

Today in Columbus History: On August 17, 1857, the *Daily Sun* carried an ad relating the business of slave trading. The ad was placed by A.C. McGehee, a "Negro broker," who soon went into business, in January 1858, with Samuel Hatcher, founding the "Hatcher & McGehee Co., which operated a slave depot on NW corner of Broadway and 12th St. (where a new Hampton hotel is going up). Slaves were held at the depot awaiting sale; some were hired out. The business records of Hatcher & McGehee exist in the form of the "Hatcher & McGehee Negro Book," which records the names of slaves, their original purchase price, the name of the buyer and the amount paid. This resource can be extremely valuable for African American genealogists looking for their Columbus ancestors – especially if their ancestor took the surname of their former owner. It is also a grim reminder of man's inhumanity to man...

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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>



Hatcher & McGehee was owned by Samuel J Hatcher, a native of Virginia, and Allen Clements McGehee, a native of Jones County, Georgia. This company was said to have been the last to import slaves to the city. The Hatcher & McGehee Slave Depot was located on the northwest corner of Broadway & 12 th Street, Slave depots functioned as active trading sites and as detention facilities where the enslaved were held captive until they were auctioned. The slave ledger now archived at Columbus State University indicates that over 450 slaves were sold by the company between April 1858 and April 1860 with an average price of \$1200 (adjusted for inflation this would be over \$33,000 in 2017).

This is a description of the business -- CSU Archives.

[Date purchased]	[Name of slave]	[Purchased from]	[Purchase price]	[Date sold]	[Sold to]	[Amount of sale]
Apl 21	Nancy	Bot of S. Omohundro	\$775	May 5	Peter Price	\$870
"	Columbia	"	770	" 27	James Neal	800
"	Arrena	"	700	"	Hutchins	850
"	Ellen	"	700	" 28	Wm. N. Stewart	850
Apl 21	Lucy	"	725	May 14	Col. Adolphus Sanford	875
"	Julia	"	550	May 5	J. Barron	700
May 1	Zilphia	Bot of W.P. Martin	715	" 5	Barron	825
Apl 30	Eliza	" Sam Russ	675	" 5	Barron	800
" 29	Harrison	" S. Omohundro	900	" 5	F.A. Jones	1000

The contents of the Hatcher & McGehee Negro Book have been transcribed and published in Muscogiana:

<https://csuepress.columbusstate.edu/muscogiana/17/>

<https://csuepress.columbusstate.edu/muscogiana/18/>

See the CSU Archives page for more info:

<https://archives.columbusstate.edu/findingaids/mc88.php>



McGehee had also been involved in the case of The Wanderer -- the last slave ship to bring Africans to America (1859). He was one of the backers, along with Randolph Mott and Charles Lamar of Savannah. In 1898, when he was around 70, McGehee retold of his "Wanderer" experience. Some have said that his recount is full of errors. It was printed in the Portland Daily Press: <https://digitalmaine.com/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1038...>