1880 - 1889

CLOTHING TRENDS

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MEN, 1880 - 1889 Major features in clothing.

Much is modified from Wikipedia. Full article at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1880s_in_Western_fashion. It shows many excellent images and illustrations with sources. Excerpts of the article are modified in each section below.

WORKING MEN -

Farmers still wore smocks, but more often jackets, vests, and corduroy trousers. Clothing was often well worn or bought 2nd hand.

Specialized working men wore overalls, blue jeans, and other convenient clothing. **Boots** were more common than shoes, as they lasted longer, and protected legs and feet during hard labor.

MIDDLE & UPPER-CLASS SUITS -

Coats – A sack coat was part of a 3-piece, matched, informal suit. A frock coat was more formal, and a cutaway morning coat was for very formal day occasions.

Norfolk jackets of tweed were for sporting occasions, with box pleats over the chest, and a belt. They were worn with knee breeches, stockings, and ankle boots.

Formal evening dress – was a dark tail coat and trousers with a white shirt and bow tie, and a dark waistcoat. Eventually, that ensemble relaxed into a two-button dinner jacket or tuxedo. Those were for men "dressing for dinner" or an "occasion."

Topcoats – were knee length, boasting "Chesterfield" velvet or fur collars. Overcoats were calf length.

Trousers were worn for almost all occasions. **Breeches** were for sports, hunting, and outdoors.

MIDDLE & UPPER-CLASS ACCESSORIES:

Shirts had stiff fronts for dress, and collars pressed into "wings. Shirt studs were still worn. The first shirts were seen with buttons all the way up the front, rather than from neck to half-way down.

Neckties – were usually "four-in-had", looking much like today's ties. Ascots were fashionable with a narrow neckband and flaring out from a knot with wide wings to be fastened by a stickpin.

Hats – top hats were formal, bowlers and soft felt hats were for casual, and flat straw boaters were for nautical events.

Shoes – had higher heels and narrower toes.

NOTE- Images have been cropped to best show the clothing, rather than the overall portrait, photo, or illustration.

1880 – 1889 - MEN, Working Class Clothing.

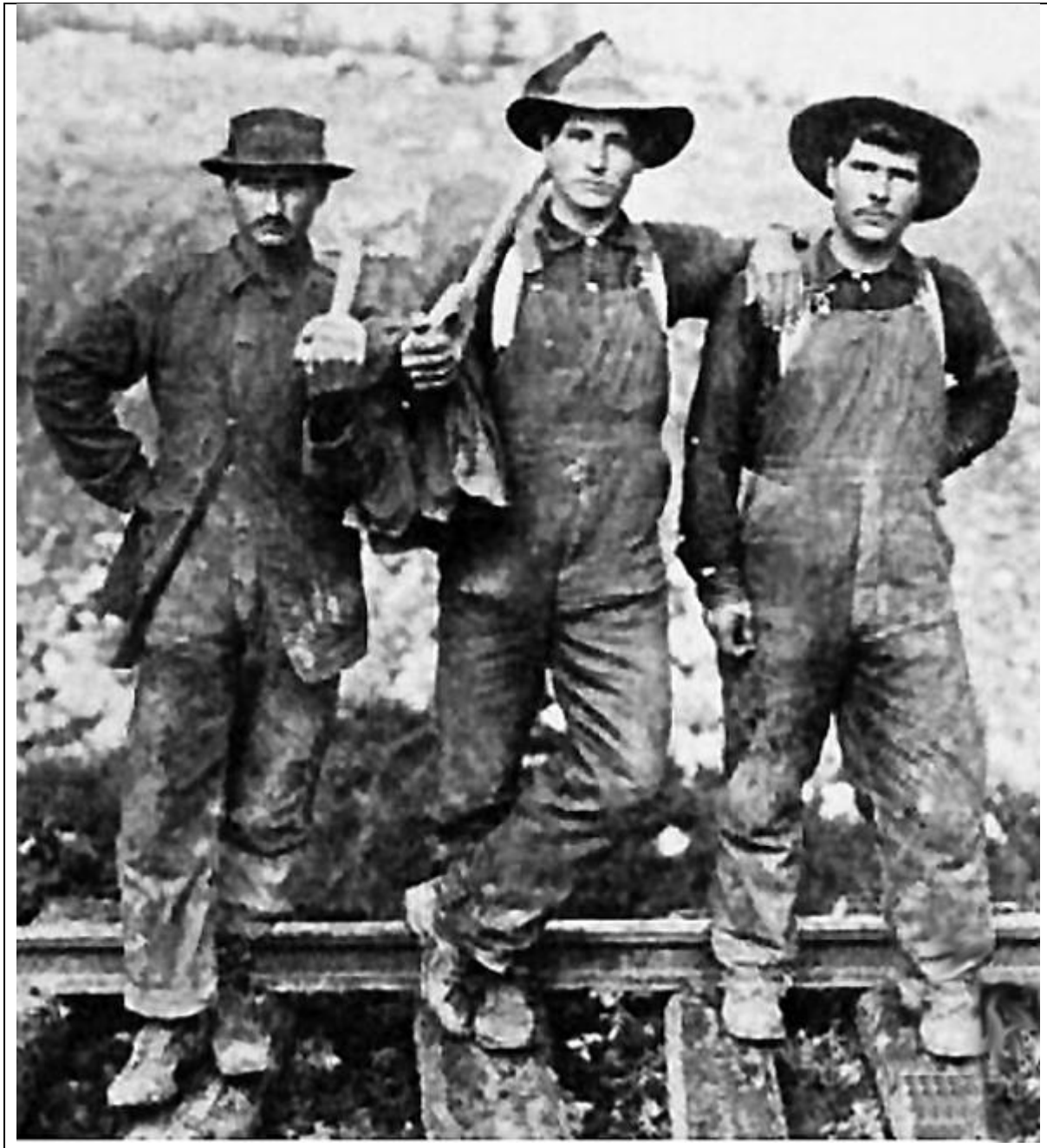
Farmer's wore work smocks from 1700 through 1900 in most western nations, though smocks began to go out of fashion in late 1800s.

Three farmers in traditional smocks sit on a wooden wheelbarrow. One wears a top hat, and the other two wear felt hats. All have rugged, trousers and well-worn boots for tramping through fields and barnyards. These men are from Russia.

Russian and European smocks have much wider smocking and embroidery on the yokes than American smocks, which were limited to a width of 6 inches. But the purpose in all cases was to cover a man's clothing during work. If the day was hot, a farmer might wear nothing on his torso except his tough linen smock. On a cold day, he might wear several layers of knitted sweaters beneath, plus a coat.

Their facial hair shows them as living in the latter half of the 1800s, as does the top hat.

SOURCE – Photo from Russian la-gatta-ciara.livejournal.com.



Railroad workers of most of 1880s. These from 1880.

These hard-working men wore denim overalls and strong, dark, cotton shirts in their very dirty surroundings. Hats were usually broad-brimmed felt to shade the eyes and necks. One, here, also wears a coat.

SOURCE – Pinterest, Dorien Grey saved to Echoes of Beauty Lost 16.

Male pioneers of 1880.

Two men in felt hats with wide brims prepare for their journey west. Each has a wide mustache, and one has a narrow, 3 inch, “imperial” beard.

Man at left wears a plaid suit, all pieces matching but well worn. His high-buttoned vest has a round collar and six buttons, with a watch chain hooked into the lowest button. The coat will button high, with the lower borders open to show the vest and trousers beneath. His white shirt details cannot be discerned.

Man on right has a dark coat and vest, which might have of dark plaid. His trousers seem to have horizontal stripes of ornate design. His light shirt buttons to the top with a regular collar, but a tie is not discerned.

In front of them is a chair with a blanket over the top.

SOURCE – From Pinterest , “Nuckols & Robertson, donated by Frances Lowrey Brasher.”

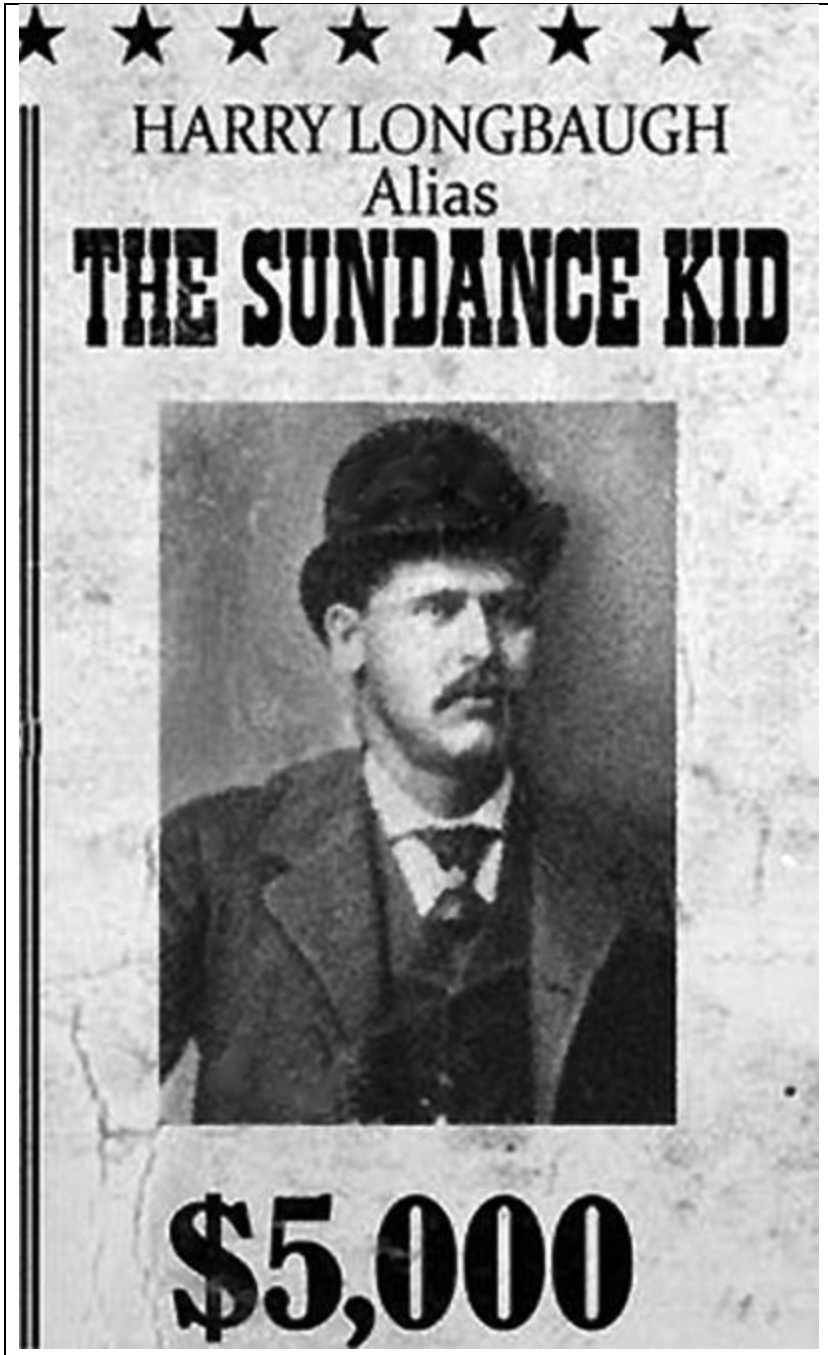
1889, Working cowboy & bandit, Butch Cassidy

Cowboys wore broad-brimmed hats, usually felt, to shade from bright sunlight. Neckerchiefs were also essential to cover the nose and mouth during dust storms.

Any kind of shirt was fine in solid colors or prints. Pockets were handy for necessities.

A belt held up strong trousers and was usually topped by a second gun-belt that held extra cartridges for the pistol in his holster. Guns were used on predators attacking cattle or cowboys, or in Butch's case, robbing trains and banks.

Chaps, still used, are individual leather leg coverings over trousers that protect from daily hazards in working with cattle, horses, and other livestock. They guard riders' legs against scraping on brush, injury from cactus thorns, sagebrush, mesquite, and other prickly vegetation. They leave the seat and front open for riding and toilet functions.



