

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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OLD WORDS SELDOM USED

In doing historical research one occasionally finds words that are infrequently used as a part of late 20th century language. Occasionally I jot them down for use in this column.

If our ancestors were to hear us speaking, I'm sure they would be baffled at some of our terminology in terms of modern technology along with slang. Likewise, we can sometimes be as baffled at our ancestors' vocabulary.

Here is a list of infrequently used words compiled from historical sources. See if you can match the words in the first column with meanings in the second column. Answers follow at the end for you to check on yourself.



1. cur
 2. malady
 3. mountbank
 4. dunghill
 5. hillock
 6. husbandman
 7. mattock
 8. cudgel
 9. booty
 10. goatherd
 11. gambol
 12. shoal
 13. succour
 14. clog
 15. springe
 16. rushlight
 17. incommode
 18. horn-book
 19. collier
 20. townsman
 21. jackdaw
 22. blackamoor
 23. crane
 24. winnow
 25. periwig
 26. apoplexy
- A. farmer
 - B. grackle (blackbird)
 - C. loss of consciousness
 - D. to remove chaff from grain
 - E. illbred dog
 - F. a pretender
 - G. a large group - crowd
 - H. to prance about
 - I. to help
 - J. nature of a town
 - K. negro
 - L. disturb
 - M. child's reading book
 - N. manure pile
 - O. prize
 - P. a small hill
 - Q. a short heavy stick
 - R. sickness
 - S. a weight to impede an animal
 - T. one who tends goats
 - U. wig
 - V. a candle made from a rush dipped in grease
 - W. a coal miner
 - X. implement for digging
 - Y. a snare or trap
 - Z. a swinging arm in a fireplace for kettles

Answers: 1-E, 2-R, 3-F, 4-N, 5-P, 6-A, 7-X, 8-Q, 9-O, 10-T, 11-H, 12-G, 12-I, 14-S, 15-Y, 16-V, 17-L, 18-M, 19-W, 20-J, 21-B, 22-K, 23-Z, 24-D, 25-U, 26-C.