

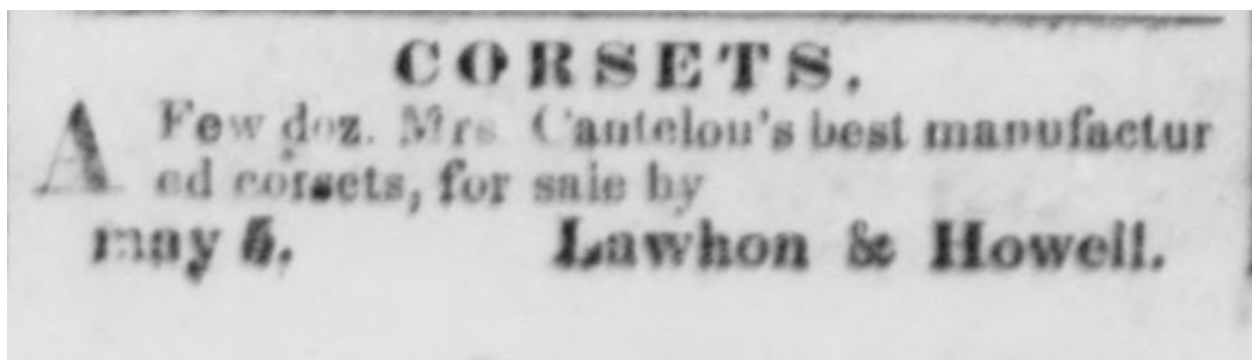
Today in Columbus History: On July 21, 1832, the Democrat carried an ad for corsets: a few dozen of Mrs. Cantelou's best manufactured corsets were for sale by Columbus merchants Lawhon and Howell. Mrs. Cantelou was actually Mrs. Cantelo – Mrs. William James Cantelo (Louise Maria Clark). Although the surname sounds Italian, both husband and wife were British – they moved to New York from the Isle of Wight around 1818. The Cantelos settled in New York City, where Louisa and William were listed, respectively, as corset makers in the 1819 and 1820 NYC City Directories. A year later, William got a patent for a corset (possibly the Minerva Brace). Over the next few years, William dropped out of the business, but Louisa continued, establishing the Ladies' Corset Warehouse. Women could come in and get fitted for a corset or send in their waist measurement for mail-order or, occasionally, Louisa or her staff would make house calls. Because she sold wholesale, Louisa's corsets were popular outside of New York – even as far away as Columbus, GA. She eventually moved her business to Philadelphia but sold it in 1833 and moved back to England for a while. She returned to Philadelphia, dying there in 1859.

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>





LADIES Corset Ware
house, 258 Broadway.
Mrs CANTELO, recommends
to the ladies a new and elegant
corset, with patent metallic
eyelets, warranted never
to cut through. Merchants
and dealers are supplied
wholesale, from a large,
elegant, and fashionable
assortment constantly
kept. The patent Minerva
brae is particularly
recommended to youth of
both sexes, where there
is an inclination to stoop,
either from debility
or study.

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Mrs. Cantelo's Corset Ware House in NYC. 1825 ad. From Genealogybank.com



A typical corset of the 1830s. The stings went around the front where they tied in a bow. These corsets weren't as waist-cinching as the later versions of the mid-century through the 1890s. What must this have felt like -- wearing this contraption for 8 hours?



Fig. 4 - Designer unknown (American).
Day dress, ca. 1830. English roller-printed
cotton twill. Philadelphia: The Philadelphia
Museum of Art, 1956-14-2. Gift of Mrs.
William F. Machold, 1956. Source: [The
Philadelphia Museum of Art](#)



Fig. 5 - Designer unknown (American).
Day dress, ca. 1837. Spitalfields 18th
century silk. Philadelphia: The Philadelphia
Museum of Art, 1962-93-5. Gift of Emma
Thomas, 1962. Source: [The Philadelphia
Museum of Art](#)

These dresses of the 1830s featured a dropped waistline -- in contrast to the high Empire waist of the early 19th century. Waist-cinching corsets helped to achieve a nice fit. From the Fashion Institute of Technology's Fashion Time Line.