1880-90, Outlaw Wanted poster of the Sundance Kid.

Harry Longbaugh, alias “the Sundance Kid,” was more clothes-conscious than his pal, Butch Cassidy. Here he wears a smart bowler hat, a fashionable coat and edge-trimmed vest, a white shirt, and a tie with an ornament.

His mustache and beard are nicely trimmed in the fashion of the era.

1883 Dodge City Kansas Peace commission

These middle-class lawmen were useful in keeping peace in wild western towns.

They wear bowlers and wide-brimmed felt hats. Most have large and drooping mustaches and one has muttonchop sideburns.

All coats are buttoned only at the top, and flare aside below, with narrow, small collars. Most wear vests, all have shirts, and a few have ties. Trousers are worn by all.

This photo is found on many sites, some of which give names to the individual members of this Peace Commission. Most have been represented in Western movies and TV shows.

SOURCE – Seen on Pinterest under search term, 1800 men, middle-class, clothing.

Working-Class family, ca. 1880s

The father, left, wears a typical 1800s coat and vest, both high-buttoned. His shirt has rounded collars and is tied in a loose knot with a white ascot. He wears the popular, drooping mustache. His hat is now called a flat-cap or newsboy cap. He wears patched denim jeans for some sort of hard, manual labor.

The mother has a dress or blouse with verticle rows of braid down the bodice front, and on the cuffs of leg o'mutton sleeves. Most of her outfit is covered by the plaid-edged blanket holding the baby. A long gathered skirt shows for several inches above the ground. Her hair is tied back tightly, and a brimmed bonnet perches atop her head. It appears to have a broad ribbon ruffled or tied in front on the crown.

The child has long bangs and a cap, probably knitted or crocheted, that covers most of her head. Her coat seems either fur or velvet.

This is a studio portrait, judging from the sharp end of the scenery behind the parents' ankles.

SOURCE – Seen on Pinterest, attributed to gettyimages.

1880-1889 –WOMEN, WORKING CLASS

Women workers at Bryant and May Match factory. In 1888 went on strike over working conditions.

These women, (and possibly a male worker far right), are on strike protesting dangerous working conditions in their factory.

They wear dark coats or jackets buttoned to the throat, and each has a scarf around her neck. Sleeves are straight with no shoulder padding. Woman in center front seems to have sleeves torn and worn-out at the wrists. Unfortunately, details are indistinct.

Headwear is typical of the late 1880s, being wide layers of brim topped by ribbon, fabric, and rather worn-down feathers. Where hair is visible, long bangs in disarray fall over their eyebrows.

The person far-right seems to wear a bowler hat and double-breasted overcoat with wide lapels. He/she carries a small display case supported by ties around the neck.

SOURCE – Found online under 1880 Working-class women.

Mary Fields, an 1888 Stagecoach Driver,

Mary carries a rifle and looks like she knows how to use it, a necessity when stagecoaches were often stopped and robbed.

Her dress and short jacket are of a print fabric, possibly wool. The jacket fastens only at the throat, and a narrow white collar is either attached or folded over the neckline.

The dress is plain in design but has a buckled belt at the seamed waistline. The skirt has a few wide pleats on the sides for fullness and comfort.

Her cap may well be knit, as it clings closely to her head shape. She either has very short hair, or her hair is strictly fastened back in some way.

SOURCE -- online under 1880 Working-class women. Shown on Pinterest, attributed to silhouettescostumes.com, American West.

1880s' Poor-class, one-room apartment

This mother likely takes in washing for others that she must handle at night, possibly after working a day job.

Mother wears a fitted bodice with rolled-up sleeves as she scrubs in a washtub. An all-over once-white apron covers her bodice front and skirt, tying behind her waistline. The narrow skirt identifies the 1880s. Her hair is tied back at the nape of her neck but is coming loose in several places. She works by candle-light. Their window is covered in a drooping cloth.

An older daughter stands on a chair to hang the wet clothes on a line across the ceiling. The girl is dressed like her mother, but with a calf-length skirt and dark stockings.

Another child, possibly a boy, lies covered in bed with an unhappy face. Perhaps he is sick. A little girl plays with her doll under her mother's washing stand.

A slumped, disspirited father in a shirt and vest smokes his pipe at far right.

SOURCE – Found online under 1880 Working-class women. Shown on a Pinterest site, attributed to avictorian.com .

1887- Postcard of Harriet Tubman, husband Nelson Davis, and teen daughter Gertie Davis.

Harriet Tubman is honored for outstanding courage and determination. Born into slavery, she first escaped. Thereafter, she made 13 + missions to rescue about 70 other slaves, including family and friends, using the network of antislavery activists and safe houses known as the "Underground Railroad."

Harriet wears a printed, hip-length jacket with a many-buttoned front. A matching skirt is gently gathered and falls to her ankles. Around her neck is a white scarf, possibly crocheted. Her straw hat has a 2-3 inch flat brim and a flat-topped crown. She holds a large bowl.

Daughter Gertie has a close-fitting knit jacket with buttons and embedded lines down the front, and a pointed collar. Beneath that is a narrow white fringe of ruffle or lace. Her skirt is plaid and may have a flounce or two.

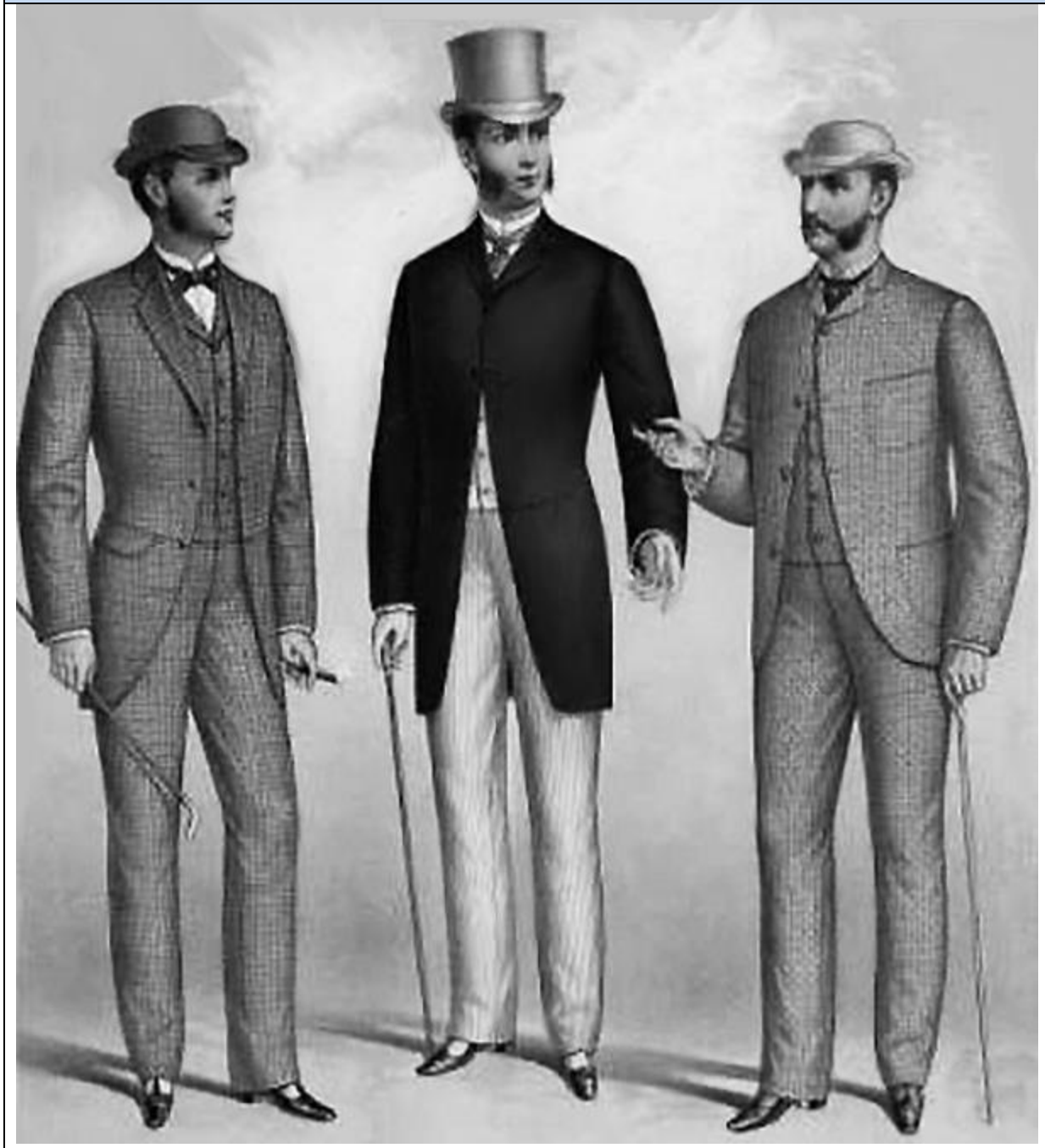
Husband Nelson wears a gingham or checked shirt without a collar. His trousers are supported by wide suspenders. A cloth hat has a slightly turned-up brim and a crushed crown. He smokes a short cigar.

All of them have roughly-made shoes, in which the top is imperfectly sewn to the sole, leaving a sole ridge.

The Wikipedia article on Tubman shows this photograph with five other members of the family on Nelson's right.

SOURCE – Photo from Natl Mus. of Afric Amer Hist & Culture. History bits are paraphrased from Wikipedia.

1880 – 1889 - MEN, Middle & Upper-Class



1882 Men's Fashion Plate from Pinterest.

The latest for men of fashion was either a fitted coat (left and center) or a sack coat without fitting (right). If buttoned, only the top one or two buttons were the fashion.

Coats could have hidden or patch pockets, with or without flaps.

All men wore vests buttoned high. These three have stand-up shirt collars with a visible tie surrounding the neck.

Trousers were straight-legged, and fell almost to the floor in back, but were cut higher in front to the top of the arch.

Two men wear low-crowned bowler hats, while the center man is dressed formally in a thigh-length black coat and a top hat.

The shoes appear to be two-toned leather with a dark piece up the center front, perhaps an early form of Oxford shoe. They all have elevated heels.

The wealthy had excellent and expensive tailors and chose very fine woolens and linens. The Middle-class adopted the same styles, but with less expensive fabrics and tailoring. The poor bought from second-hand shops and carts but tried for fashion as possible. SOURCE—Seen on Pinterest under 1880 men clothing. No attribution given.

1885 Wedding suit at Philidelphia Museum of Art.

In this formal suit, It's easy to see the fashion blend of the two kinds of suits shown above. The coat is not meant to be closed but has the high buttons and the sloping diagonal cut of the lower coat front. The vest and buttons are meant to be seen, perhaps with a watch chain draped across.
Slightly glossy binding surrounds the coat opening and collar, as well as the wide mock cuffs at the wrists.

The vest is high with seven cloth buttons and is cut straight across at the belt-line. It too has a slightly glossy binding.

Above the vest is a stand-up collar with front points ironed in a sharp, forward bend – definitely more comfortable when looking downward. The tie is narrow, and tied in a small, precise bow in front, tucked into the vest collar.

The legs are straight, with the front hem slightly shorter than the back hem.

SOURCE – Seen on Pinterest from the Philidelphia Museum of Art.

1885 Dignified young man in a suit.

This coat of four-buttons is not meant to be buttoned, but to expose the vest, fob, and watchchain. Its collar is narrow, and the front has an upper pocket, as well as unseen lower pockets. The entire coat opening has a very narrow binding or topstitching, as does the vest of the same fabric. Mock sleeve cuffs have the same binding or topstitching 4 inches above the actual sleeve hem. Three tiny buttons on that cuff are barely visible.

