

Today in Columbus history, Sept. 7, 1833, several ads appeared on page 3 of the *Columbus Enquirer*, purchased by businesswomen offering their skills and services: Mrs. Gray, who “intends to commence the Milinary [sic] Business” and “Feels herself dependent on her vocation for a support for herself and child.” and Mrs. H. Blome who “proposes opening a school...wherein the French and English languages will be taught. Also, Drawing, Painting, Needle-work, &c.” A third woman, Mrs. Goodall, “Having returned to Columbus will continue as formerly to carry on the renovating and dying business.” Mrs. Goodall also sewed “ladies and gentlemen [sic] wearing apparel” and made mattresses by hand. No mention is made at that time of her personal situation or why she had been away from Columbus (maybe everyone already knew?).

**MRS. GOODALL.**  
**H**AVING returned to Columbus will continue as formerly to carry on the renovating and dying business. She will also make ladies and gentlemen wearing apparel, at the shortest notice, and in the neatest manner.  
 She will keep constantly on hand mattresses for sale, or make them to order.  
 Devoting herself entirely to the above branches of business, she hopes to be able to give entire satisfaction, in all cases by the promptness with which all orders will be attended to, and by the superior style of her work. Application on any business of the above character may be made to her, at her residence on Front Street in the house formerly occupied by Gen. Woolfolk.

*Columbus Enquirer, Sept. 7, 1833*

**ECONOMY.**  
 SAMUEL GOODALL,  
 Clothes Dresser and Renovator.  
**R**ESPECTFULLY informs the public that he has opened a new establishment in Columbus, for Dressing and Renovating blue, black and drab Coats, Pantalons, Vests, &c. on quite a different plan from that pursued by Dyers. The articles cleaned by him are pronounced by the best judges to be almost equal to new, the seams when faded are perfectly restored and any article dressed by this process is made entirely free from tar, paint, grease, and spots of every description.  
 Ladies' Habits, Cloth and Merino Shirts, cleaned without injury to the borders. Pressing and sponging done in the neatest manner. New Collars made, and stiffening and repairing done.  
 July 30.—1f.

*Columbus Democrat, July 30, 1831*

As it turns out, Mrs. Goodall was married to Samuel Goodall, with whom she shared an appearance in an “Enquirer” ad earlier in January of 1833. He is a clothes “dresseer” (anyone know what that is? or is it a misprint?) and renovator, whose advertisements appear in Columbus papers from 1831 until 1833. A list of 19th-century occupations on Rootsweb says that a renovator is someone who repairs clothing. One of Samuel’s ads in the *Columbus Democrat*, July 30, 1831, explained that he cleans clothes “on quite a different plan from that pursued by Dyers,” and is able to remove tar, paint, grease, and spots of every description.” Samuel Goodall “also carries on the Tayloring business. Repairing, &c. &c. neatly done.”

In the earlier January 5, 1833, advertisement, Mrs. Goodall is mentioned, but by September 7 of that year, she is advertising on her own. John H. Martin notes that in 1833 Samuel Goodall died on Feb. 23 and Mrs. Goodall is engaged in “Mattress Making.” (45) Goodall’s ads show up in the newspaper through Feb. 23, 1833, and then seem to drop off. In April of that year, Mrs. Goodall advertises that she “Will continue the business of her late husband.” Her advertisements continue to appear (in existing issues of Georgia Historic Newspapers) through the end of September 1833 and then also stop.

As a widow, Mrs. Goodall continued to make at least part of her living making mattresses, which were usually made from Spanish moss, horsehair, and more and more frequently, cotton. “Mrs. Goodall keeps constantly on hand double and single Mattresses [sic], made of moss and Cotton, the way in which she has the moss prepared makes them utmost equal to hair[;] the cotton ones are made of carded bats, which prevents their becoming hard from use.”

Genuine horse hair, the best of which comes from the manes and tails of South American horses, is an animal fibre from which it is impossible to expel the natural animal secretions, and, owing to its porous, sac like nature, attracting and holding tenaciously myriad flakes of dust and minute atomic particles of impurities, which, microscopically examined, would fill the average person with horror untold.

*As late as 1904, the “horrors” of using horsehair as a mattress filler were still being emphasized in order to encourage customers to buy cotton mattresses. From a 1904 Ostermoor mattress brochure.*

According to the DAR, Samuel Goodall (1790-1832 [sic]) married Elizabeth Rebecca Lucas (1800-1839) in 1816. Samuel's father Pleasant Goodall served as a private in the American Revolution, 1779, under General Ashe, at the battle of Brier Creek. Pleasant was born in Virginia and died in Burke County, Ga., after 1796. The Goodall family was probably in Milledgeville, Baldwin County, in 1820 (census).

There are some interesting stories surrounding Rebecca Lucas Goodall's life after she left Columbus, but what I saw was not sourced at all, so I won't repeat it here. Also unsourced but repeated by several Ancestry researchers is that Elizabeth Rebecca Lucas Thorne died in 1839 in Galveston, Texas, during the yellow fever epidemic. Maybe someone reading this post will have a connection and fill us in?

*Our weekly snippets of Columbus history are usually based on a few days 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.*

#### Sources:

Clippings from Georgia Historic Newspapers (GALILEO).

*Columbus, Georgia, From its Selection as a 'Trading Town' in 1827, to its Partial Destruction by Wilson's Raid, in 1865, Part 1 - 1827 to 1846*, John H. Martin, compiler (Columbus, Ga.: Thos. Gilbert, 1874) (Internet Archive).

*National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Lineage Book*, vol. 054, p. 5; and vol. 095, p. 147 (Ancestry.com).

Ostermoor & Co., "The test of time; a half century record proves all our claims regarding superiority of the Ostermoor mattress," New York: 1904 (HathiTrust).

<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~usgwkidz/oldjobs.htm>

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/.../spanish-moss-was-used-for-.../>

<http://sites.rootsweb.com/~usgwkidz/oldjobs.htm>.

<http://blogs.ifas.ufl.edu/wakullaco/2015/11/27/spanish-moss-was-used-for-bedding-packing/>.

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