngological medicine. Died 1929; buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Boston. From [Findagrave.com](http://Findagrave.com)