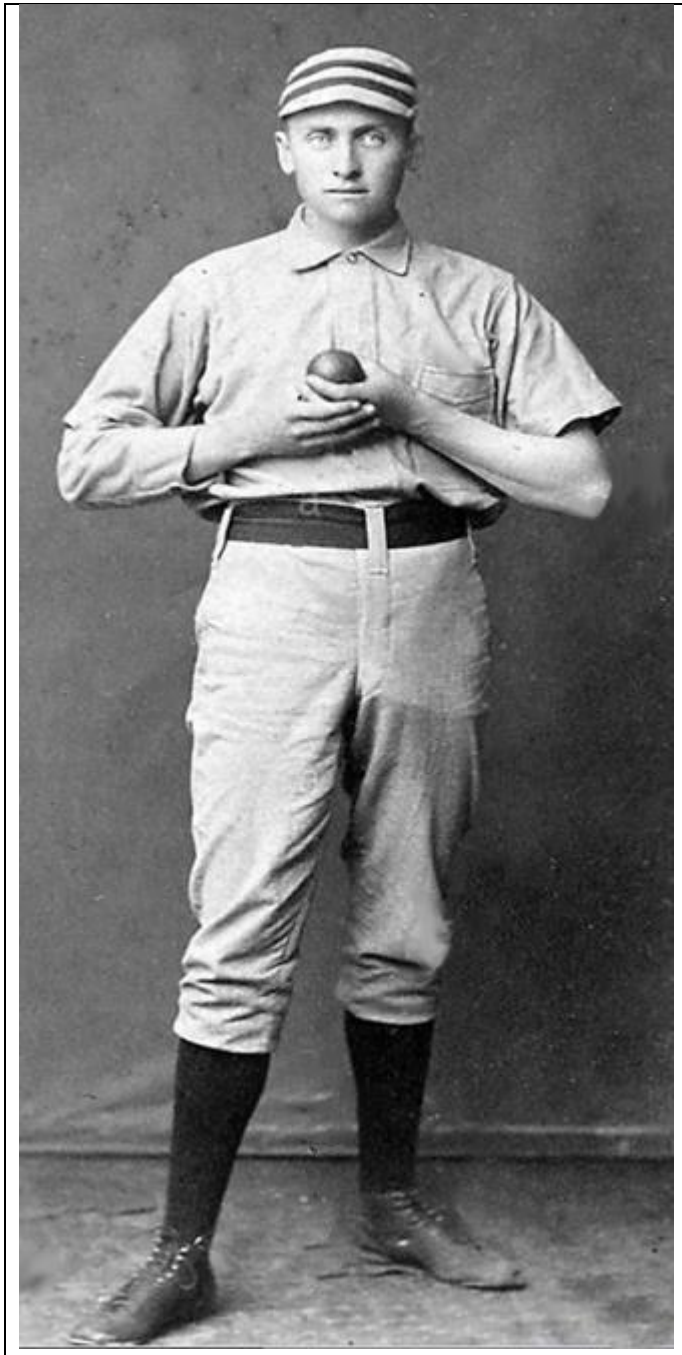
The vest is collarless and cut with a slight inverted V below the bottom button. (It may be noted in photos and illustrations of this era that a slight belly-paunch was expected on the well-to-do man to show that he was rich enough to afford as much food as he wanted, rather than scrape and scrounge for food as the poor must.)

A white, starched shirt shows only in a stand-up collar with forward-folded collar points, and below the coat sleeves in the precise half-inch of white that must show. A dark, polka-dot tie or ascot is at his throat, tucked into the vest neck.

His trousers have a narrow stripe in the wool, which is distorted at the bend of his knee.

His face is clean-shaven, and his hair is combed straight back.

Seen on Pinterest under 1880 men clothing. No attribution given.



1885, Baseball uniform on pitcher Dan Casey, the self-acclaimed subject of the famous poem, "Casey at the Bat."

Baseball began in 1840s America and increased in popularity thereafter. The 1880s were the first full decade for major league baseball. The rules were still changing almost yearly, resulting in vast differences in player performance. The two leagues participated in a World's Series starting in 1884, with the NL winning all but one.

THE UNIFORM –
Casey wears a regular short-sleeved shirt over a one-sleeved long undershirt. The missing sleeve leaves his pitching arm unrestricted to throw. The shirtfront is buttoned to the neck with a pocket on his left. Below a dark belt in team colors, is a pair of knickers. Black knee socks are above flexible leather shoes. The leather ball of his days is not like modern baseballs and was often made by the pitcher himself.

Casey's cap is form-fitting in the colors of his team, but with a small brim.

(If you haven't read the poem since 6th grade, the "Mighty Casey" arrogantly lets 2 strikes go by with haughty sneers. But then he misses the third and loses the game. A treatise on hubris.)

SOURCE – New York Public Library Digital Gallery. Ernest Thayer wrote the famous poem, "Casey at the Bat." public domain

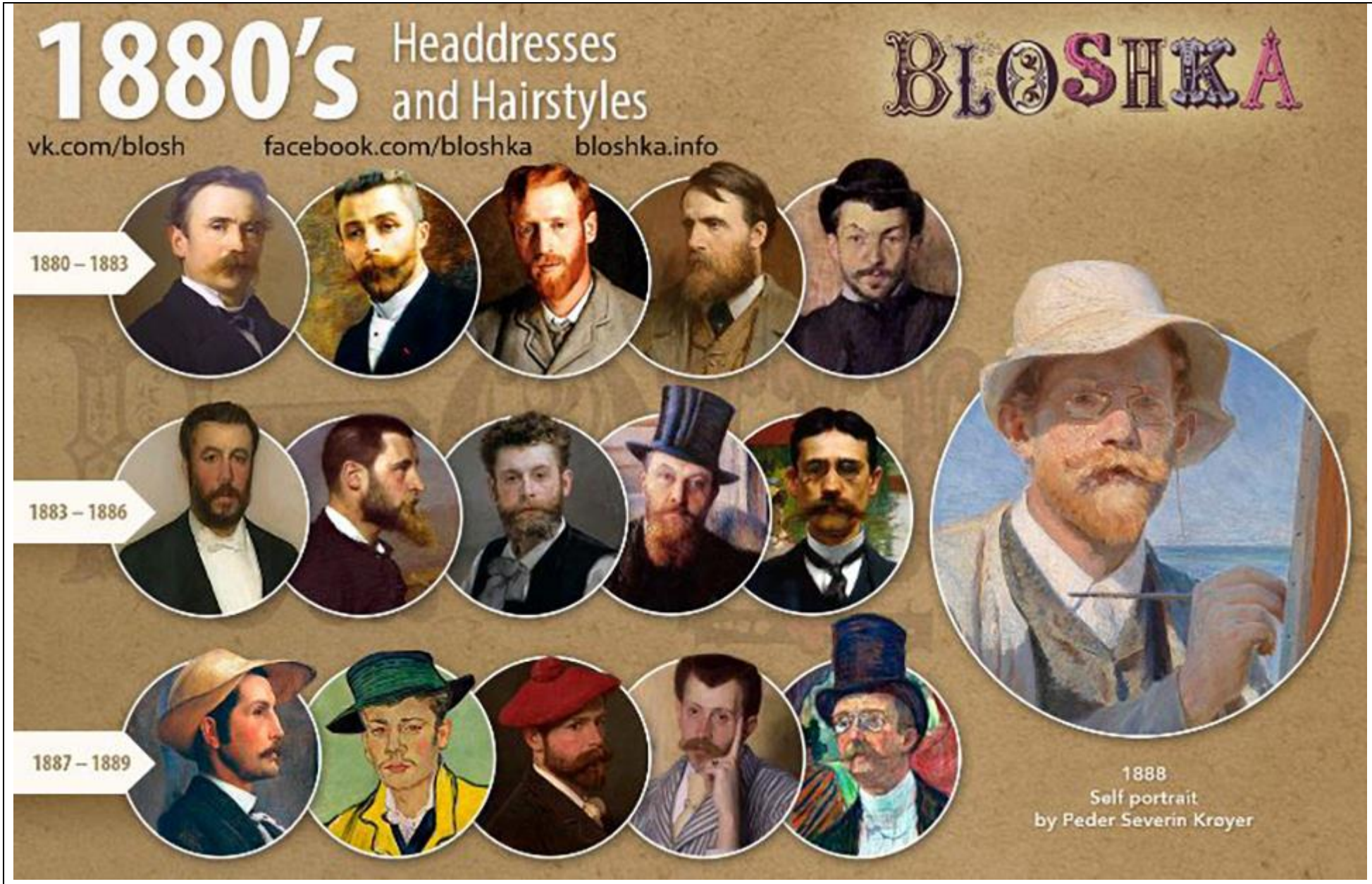
1880s, MEN, HAIR & Accessories. (more examples above.)

Lawman and gunfighter, Wyatt Earp at 39 with a huge mustache, ca. 1887.

His hair neatly parted and combed straight to the side and down, Earp sports the handlebar mustache that was so popular in the 1880s. Almost all men had mustaches, and many had beards as well. A table of hairstyles and facial hair is below.

His well-pressed coat buttons high, with a small coat collar, edged in a narrow, glossy trim. The white mandarin collar is tied around with a narrow ascot that flares wide beneath a single, simple knot. A fancy tie-pin holds the ascot in place. The vest beneath is not seen enough for description, except that it is about as high-buttoned as his coat.

Earp's greatest fame came from his gunfight at the OK corral, made into a popular movie a century later.



1880 Men's hairstyles, facial hair, and hat styles -- This site, Bloshka, has charts of shoulders and heads from each decade. It seems that in the 1880s, any style desired was good to go. Mustaches range from pencil-lines to giant handlebars, and beards may be tiny patches beneath the lower lip to long, thick, and full. Hair was generally short, combed back or parted, and combed to the side. Hats were anything from bowlers, berets, & straw to top hats.

1880s – MEN WITH WOMEN

1880s Couple in fine clothing sit for a studio portrait.

The gentleman has an open coat trimmed all around in a glossy trim. It can be buttoned as high as his vest, which is slightly lower than many from this decade. The vest is also trimmed and has 3 visible glossy buttons. His shirt collar is folded over a narrow ribbon tie in a bow beneath his chin. No white shirt cuffs show. His trousers are straight leg, and a high heel shows on one boot. His hair is parted and combed straight across on top and straight back at the sides. His mustache is not thick but extends an inch or more past the ends of his lips.

The lady has white-blond hair caught behind in a snood or large bun. Silver earrings dangle. Her jacket is of dark fabric down to the hips, with an attached, wide swath of velvet gathered around and up to her right side. A bustle of velvet loops falls behind her skirt. The sleeve cuffs are of the same velvet. A wide bow and fall of Venician lace is tied around her neck. A narrow collar of the jacket is barely seen above it, with a tiny white ruff above that.

Her skirt is alternating rows of loose, wide ruching, and four tight bands of ruching.

Attention to abundant details on every part of the costume seems to be the hallmark of high-fashion clothing for well-to-do women of the 1800s. SOURCE – Pinterest, seen under 1800s fashions. No attribution given.

1880 Middle-class Couple in formal studio portrait.

This young couple, probably newlyweds, arrange for a studio portrait to commemorate their first year.

