

Today in Columbus History: On August 13, 1850, the *Columbus Enquirer* carried an ad for sheet music being sold by music dealer Charles Reps, a German musician who had come to Columbus in the mid-1840s. In 1846 he began offering piano and guitar lessons, and by the next year he was selling pianos – and soon sheet music. He stayed in Columbus until around 1852, then moved North (to Iowa) for health reasons. Reps was also a talented performer and composer. One of his pieces was the Columbus Guards Quick Step. A number of the pieces featured in this ad were by a Bohemian musician, Francis Rziha, leader of Steyermarkische, a troupe of music-hall minstrels from the Austro-Hungarian Empire. They toured the American South in the late 1840s when “Alpine music” was in vogue. They performed in Charleston, Savannah and Augusta, but the group (and Rziha) apparently never made it to Columbus. Rziha wrote music for Steyermarkische; some of his titles dealt with Columbus: Muscogee Ladies Polka and The Ft. Mitchell Polka.

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>

**New Music.**

**O**RIGINAL SCHOTTISCH, by Julien, the most fashionable dance of the season.

LES PATINEARS—Waltz from Maybee's Opera the Prophet; Return Waltz; JULIET Polka.

La Jata Aragonesa, Spanish National Air, arranged by Vierek.

ELBERT WALTZES, composed by Chas. Reps.

DEAREST MAE, Polka by Rziha; *Rose Lee*, do. by do.

LONGING FOR HOME, Styrian Waltz, by do.

MUSCOGEE LADIES, (Polka); GIBRALTAR Waltz, a new arrangement by Charles Reps.

Will you come to my Mountain Home; variations La Bella Polka; Friendship Polka; Columbus Guards Quick Step, arranged by Charles Reps.

GERMANIA Polka, by Maretzek; Friendship Quick Step; MOONLIGHT AND MIDNIGHT, SCOTTISCH; and a large variety of New Songs, Duets, &c. &c.

**CHARLES REPS' Piano War-room,**  
Apl 30 Next door to Mulford's.

He was a man of large brain and strong qualities, but above everything a musician. With him music was not simply time and melody; it was an intellectual appreciation of a great art. In this he was at war with our ignorance in a way that it is impossible for us to understand. Born into art with the teachings and traditions of great musicians early around him, he had no patience with half-knowledge, with pretence, with poor ideals.

A description of Reps from his 1888 obituary. He died in Iowa.

Recd April 20, 1876.

COLUMBUS GUARD

Quick Step

EMERGE DEDICATED BY THE GUARDIANS

CAPT. JOHN FORSYTH

Arranged for the

Piano Forte

by

CHARLES REPS.

117

256

1876

Registered in the Clerk's Office of the Dist. Ct. for Iowa by Charles Reps, Nov. 17, 1879.

A Columbus piece by Reps. Note the piece is dedicated to Capt. John Forsyth. Katie Mahan said that Reps touched each area of the musical life of the city of Columbus, He helped organize the Philharmonic Society, a Male Glee Club, an acting group and he operated a thriving music store.



Rziha was a prolific composer, as well as an arranger. He did a variation of the Star Spangled Banner as a waltz! He left the South around 1850, settling in Boston, where he became a famous violinist.