

Ida's Notebook

Ida Risser



Recently I had the opportunity to read a page from a Philadelphia newspaper dated September 18, 1832. Just why old things have such a fascination for me, I'm not sure. Maybe it is because I have a vivid imagination and can visualize life in olden times. Anyway, I'd like to share with you some of the advertisements that were printed in this 1832 newspaper.

There was a long list of ships

arriving in port with various commodities for sale. Among these were items such as: 10 hhds. Sugar House Molasses, Venitian Carpeting, Bordeaux Brandy, 50 ton Juniatta Pig Iron, 560 cases boots and shoes, 40,000 cocoa nuts, 49 cases of fresh prunes, 30 casks cheese, 40 bbls. white beans, 21 do. Porto Rico Sugars and tierces of whale oil.

Other ships were sailing to far off places and advertised for freight and passengers to haul. Some packet ships were sailing to New Orleans, St. Thomas, Richmond, North Carolina and Maine.

Even the names of the schooners were interesting. Some names were Archer, North Star, Mercator, Emma, Rebecca Hyer, Enterprise and Charlotte.

One advertisement told of a gentleman going abroad and selling the following things: carriage and sleigh, pair of bay matched horses, Vienna square piano, harp, pair of marble mantels, Pew No. 49 in St. Andrews Church (middle aisle), 400 volumes of the best French authors, oil paintings, splendid furniture, Brussels carpets, French porcelain tea sets, mahogany wardrobes and a superior clothes mangle. That last item is a machine to iron laundry by passing it between heated rollers. Even in 1832 they had machines to cut down on hand labor.

And don't think that the lottery is anything new as many advertisements urged people to invest \$10 with the possibility of winning \$40,000. The Union Canal Lottery offered a first prize of \$20,000. Some things just never change.



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