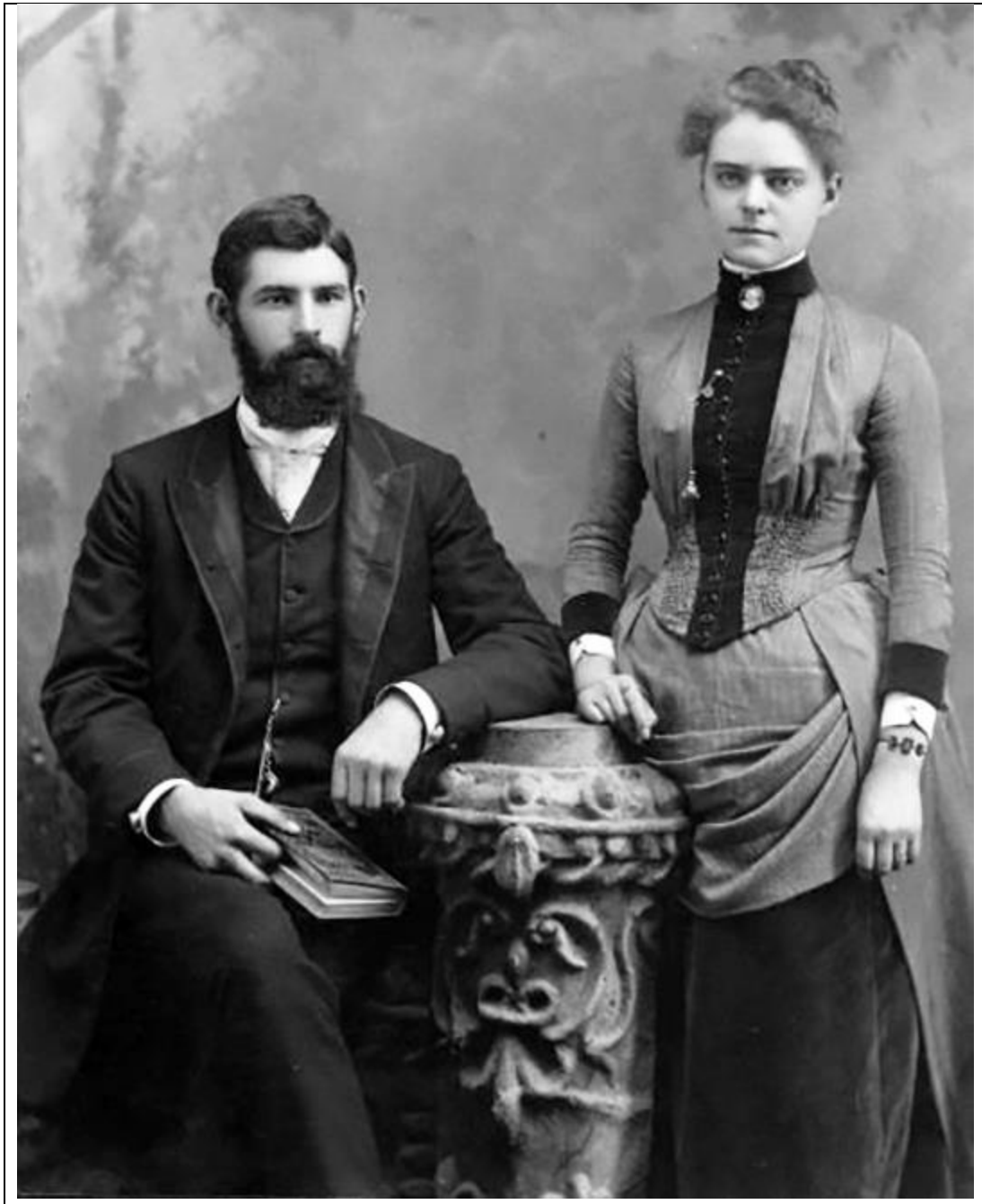
He wears a three-piece suit of dark, but not black wool. His coat collar is of medium depth, as is his six-button vest collar. As frequent, his coat opening has glossy trim or top-stitching all the way around. His sleeves and trousers are comfortably roomy. His stiff collar and shirt-front are well starched, with shirt-points pressed out from a wide neck opening. A bow-tie of medium color and width is around the collar. His very short hair is combed straight back. A full handlebar mustache follows the fashion. His shoes are new and well-cared-for.

The wife has a tight-fitting, jacket-like bodice, with a split pannier overskirt attached to a deep, V-front hip seam. A quilted trim connects the bodice and overskirt around her hips. Fifteen tiny metal buttons close the front, topped by a small round collar and a narrow, horizontal broach. The collar appears trimmed like the hipline band. Above the collar is the requisite white ruff against her throat, typical of any and every day-dress, easy to detach and wash. White scalloped cuffs end her ¾ length sleeves.

The skirt is moderately gathered, with a ten inch flounce on the bottom. The flounce has a gathered ruffle at its top. There is the hint of a bustle-fall behind the skirt.

Her hair is in tight curls or waves over her forehead on each side of a middle part. A large, soft bow on top is her hair ornament.

SOURCE – Pinterest, seen under 1800s fashions. No attribution given.



1880 young couple in California

This young man has thick, plentiful, short hair on his head, quite a full beard on his face. His suit has flaring lapels faced with both the wool of his suit and an inner taffeta lining. Narrow taffeta trim surrounds all edges of the coat opening and all edges of his rounded-collar vest. A watch-chain is inserted into a middle buttonhole. A narrow band of the taffeta is also on his mock sleeve cuff. His white shirt fastens with studs below an indistinct collar and tie. White shirt cuffs correctly extend an inch below his coat sleeves, bearing large cufflinks.

His young wife wears a V-front bodice that covers an overskirt with draped pleats in front and softly pleated side panels. The bodice has a dark center-band with many tiny buttons. It widens to form a high collar closed with a cameo broach. Beside the center band, the bodice on each side is gathered into tight smocking below the breasts. Tight sleeves end in a dark ¾-length cuff of the center-band fabric. There is a thin white band at her neck, and 2 inch white cuffs above her wrists.

Her underskirt is a solid, dark fabric. She wears a thin chain on her bodice and a bracelet on her wrist.

SOURCE – Pinterest, seen under 1800s fashions. No attribution given.

1880s – WOMEN, Middle & Upper Class

1880 - 1889 Major features in women's clothing.

Below is modified from Wikipedia. The full article is at en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1880s_in_Western_fashion.
It shows many excellent images and illustrations with sources. (See more examples online under 1880 dresses.)

SILHOUETTE-- Emphasis remained on the back of the skirt, though fullness gradually rose from behind knee-height to just behind the waist-hight. The small waist was achieved by rigid corseting, foreshadowing the more radical form of this shape in the early 1900s. There was less seen of long trains in the back, which was different from the 1870s gowns Winter gowns were made in darker hues and summer ones were in lighter shades.

BODICES – Separate bodices were tightly fitted and long to the hip, in many styles. High necks were for day-wear, and Evening gowns were sleeveless and low-necked, worn with very long gloves of kidskin or suede. Choker necklaces and jeweled collars were fashionable, as always were earrings and bracelets.

SKIRTS-- Overskirts were draped or tied up in various styles. Underskirts may match or contrast with the bodice and overskirt, and may be simple or intricately ornate.

UNDERWEAR-- Bustles were back, and larger than ever in 1886–1888, extending almost straight out from the back of the waist, trailing drapery, fringe, swags, and ribbons. Corsets were still rigid and small-waisted, but longer over the hip to fit with dropped-waistline styles. A *combination* undergarment joined a camisole above with attached knee- drawers below. Being light-weight and fitted, it was worn more comfortably under the corset, bustle, and petticoat.

HAIR AND BONNETS – Hair was usually pulled back at the sides and worn in a low knot or cluster of ringlets. Later hair was swept up to the top of the head. Fringe or bangs were in fashion through the 1800s, tightly curled. Bonnets resembled hats except for curvy brims and ribbons tied under the chin.

WORKING WOMEN **Above, p. 11-14** As styles changed very noticeably, working women tried to keep up as their means would allow. They remade the old or bought used clothing from second-hand stores or street carts. Adding or subtracted petticoats would fill-out or narrow their skirts. And one could always refurbish an old hat with a few used cloth flowers.

NOTE- Images have been cropped to best show the clothing, rather than the overall portrait, photo, or illustration.

Comparative profiles of 1880 -1890s women's dresses.

Although there were bustles in the mid-1870s, evolving fashion decreased the bustle size, and slid major fullness down behind the knees with an added train for fashion occasions. (Working women and the less-wealthy could not afford the cost or inconvenience of trains. Feminists decried trains as a spreader of dirt and disease.)

But in the mid-1880s, bustles came back and grew from modest and hip-high to large and just below the waistline. As the decade marched on, those high bustles became more and more voluminous.

At the same time, corsets extended down onto the hips for the dropped- waist and included a long front busk (stiff bone or metal insertion) that actually forced a woman to bend her body into a breasts-forward-bottom-protruding S shape. If she didn't obey the busk, it might pierce her low-stomach clothing and even her skin. (Were fashion designers sadists, or did they care more for the money earned from changing the fashions more than the comfort of women?) There was even sold a cage of flat metal strips that prevented splitting corset bones from piercing the skin.

But by 1889 into the 1890s, the fashion changed again. Now waists were even smaller, bustlines were lower, and the enormous bustle was gone. Padded petticoats, however, filled out the hips to emphasize the tiny waistline. SOURCE – Pinterest, attributed to Temps d'elegance.

June 1880 – A more slender silhouette, from walking dresses to evening gowns.

Before the mid-1880s ballooned out in bustles, the early 1880s gloried in a slim silhouette from neck to hem – except for formal occasions that demanded a train.

All examples here have a corseted waistline and a fuller bust and hipline to emphasize it. The skirt was very slim with fullness behind the knees provided by shaped petticoats. Slim skirts were called by some “hobble skirts,” which necessitated small steps beneath its restrictive hemline. Much prestige was earned by the wealthy in expanding on decorations of great intricacy in folds, fabric swoops and tie-ups, lace, fringes, ruffles, and bows all over the ensemble. All bodices have a white frill at the neckline which can be removed for laundering, even the pink low-cut evening dress. A little child is lost amidst the colorful frou-frou.

Hair was piled on top with ornaments or tall-perched bonnets, equally embellished with feathers, flowers, etc.

SOURCE: Pinterest under 1880 women fashions. No attribution given.

Elegant visiting dress of 1886.

A form-fitting, low-hipped jacket buttons up the front with ball buttons in loops to a standing velvet collar. Below a top inset of of white frill the collar is closed with a broach. The upper breast is ornamented with either an embroidery of flowers, or with silk flowers and leaves sewn on. The sleeves are gathered at the shoulder to pouf up, although the rest of the sleeve is snug down to a turned-up velvet cuff with a double fall of lace beneath. The bottom center of the jacket is an inverted V held in place by boning inside the jacket. Her body is held in form by a hip-length, boned corset.

A pleated overskirt with a hem cording is swagged and tied up at her right hip with a multi-looped bow and trailing ribbons. The bustle is modest for this date, and covered with long loops of fabric that match the overskirt.

Her underskirt shows three flounces of a contrasting fabric with a scalloped band of lace and embroidery at the bottom of each flounce. A small white frill finishes the hem, and likely matches the neck and wrist frills.

Her hair is piled high on the crown with curled bangs and long ringlets trailing down in back. When she goes out to visit, she will wear a bonnet. If it is cold, she may wear a thigh-length coat with a flared back to allow for her bustle. She will wear kid gloves and carry a muff.

SOURCE – Seen on Pinterest under 1880 women fashions. No attribution given.

Four Mid-1880s Women,

These women show-off the importance of high-piled hairstyles and bonnets, as well as thrust-out bustles behind the waistlines.

Though rather elaborate in pleats, ruffles, swags, trims, and other decors, they are moderate compared to some other designers of the decade who pile on 200% more lace, frills, and ribbons.

The evening gown, left, has four layers of flounce below the overskirt, each trimmed with silk flowers and leaves, borders of wide lace, ribbons, and ruched satin extensions. Four layers of deep pink, looped, 9-inch ribbon lie atop the bustle.

The two center dresses highlight striking contrasts in color: light lilac satin with deep purple velvet borders, and light chartreuse pleats and swag with black velvet insertions.

The right dress has swags of checked purple fabric separated by tightly-pressed trims of grape pleating and ruching. Details emphasize more, more, more! The neckline and sleeve-cuff treatments are elaborate.

SOURCE – Seen in JoAnne Olian's book, *80 Godey's Full Color Fashion Plates*. Amazon Books.

1888, women, middle and upper-class, have moderate bustles and very tall bonnets.

Lady on left wears a two-tone green dress with a pleated, deeply-swagged front panel. An embroidered band is above the hem, mirrored by a similar band on the front edge of an emerald green back panel. The bodice has a faux jacket of emerald with light green lapels and pin-tucked bodice, both embroidered more narrowly. Light-green, ¾ length sleeves are gathered at the shoulders to puff upward and outward a bit. An emerald, V-stitched sash is at her waist, with a high emerald collar and sleeve cuff décor. Collar and cuffs have a white band or frill at the edge. Long gloves reach to touch the sleeve hems. Her hat, like the others, is piled very high with décor over tightly-curled bangs.

Center lady is in a light pink overdress with a pink and maroon crewel underskirt and bodice. A faux vest is within the embroidered jacket. And is echoed in the looped swaths over her bustle. A maroon macrame ornament hangs from her waist. Her ¾ length sleeves top tan gloves.

