

THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM

*always changing.
always free.*



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The Columbus Museum Presents *Once Collected, Always Cherished:* Highlights from the George Greene and J. Kyle Spencer Collections

Columbus, GA – The Columbus Museum will celebrate the legacy of two local collectors and their collections in the *Once Collected, Always Cherished: Highlights from the George Greene and J. Kyle Spencer Collections* exhibition, on view August 16 through January 10, 2016 in the Galleria cases.

The Museum recently acquired several items from the collection of the late Russell County Circuit Court Judge George Greene. An avid collector of local historical artifacts for decades, Greene served on the Museum's History Committee and applied a keen eye to capturing the rich heritage of the Chattahoochee Valley. Chief among these items is an archive of more than 50 items related to the musician Thomas "Blind Tom" Wiggins. Wiggins began playing at age four and toured across America and Europe. He became the first African-American musician to perform at the White House and composed more than 1,000 pieces of original music.

The exhibition will also feature maps from the J. Kyle Spencer Map Collection at the Columbus State University Archives. Spencer collected maps documenting the emergence and evolution of the American colonies, specifically Georgia, for more than 30 years. The history of European settlement, American

Indian communities and their forced removal, and the growth of Georgia counties can be traced through these unusual and colorful maps.

This exhibition is generously underwritten by Synovus and Columbus Bank and Trust Company.

The Columbus Museum is the second largest general museum in Georgia and is unique for its dual concentration on American art and regional history. While carrying forth its mission to bring American art and history to life for the communities of the Chattahoochee Valley, the Museum serves as a hub of community learning and enjoyment. Through an educational approach, the Museum strives to ignite creativity, inspire critical thinking, and spark conversation.

***Pictured:** Carte de visite of "Blind Tom" Wiggins. Museum purchase made possible by Daniel P. and Kathleen V. Amos, Julie and Mizell Alexander, Friends of the Museum, and Gift by Exchange of Jim and Marge Krum G.2015.14

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