

Today in Columbus History: On August 28, 1890, an impressive ad appeared in the *Columbus Enquirer-Sun* announcing the opening of the Chattahoochee Valley Exposition, Nov. 5 – 15 at the South Commons. The first such exposition took place in 1888, after a group of local businessmen proposed the grand scheme. They built a magnificent hall to house the event – providing space for agricultural displays, manufacturing displays, military parades, lots of food and races of all types—including horse racing. There was something for everyone. Over the years, the exposition became the “Chattahoochee Valley Fair” – adding a midway of carnival rides and sideshows. By the 1990s, the quality of the fair had deteriorated and in 1997 it closed shop. “The Greater Columbus Fair” sprang into existence after that and continued providing the “fair” experience for Columbus residents, as late as 2019.

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>

# CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY EXPOSITION.



Commencing November 5th. Ending November 15th.

COLUMBUS, GA.

## A SEASON OF UNRIVALLED ATTRACTION.

This Exposition Will Be One the Most Complete and Interesting Ever Held in the South.

EVERY DEPARTMENT WILL PRESENT A FINE DISPLAY.  
LIBERAL PREMIUMS OFFERED FOR COUNTY AND INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITS.

The Attractions for Visitors Will Be Numerous and Varied.

TROTTING and RUNNING RACES, MILITARY CONTENTS and EVERY KIND OF AMUSEMENTS.

ALLIANCE DAY, MERCHANTS' DAY,  
DRUMMERS' DAY and RED MENS' DAY.

Balloon Ascents and Parachute Leaps Every Day During the Exposition  
ONE CENT A MILE RATES OVER ALL RAILROADS.

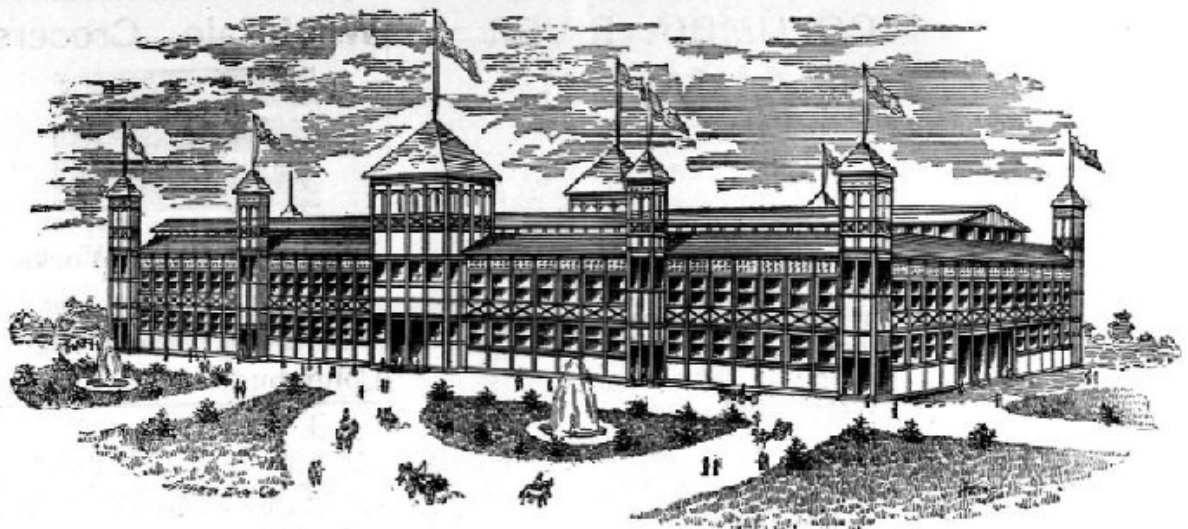
Everybody come and have a good time, Columbus will be in her glory.  
For further information, catalogues, etc. address

J. J. SLADE, President,

C. B. GRIMES, Secretary.

Sorry for the poor quality of this picture. The illustration is actually of the exposition hall, built in 1888 on the South Commons.

# GRAND CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY EXPOSITION.



A better picture of the exposition all -- from an 1890 ad.

**The**  
petition of J. K. Orr, G. Gunby Jordan, H. C.  
Hanson, L. F. Garrard, J. A. Kirven, J. H. Gab-  
riel, J. F. Flournoy, L. A. Camp, W. C. Bradley,  
T. M. Foley, G. M. Williams, J. M. Fletcher, J.  
S. Garrett. D. P. Dozier, E. H. Jenkins, and I.  
Joseph

These are the Columbus men who originally proposed the idea of the exposition.



After the Chattahoochee Valley Fair closed in 1997, the Greater Columbus Fair popped up. This photo for WTM, 2019. One of the traditions of the fair was always the Exchange Club's hotdogs. Here's a video clip about that: <https://www.charlotteobserver.com/.../article178536241.html>



This illustration by my daughter Tiff McGinnis (aka Grande Dame) was done as part of a video project she created for the "100th Anniversary Celebration of Carson McCullers," which was held in Rome in 2017. Growing up in Columbus, McCullers had a fascination with the fair – particularly the side shows. Tiff featured the fair as part of her short 4-minute video on McCullers life and works. Take a peak: <https://www.grandedame.co.uk/tv/>