The teen girl wears a dress of tiny-flowered print with a gathered bodice and pleated skirt. Her long puffed sleeves are gathered in with blue bands to make three puffs above a cuff. A wide blue sash ties in back with long streamers. SOURCE -- Fashion plate from mid-1888 *Journal des Demoiselles*.

Extreme bustles of 1888.

Two fashionable women look at patterns. Each wears a high-perched bustle that reaches 10 to 14 inches behind her natural body.

Left woman in indigo velvet has an underbodice and skirt panel of tightly pleated off-white. A band of multicolor print or embroidery is at her dropped-V waist and capelet-shoulders that have a white pleated insertion. A swag of lavender crosses the bust to a high bow on left.

¾-length sleeves have 2 buttons each. A large pocket flap is on her skirt. She may be a couturier showing possibilities to a wealthy client.

Right woman wears a dark sage-colored velvet coat with sage fur around the front opening, collar, and cuffs. Sleeves and coat back are in alternate squares of white, sage, and dark green, constructed to look like a jacket and coat-skirt. Two pale rosette bows ornament the division of solid and squares on the lower portion. Her sage hat has a broad, dark brim, and light sage ostrich feathers thrust up on back of crown.

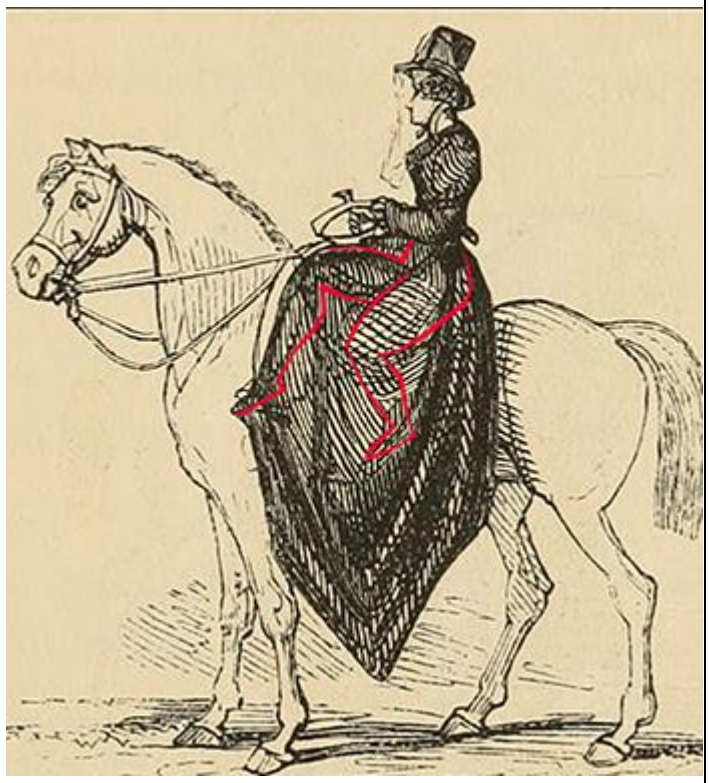
SOURCE – A fashion plate seen on Pinterest, attributed to ww1.au-fil-du-temps.net

1880s -- Woman's Riding habit.

A tightly-fitted jacket over the usual constricting corset has numerous front buttons, as are also on her forearm sleeves. A stand-up collar is lined with a white frill. Her overskirt is flared down from the hip sufficiently for three deep tie-ups below thigh-level. It continues out and down on the left side in a train that will modestly cover her legs and feet as she rides side-saddle.

Side-saddles were requisite for women and girls lest they damage their feminine parts by riding astride.

Most riding head-wear resembled top hats, with or without veils. Women on horseback wore riding boots with heels that would not slide through stirrups, and gloves to prevent calluses or blisters on tender hands.



(Does the horse look puzzled?)

SOURCE – 1880s portrait seen on Pinterest with no attribution. Horse illustration from gutenberg.org
Red outline by author.

1886 Fashion plate of a woman in a riding habit, and two hunting outfits with Norfolk Jackets.

This fashion plate shows extreme corseting and bustles for the mid-1880s. The riding habit is dark with a jacket hem that rises high over the right hip to facilitate sitting on the saddle. But below is a great gathering of material to poof over the non-leg side of the saddle. The back of the jacket also extends out to smooth her sitting silhouette. Many buttons fasten the front. Her slim sleeves have a deep cuff, and her top-hat has a long veil to throw over the opposite shoulder.

The two huntresses show the front and back of a woman's houndstooth Norfolk jacket with leather straps over the front instead of pleats, but the usual buckled belt. The closure is hidden by another leather strap. Cuffs and stand-up collar. may be of suede. The jacket back is cut extremely full to extend over the large bustle. The skirt is pleated, and falls to the knee, beneath which one has leather boots, and the other has knee-high corduroy spats. One wears a typical but feminized bowler hat, and the other has a flat-topped, feminized bowler. Both hats would need to be well anchored with several long hat pins not to fly off during the hunt. SOURCE – Pinterest under 1880 women clothing. No other attribution given.

Renouncing the bustle, this 1889-93, women's walking suit adopts the more slender silhouette of the 1890s.

A two-piece dress in rust-colored, felted wool has black soutache braid carefully applied to bodice and skirt hem, with astrakhan trim around the deep-V bottom of the snug jacket, (Astrakhan is the dark curly fleece of young Asian lambs.) It appears on closer view that the soutache trim was first sewn onto a different fabric, and then attached to this dress bodice, sleeves, and near the skirt hem.

The skirt is gently gathered around, and probably had petticoats that held the hipline out more fully to aid the hourglass shape. In the back, the skirt is deeply pleated to allow movement, but not a bustle. This is a copy of an original.

SOURCE – Seen on Pinterest, but labeled as -- John Redfern & Sons, 242 Rue de Rivoli Pari.

1880 – Women, Hair & Headdresses

1883 Hairstyles from Belle Epoch Magazine.

1880 womens' hairstyles from Belle Epoch Magazine. More styles are seen on models for dresses, above.

Hairstyles for the 1880s almost all show curled or frizzed bangs on the forehead, and the rest of the hair swept back and up to add height. Often, hairpieces were needed to add the desired height, fullness, or style.

1880 bonnets

These bonnets were small in circumference with narrow or no brims, but plenty of décors.

Top right and center bottom feature dead birds amidst feathers, flowers, and lace. Top center is a fur hat with a wide, folded-up cuff.

Bonnets may tie under the chin with satin ribbons. Otherwise, they would need long, strong hatpins in a few places, anchored to the hair.

As in previous decades, dyed ostrich plumes were much admired. We cannot discern what the textured dome on bonnet lower right might be. All women have curled bangs. SOURCE – Seen on Pinterest, attributed to *The Queen, The Ladies Newspaper*, Dec 1880.

Colorful 1880 bonnets.

It seems a truism that the larger the skirt, the smaller the hat. Bustles and fullness made 1880 skirts voluminous. Thus, hats are fairly small and close to the head. That would reverse in the 1890s.

Here we have women with curled bangs wearing an assortment of much decorated, but fairly close-fitting bonnets. They are made of shaped felt, woven straw, and free-form fabric, probably over buckram hat forms beneath. Bonnets and hats were a very important accessory, as a woman would not be seen out-of-door without a bonnet, except sometimes in her own yard or garden. Thus, procuring a few hats that would match outdoor dresses was essential.

Lace and feathers abound, as do tie-on ribbons of satin and lace.

Bonnet at center bottom seems to have a bird on top with a head-frill and long pink tail-feathers trailing behind.

The poor also knew the century's requirement for head-coverings and might add a feather or worn silk flower to spruce up an old hat for all purposes.

SOURCE -- Seen on Pinterest, attributed to *Bon Ton Magazine.*

More 1880 hats & bonnets

These bonnets have varying brims. Three are raised far up over the face to add height. One has a heart-shaped brim trimmed in spiral braid and heaped with feather plumes on top and back.

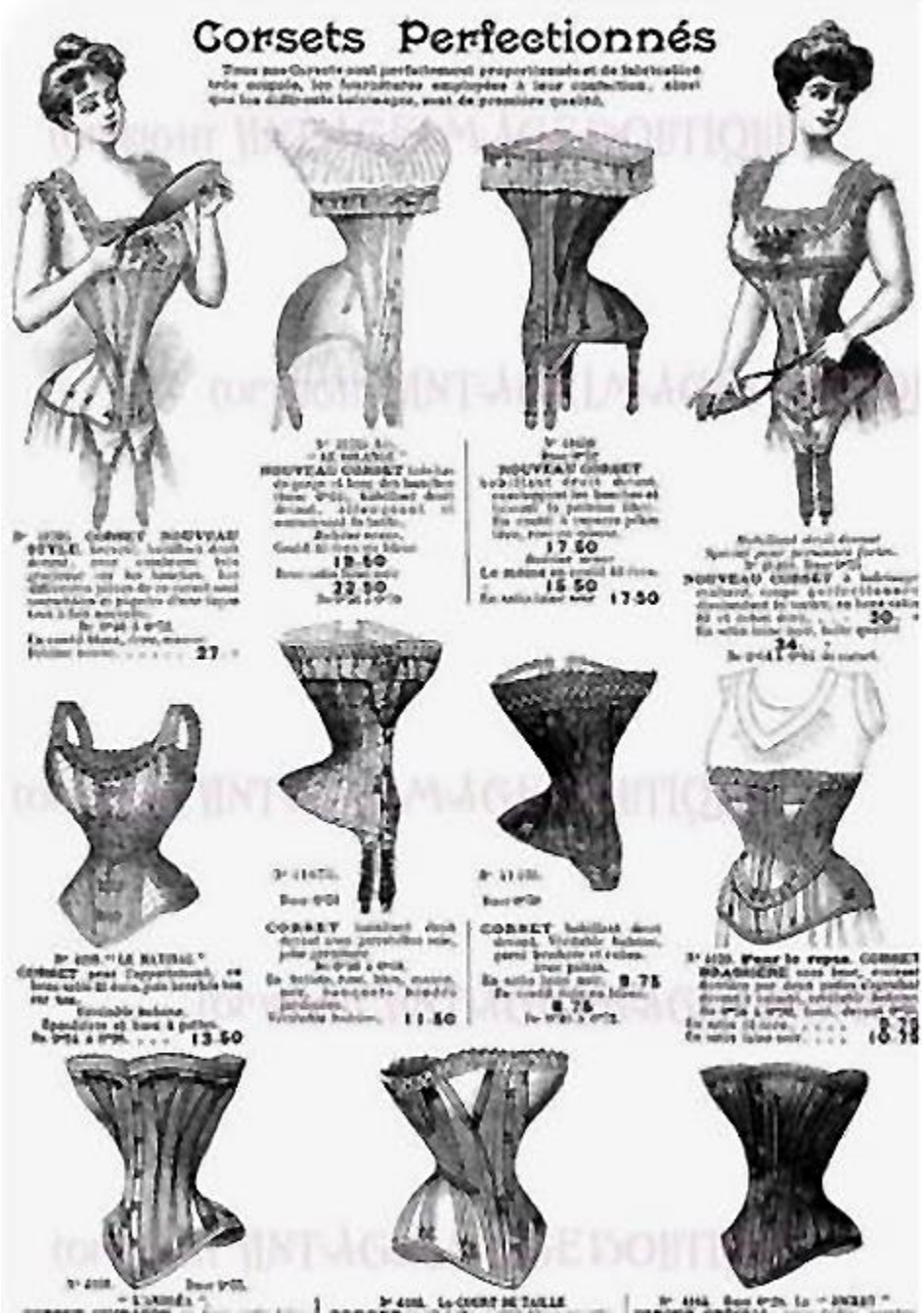
The brim of the center bonnet is curved far up in front and decorated with large ostrich plumes.

Hat lower left is of plain fur with a braided hatband and a poof on the side.

All women have curled bangs and a white frill at their throats. These are realistic fashion plates a mantua-maker could copy. Some fashion plates of the decade (seen below) show hats built up taller than the heads they rest on, which was not the actual fashion.

SOURCE – Seen on Pinterest, attributed to *The Queen, The Ladies Newspaper*, Dec 1880.

1880s – Women, Underwear



Corsets of 1880 -1895.

The 1880 corsets held the stomach flat with a bone or metal busk down the front, and also add buttocks-extensions in the back to help hold the outthrust bustle shape.

Later, in the 1890s, the hipline became lower and rounded, and the back of the corset extended only a little farther than the hips did. There were even corsets to fit plumper ladies who might endure 28-inch cinching (center right), rather than the desired 16-18 inch waist for young ladies (bottom row).

Corsets laced up in the back so a woman could adjust a new bustle to her desired waistline, with assistance. Once adjusted, the corset hooked up the front so a woman could put it on herself.

One primary purpose of the corset was to support the breasts. Modern bras were not invented until 1914.

None of the bustles or corsets felt comfortable. They were unhealthy for internal organs, and required shallow breathing. But that was the price of “beauty” for the age.

SOURCE – Seen on Pinterest, no attribution given.

1880s Ladies Drawers catalog.

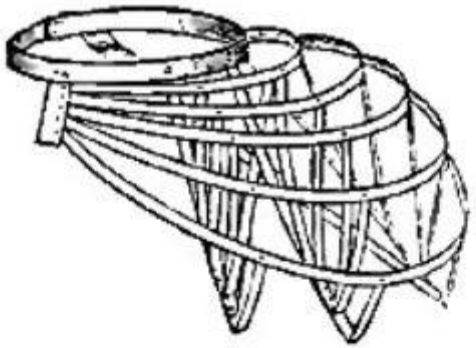
Pantalets or drawers were primarily worn to keep legs covered and warm, especially when hoop crinolines held the skirt and petticoats away from the body. Another factor was that hoops sometimes flipped up, exposing the legs. Thus, pretty trims on drawer-legs were important, as seen here. They ended inches above the skirt hem on the chance that the skirt might flip up.

What is horrifying to modern women is the fact that drawers had no crotch covering. The crotch seam was open from fore to aft so that ladies could use both hands to hold up all their undergirdings during toilet functions, and merely had to squat over a pot of some kind. Besides, the corset held the top of pantalets solid against the waist and hips so there was no chance of pulling drawers down for toilet functions.

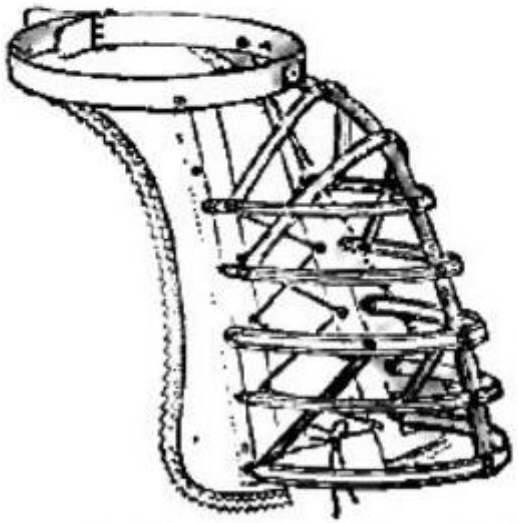
This was one reason maidens were always accompanied by an older woman when men were around.

Ladies Drawers catalog, Seen on Pinterest – attribution to “Photo by CharmaineZoe on Flickr.”

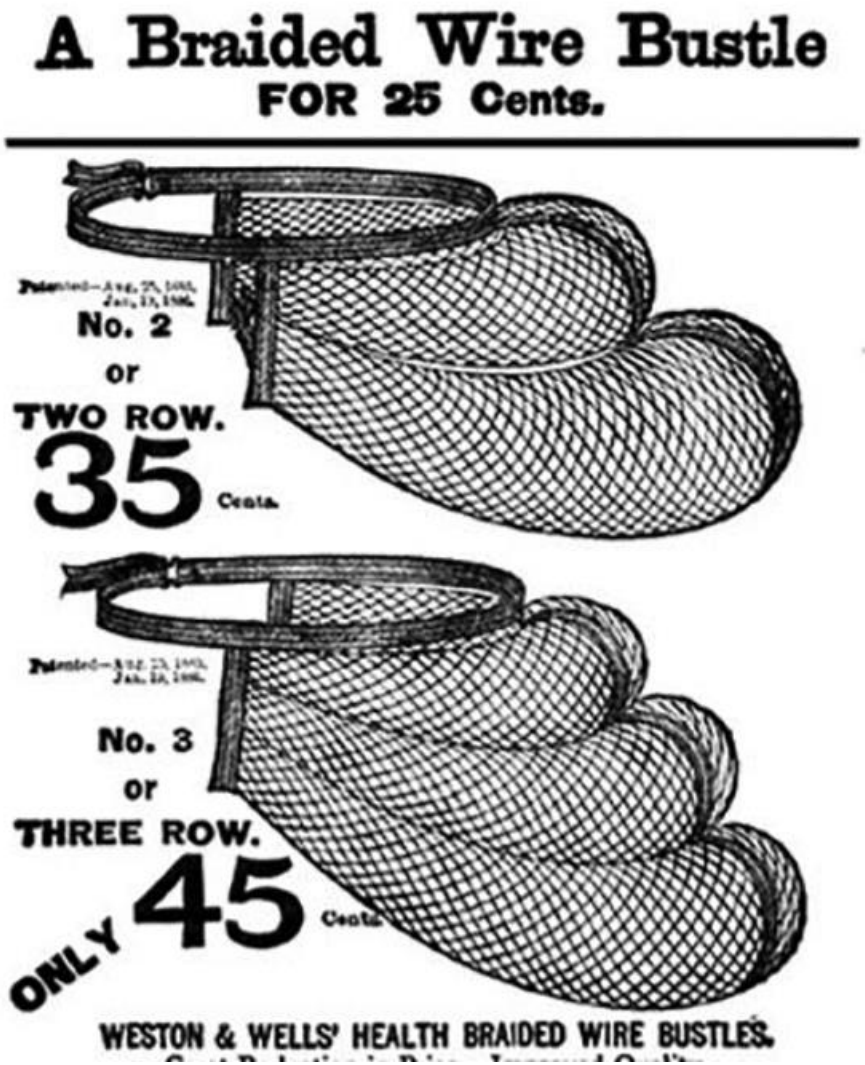
Bustles - 1885-88. Left, “Lotta and Langtry,” Right, “Weston & Wells’ health braided wire bustles,” on Pinterest -- Victoriana Magazine online.



“Lotta” Bustle with springs, 1888.



'Langtry' folding bustle, c.1888.



1880s -- WOMEN, Accessories

1885 -- Women's embroidered footwear from Paris.

These calf-high boots were beautifully embroidered with colorful leaves and flowers before the suede leather pieces were assembled. Then they were expertly sewn together. A 1 ½ inch heel was attached, and ribbon lacings in front were threaded.

They were both made on a last that was identical for both feet – no right or left.

SOURCE -- LACMA Image Library. Public domain.

Sewing from 1880s on, a machine for the housewife.

Before the sewing machine, fabrics were cut to size, then hand-sewn with needle and thread using 1/16 inch stitches. Even one skirt-length seam could take an hour to sew properly, and might later need to be unpicked (another half hour or more) to re-sew the seam looser or tighter to fit the body (a third hour). Women were judged by how tiny and straight they could make their stitches. Dressmaker assistants to reputable dress designers often had to work in dim back-rooms or by candle-light.

Once sewing machines were available, the same seam could be finished more perfectly and sturdily in minutes. Clothing patterns became available for home use, allowing many women to become quite capable of sewing clothes for their own families. Other women became proficient enough to start their own home dressmaker's business in recreating fashions from fashion plates and photographs of the "latest thing."

This mother with a small daughter (and a parrot and cat) rejoices in her own pretty 1885 dress of tiny waist and swathed hips over a bustle. As hinted by the presence of the girl, she can also make clothing for her daughter.

This machine was a treadle model, that had no need of an outside power source. A convenient machine table has drawers for accessories, thread, buttons and other sewing tools.

SOURCE – Seen on Pinterest, attributed to zazzle.com

Iron heated by filling with hot coals,

Before the electric iron, heavy cast iron frames held hot charcoal, with a lid closed over them. In 1882, the first electric iron was patented but depended on both the electrification of the room where it was used (only in big cities) and the ability of the person to judge the temperature of the iron so as not to burn the fabric. (An electric iron with an adjustable thermostat was not invented until 1935.)

But ironing did have to be done, especially on cotton and linen clothing, that wrinkled dreadfully after washing. Cool irons were necessary for silks, voiles, and fragile fabrics.

So some professionals and tailors might have an "iron-heating ► stove" on which many irons could be continually heating. The stove was kept filled with coal or wood via the drawer you see below, right. Wood or leather handles were changeable from iron to iron as needed.

Folks without electricity bought a few, solid, cast irons and heated them on the kitchen stove, alternating irons as they cooled off.

Top, Seen on Pinterest -- Attributed to s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com, all decades of 1800s

Lower image -- Iron heating stove from Wikipedia.org in their article, "Ironing."

1880s – CHILDREN, All Ages & Classes

1880 - 1889 Major features in Children's clothing.

Below is modified from Wikipedia. Many excellent images and illustrations are here.
The full article at --en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1880s_in_Western_fashion.

See hundreds of examples online under 1880 children clothes.

Infants wore about what they had worn for decades if not centuries – a long sack with a gathered neck or small yoke, long sleeves to keep arms warm, and an open body for convenient changing of diapers. Poor parents would use a plain cloth sack, gathered in as necessary. Parents of greater means would decorate the gown with lace, ribbons, tucks, and ruffles on gowns often a yard in length.

Middle & Upper-class girls' Young girls wore dresses with round collars and sashes, about knee length for convenience and play. Dropped waists were fashionable in their dresses, as in their mother's clothing. A pinafore, an apron that covered the bodice as well as the skirt, was worn for work and play. For winter, girls wore several layers for warmth, including a warm coat and mittens or gloves. Muffs were also common to keep hands warm. Just like their mothers, upper-class Victorian girls wore gloves when outdoors, and a hat or bonnet was *de rigueur*. Girls wore pantalets and knee-length stockings with gaiters, or button-up boots. As a girl grew into a teen, her skirts gradually lengthened to the calf or ankle.

Middle and Upper-class boys' -- Very young boys wore jackets and skirts, or dresses up to age 5 or so. Older boys wore knee-length breeches and jackets with round-collared shirts. As boys grew older, their apparel gradually became more like their fathers, with long trousers and similar coat and vest styles.

The Poor – Both adults and children wore what they could afford, often ill-fitting or bought second-hand and patched, but as much like current styles as they were able.

NOTE- Images are cropped to best show the clothing,
rather than the overall picture.

1880s, INFANT's CLOTHING

Infant of 1880s from a cabinet card, an albumen print.

This is a typical middle-class baby dress. It has a high round neck and set-in sleeves with ruffles at the wrists. The body is long and slightly gathered at an unseen yoke. It may be a light cotton print. The hem has many pin-tucks and an inset of lace or handwork, visible at bottom-left.

SOURCE -- Seen on Pinterest. Attributed to photosmadeperfect.com.

Genuine Antique Christening gown of 1880.

This antique baby gown has a round neck with a narrow binding that holds a downward-facing lace ruffle. Set-in sleeves have a bit of narrow trim at the wrists. Lace princess lines from armhole to hem center a panel of multiple pin-tucks alternating with embroidered lace insertions. The hem has a border of Broderie Anglaise with zig-zag edges.

SOURCE – Seen on Pinterest, on sale at Etsy.com.

1880s – CHILDREN, The Poor

Poor children were orphans, child factory workers, young children in daycare with working parents, and school children from the lower-class. Unfortunately, these outnumbered middle-class children.

1880s Working class family, three boys

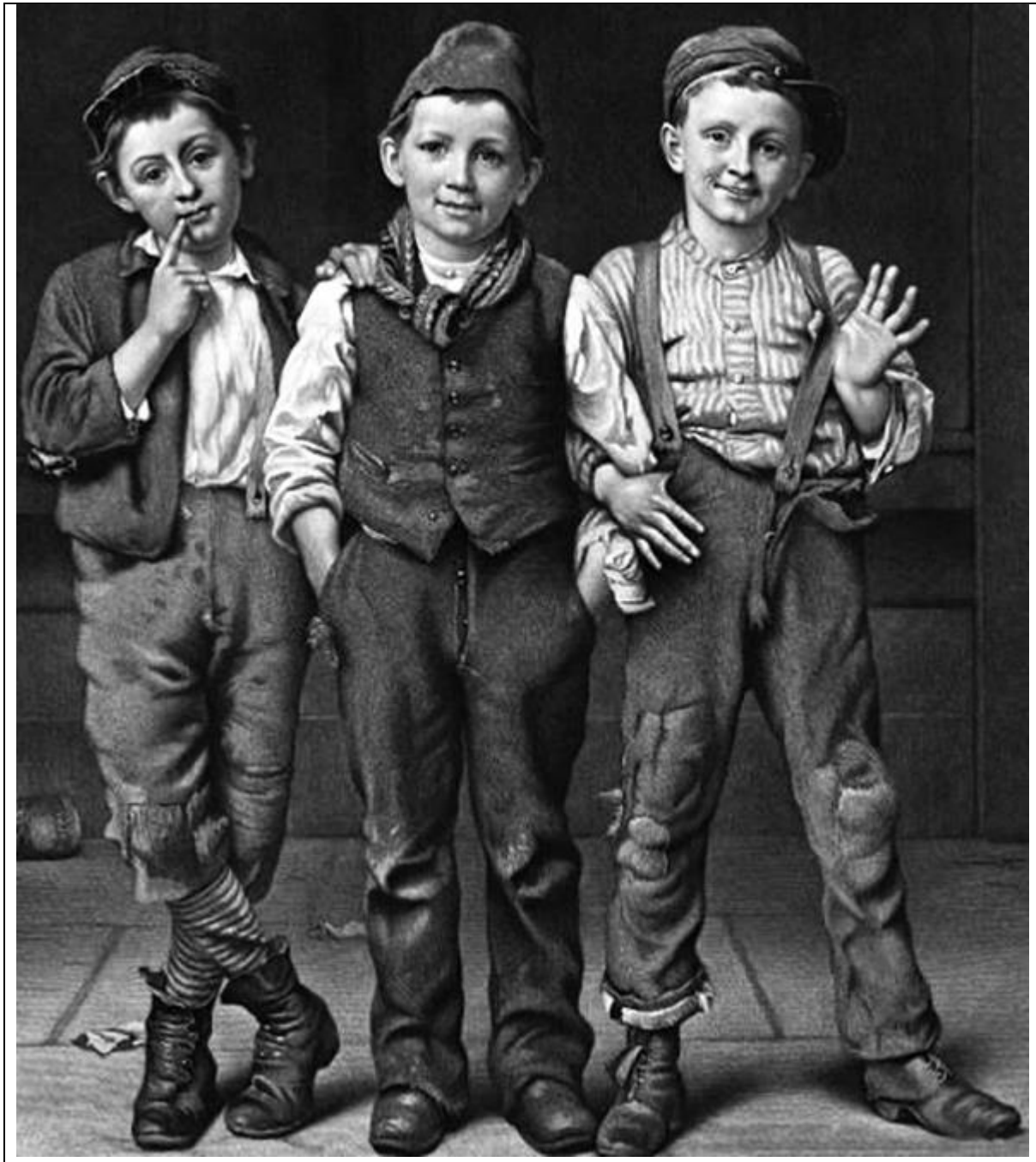
An obviously frustrated mother poses with her 3 boys for a portrait.

The oldest boy wears a coat with too-long sleeves, a torn-off collar, 3 missing buttons and a ripped out interfacing. His trousers are much patched above dark stockings and very worn shoes, too large for his feet, curling over at the ankles and with inadequate shoelaces.

The medium boy wears many layers of over-large and torn clothing. His shirt has only two mismatched buttons and his trousers are torn off and rolled up at the hem.

The baby has no shoes and wears a skirt. His hand-me-down jacket is too large at the neck and too long in the body. A string is tied around his sock to keep it from falling off.

SOURCE – Seen on Pinterest under 1880 poor children clothing.



***Scapegraces,* Vintage original 1880 engraving by Henry Hall of a painting by J. G. Brown.**

These cheerful boys are not distressed by their too-small or too-large clothing, torn-out elbows, much-patched knees on dirty trousers, or ripped shoes. They have their buddies, little supervision, and so are having a great time getting into trouble.

This engraving, made after a painting, shows a rather romanticized view of young impoverished boys. They look well-fed, although that is part of the romance. More authentic circumstances can be read in any of Charles Dickens's novels.

SOURCE -- Seen on Pinterest under 1880 poor children clothing. This image may be purchased from Padre Art.

Girls & Women working in a Cotton Mill, 1880s.

Females were preferred in mills because smaller hands could perform intricate tasks, and females were easier for male supervisors to control.

All wear stained and torn clothing. The girl on right has a too-large blouse with a drooping collar. All wear high-necks for warmth, but elbow-length sleeves to keep hands and arms from being caught by long sleeves and dragged into machinery. Aprons with flounces are a try at prettiness.

The girls wear black stockings and ankle shoes. The woman has a long skirt and a blouse with rumpled front tucks.

SOURCE – Seen on Pinterest under 1880 poor children clothing. Attributed to National Child Labor Committee Collection, showing child labor practiced from the early 1800s until banned in 1938 in the U.S.

Little girl oyster shuckers of 1880.

Josie - 6, Bertha-6, and Sophie-10 worked for Maggioni Canning Co. They shucked regularly in Port Royal, South Carolina.

Josie, and Bertha, left, wear very dirty pinafores over their long-sleeved dresses. A pinafore was so-called because it actually pinned “afore” (onto) the dress bodice, rather than having straps. Some pins can be seen in this photo. Sophie, right, has an all-over, plaid, sleeveless apron from neck to hem with a dark dress beneath. But a gaping hole is ripped in center front, and the dress is dark with dirt.

Their unkempt hair, at one time, was tidied with bows and clips. All have dark stockings in ankle-boots splotched with oyster stains.

Wages for all the poorer class were so low that every family member had to work in order to eat and sleep in some kind of shoddy housing.

Child labor was not lessened in the US until 1938, when children under 16 could not be legally employed.

SOURCE -- By photographer Lewis Hine as part of his work for the National Child Labor Committee. Saved by RetroGraphicGallery, sold by Etsy.

1880s – BOY'S CLOTHING – Middle to Upper-class

1880s fashion plate for boys and teens of middle & upper-classes. The boys all wear breeches with stockings and ankle boots. Some coats mimic those of adult men. The teen boys wear what their fathers wear – long and short coats, vests, high collars, and long trousers. Hats are of all styles. SOURCE - NYPL Digital Collection.

1880s' clothing catalog of boys' clothes. Small & blurry figures can still give correct ideas to designers or illustrators.

Those who could not sew, or lived too far from towns, could order clothing from Catalogs, of which this is a page. Though the images are not clear due to bad photography or scanning, these illustrations will give an idea of the correct clothing of the 1880s for boys.

Note that younger boys wore knee-length knickers with long stockings and shoes. The boy top right is dressed for a formal occasion in satin lapels and a dressy shirt and white tie. But his breeches are still knee-length, and he wears formal slippers instead of ankle shoes or boots

A sailor suit is fashionable for a boy of any age, though shown on a young teen.

Center-right - for cold weather, long trousers were necessary with a warm, woolen, double-breasted coat and fur hat.

The young boy, bottom right, wears a Norfolk jacket with pleats and a belt, but still knee-breeches.

SOURCE -- Pinterest – found under 1880 boy's clothing. There are hundreds of mixed images at that source, not all from the Victorian Era.

1882, *Boy on a Garden Bench*, a detail from a larger painting.

This boy from a well-to-do family wears a rust-brown tam O'shanter over his long, up-flipped blond hair. His coat is brown wool with wide cuffs and pocket flaps both decorated with bold, brass buttons. His shirt collar and a rim of wrist cuff are white, with a bright red bow at his neck. Breeches have a row of the same brass buttons at the knee, and brown stockings warm his calves.

His mother's hand is clutching his, although she is not included in this detail.

SOURCE – Pinterest under 1880 boys clothing. Detail from a painting by James Tissot at Artrenewal.org

Jeff, George, Oliver, and Lillie Wayes are nicely dressed for a photographer, ca.1880s.

The boys all wear Norfolk jackets with front box pleats (sewn down) and belts. They have breeches below the knees but with no gathering or cuffs. Each has a different necktie: white bow, curled lace bow, and plaid silk bow. They wear tweedy stockings and ankle boots. Their hats lie on the floor at their feet.

Little Lillie wears a print dress with solid-color sleeves and cuffs of the dress print. A matching, scalloped trim is on her dress hem. A little frill surrounds her neck.

SOURCE – Pinterest under 1880 boys clothing. Attributed to International Center of Photography.

Brothers in matching suits, middle-class, ca. 1880.

Matching double-breasted suit coats each have two rows of shiny buttons, and fall to hip length. The trousers are long and straight-legged above laced shoes

Each boy has a pressed white shirt collar, and a white handkerchief in his breast pocket.

The younger boy sits in a bentwood chair.

SOURCE – Pinterest under 1880 boys clothing.

Mid-1800s children clothing, two brothers and a sister.

Brothers wear matching mid-tone double-breasted suit coats. They have wide lapels and are buttoned high. The fronts have two pocket flaps and reach down to mid-hip.

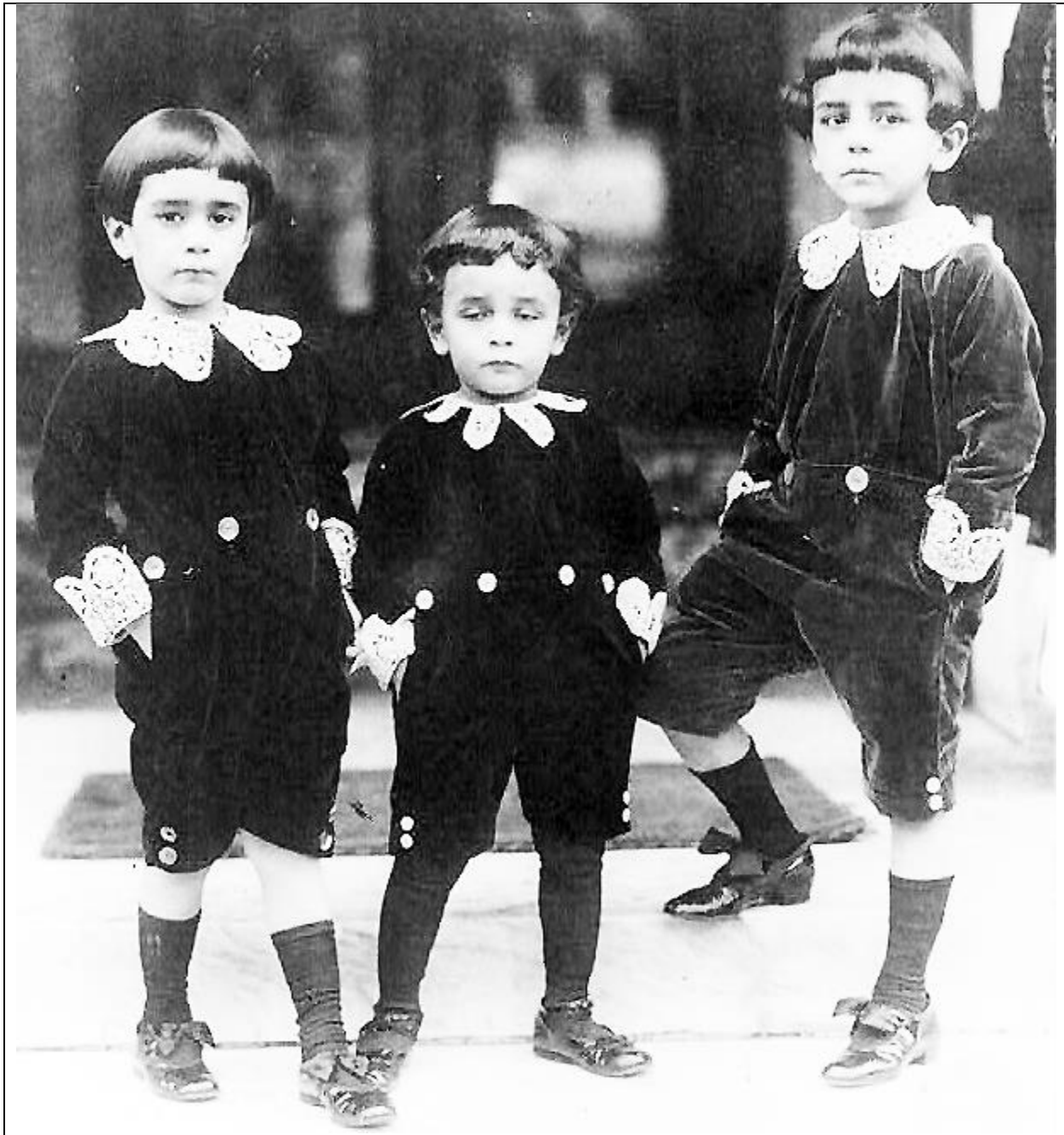
Their breeches reach just below their knees above black stockings and ankle-high boots.

Sister wears a satin collar with two rows of white trim around a wide zig-zag border.

Satin. A separate white blouse, camisole, or fabric insert fills the wide, rounded neckline for warmth or modesty.

The body of the dress is gathered beneath her collar and falls to hem-length, gathered-in at the waist. Slim sleeves have an added white ruffle at the wrist. At the skirt bottom are two rows of ruffles with white edging. She wears black stockings.

SOURCE – Found on Pinterest under 1880 children clothing. No attribution given.



Little Lord Fauntleroy suits, popular from 1885 to the 1930s.

Frances Hodgson Burnett published her first children's novel as a magazine serial from 1885-1886. It features a poor American boy who becomes a British earl. In his noble garb, young Ceddie wears a dark velvet suit with a white lace collar and cuffs.

The story so enchanted mothers on both sides of the Atlantic, they rushed to dress their small boys similarly. Several movies were made from the plot of the book.

The mother of these 3 boys has used differing lace collars and similar cuffs on various colored velvet suits. White buttons attach breeches to tops, with more buttons at the knees. Of course, they *must* have Mary Jane shoes. (Any boy over 8 would rebel!)

SOURCE – Original photo in Library of Congress. Dozens of examples online under Little Lord Fauntleroy.

1888 James Joyce age 6 in a light-colored sailor suit.

This suit was probably light blue with a navy collar and tie. Joyce was an attractive child, and sailor suits were perennially popular on boys and girls through all the 1800s, and even today.

Beneath the sailor suit, he wears a sweater and shirt with a white collar. A navy emblem is on his sleeve and matching gloves on his hands.

In adulthood, this Irish author was both praised and condemned for his writing.

SOURCE – Found on Pinterest under 1880 boys clothing. No attribution given.

1880s, a 5-year-old boy in a dress over knee pants, young Albert Einstein.

Albert, here, was on the cusp of his parents deciding between a dress (very common still) and breeches. His outfit uses both in this photo. It is of medium hue, with a white shirt showing its broad rounded collar and little cuffs. Dozens of tiny round buttons extend from neck to hem, and the bow at his neck appears to color-match the buttons. He holds a bowler hat and leans on a photographer's pedestal.

SOURCE – Found on Pinterest under 1880 children clothing. No attribution given.

A 5-year-old boy in a skirt. Ca. 1887.

Children before age 5 or 6 were often clothed in dresses or skirts to make potty-training and potty-going easier for both the mother helping and the son mastering this basic skill.

This little boy has a vertically-striped pull-over sailor outfit, with an under-shirt Of horizontal stripes and solid white cuffs. The sailor collar is a solid color. His skirt of vertical stripes is box pleated. Long white stockings tuck into lace-up ankle boots.

He carries a ball and wears a large, wide-brimmed hat turned up in a bowl shape.

SOURCE -- Found on Pinterest under 1880 children clothing. Attribution given as: France, Grands Magasins du Louvre. Public Domain.

GIRLS CLOTHING – MIDDLE TO UPPER-CLASS

Rose-red and white girl's dress with narrow insets of lace and a skirt with wide lace flounces, ca.1880s.

Even with machine-manufactured lace, this much lace on a girl's dress displays the wealth of the girl's family.

The base fabric is a textured, rose crepe. Vertical bands of narrow, white lace have been sewn to the bodice and upper portions of the skirt. Wider, denser lace is inserted on the sleeves from shoulder to cuff. The deep-rose of the upper bodice is bordered with a band of small, dense rosettes of a lighter, variegated rose ribbon. Matching bows of that light-rose ribbon are attached to the center waist, the left bosom, and left shoulder. The sleeve cuffs are deep-rose with an upper ruffle and small bows.

The two flounces of the skirt each have very wide bands of lavish lace on their borders.

As in other female clothing of the later 1800s, the proliferation of detail is the most important feature of the dress, both for visual interest and exhibition of means.

Seen on Pinterest under 1800 girls dresses, attributed to Museu Nacional do Traje e da Moda, Portugal.

1880s Middle-class girl in a plaid dress with 4 flounces on the skirt.

A young girl with frizzed bangs and long ringlets in back wears a calf-length dress of plaid. The bodice or jacket has a center panel of the plaid cut on straight-of-grain, bordered by 2-inch bands of bias-cut plaid. The rest of the bodice and sleeves are straight-grain, but the sleeve cuffs are bias-cut with an edging of narrow, ruffled lace. Her neck is circled by a white, ruffled lace collar and a white silk kerchief, tucked in. The hem of the bodice/jacket has a wide zig-zag cut.

She wears lace-up ankle boots with black stockings.

SOURCE -- Seen on Pinterest under 1800 girls dresses, attributed to Grand Rapids Historical Commission.

1881 Children, middle to upper-class.

The boy wears a hip-length coat that fastens high with 6 buttons. A diagonal welt pocket is on his right breast, and an untied rope belt is at his waist, held by belt loops of the primary fabric. The coat has a deep, inverted “V” hem-opening in front, and pleats or open vents in the coat back.

His breeches have two buttons at the knee. Rumpled boots have a ribbed cuff at the top and a 1-inch heel.

The girl has a checked dress with multiple tucks in the center front. The yoke, collar, and sleeves are bias-cut, with a silk ribbon bow at her neck. The sleeves have 4 tucks above the wrist and a white frill at the bottom. A wide, gathered sash of the dress fabric surrounds her hips, held by belt loops and tied in a large bow in the back. Her skirt has two, tightly-pleated flounces.

Her ankle boots are buttoned in scallops and have a 1-inch heel.

SOURCE -- Seen on Pinterest under 1800 girls dresses, attributed to *The Young Ladies' Journal*, July 8.

1881 Girl's dresses *before* bustles exploded.

At top, a dress and coat show front and back views. The coat stands open with curly lamb's-wool bands at opening, hem, pocket flaps, and around the collar. Beneath is a dress with horizontal bands of tightly ruched fabric and bottom pleating.

The dress has short, petaled sleeves, a double-breasted opening, a horizontal drape below the hipline, and a gathered underskirt. A neckline inset is of lace or embroidered cotton, and has a fabric rosette at one neckline corner.
In the back, the drape gathers into a knot with two hanging ends. A narrow, white ruffle is below the hem.

In the family scene, Mother is tying on her **little girl**'s bonnet. The child is dressed like an adult with a tight coat, low pleated skirt, and heeled ankle boots. **Older girl** has a snug dress from lace collar to thighs. Slim sleeves have lace cuffs. A diagonal opening fastens with frogs. Below her hips are 3 bands of striped satin and lace, with a gathered, hem flounce. Ankle boots have heels. **Middle girl** has a jacket with insets of velvet with satin binding. A wide beaded belt swaths her hips. Her velvet skirt has vertical pintucks on the side and ruffled dark lace at the hem. She wears heeled ankle boots.

Mom wears a low-waist jacket with tails and looped fabric in back. Her overskirt swags up toward the rear and has long bottom fringe. An underskirt of many satin panels has décor at the hem. Jacket edgings and collar may be lace or curly lamb. A fluffy hat seems to be close loops of lace around a crown. High-heeled calf boots show no opening. Fashion for her family looks like Mom's # 1 concern in life. (But this IS a fashion magazine.)

SOURCE -- Seen on Pinterest under 1800 girls dresses, attributed to Young Ladies Journal, Winter, 1881.

A little girl in an expensive dress with lace, ca. 1883.

This 4 or 5-year old has a light-weight coat with wide bands of lace around the front opening, neck, and hem. The lower back of the coat has folds, pin-ups, and curving tucks of the coat fabric to make a very modest, rounded bustle over the top of diagonally pleated panels (seen in the back view). A colored ribbon is tucked into the bustle folds. Above the bustle are 8 vertical pin-tucks, clustered into a lower fastening.

The coat cuffs are of fabric ruching with ruffles top and bottom, with a tiny lace ruffle below, just at the wrist. Such clever details make this coat enchanting.

Her dress is made of horizontal bands of ruching, alternating wide and narrow across her bodice. The top of the bodice is smooth and possibly sheer, with a lace ruffle around her neck. That ruffle is bound to the bodice with cording.

Below her hips are five solid ruffles in her skirt, ending at the same level as her coat hem. The lowest skirt segment is of tightly pressed pleats.

Below white stockings, her buttoned ankle boots have a scalloped opening and top binding. The heels are only a half-inch high for a little girl.

SOURCE -- Seen on Pinterest under 1800 girls dresses. No attribution given.

1885, Girls of wealthy families at the beach.

The stand-out bustles give away the year, and skirt lengths tell the girls' ages. Most bonnets are taller than the heads beneath. Jackets cover overskirts, with underskirts below. Ribbons and lace make up two outfits. Pleats and swags adorn the rest. Ankle boots with gaiters are on some feet below white or colored stockings. Only one girl dares step into the water. Two girls have fishnets, and one carries a toy boat, but only one seems desirous of entering the water. This may be a cold and windy shore to inspire such warm clothing.

SOURCE -- Seen on Pinterest under 1800 girls dresses, attributed to a Spanish fashion advertisement.

1886 girls of wealth with a woman.

These winter outfits push girls' figures into an S-shape, with thrust-back hips. Though slender in youth, they wear corsets and bustles that emphasize such a shape. All bonnets are particularly tall and ornate.

Girl far left wears an open blue jacket not intended to button over the ruffles on her bodice. With a stand-up collar and slim sleeves, it tops a saffron and black striped skirt, probably gathered. Stockings in black ankle boots warm her legs.

Small girl in yellow has a jacket with swags on one side of the front and jacket hem, over a yellow gathered skirt. Purple bows, cuffs, stockings, and coat-yoke contrast. Her hat echoes the colors.

Girl center-right has a gray velvet jacket with black spots and lace edging. A blue blouse with a high collar matches her stockings. Her pleated velvet skirt reflects the jacket, but has a wide panel of lace on the skirt front, and a bustle pouf behind.

Girl in green has red bows on hat, shoulder and coat front. One lapel and her cuffs are of lamb's wool, and the other side front has huge buttons or poofs. An overskirt panel has lambs-wool welts and her skirt has a high border.

The woman's coat or dress is lavender with two rows of front buttons and a long, fringed overskirt swagged back into her large bustle. The overskirt has a darker pattern of criss-cross woven into the fabric. She wears tan gloves below 3/4-length sleeves. SOURCE -- Seen on Pinterest under 1800 girls dresses. No attribution given.

Middle-class girls, from an 1880s catalog, top half page.

These illustrations are blurry but may be good to give artists or designers some accurate ideas.

SOURCE -- Seen on Pinterest under 1800 girls dresses, No attribution given.

Middle-class girls, from an 1880s catalog, bottom half page

These illustrations are blurry but may be good to give artists or designers some accurate ideas.

SOURCE -- Seen on Pinterest under 1800 girls dresses, No attribution given.

End of 1880s fashions.