

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](https://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-hand”, 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.



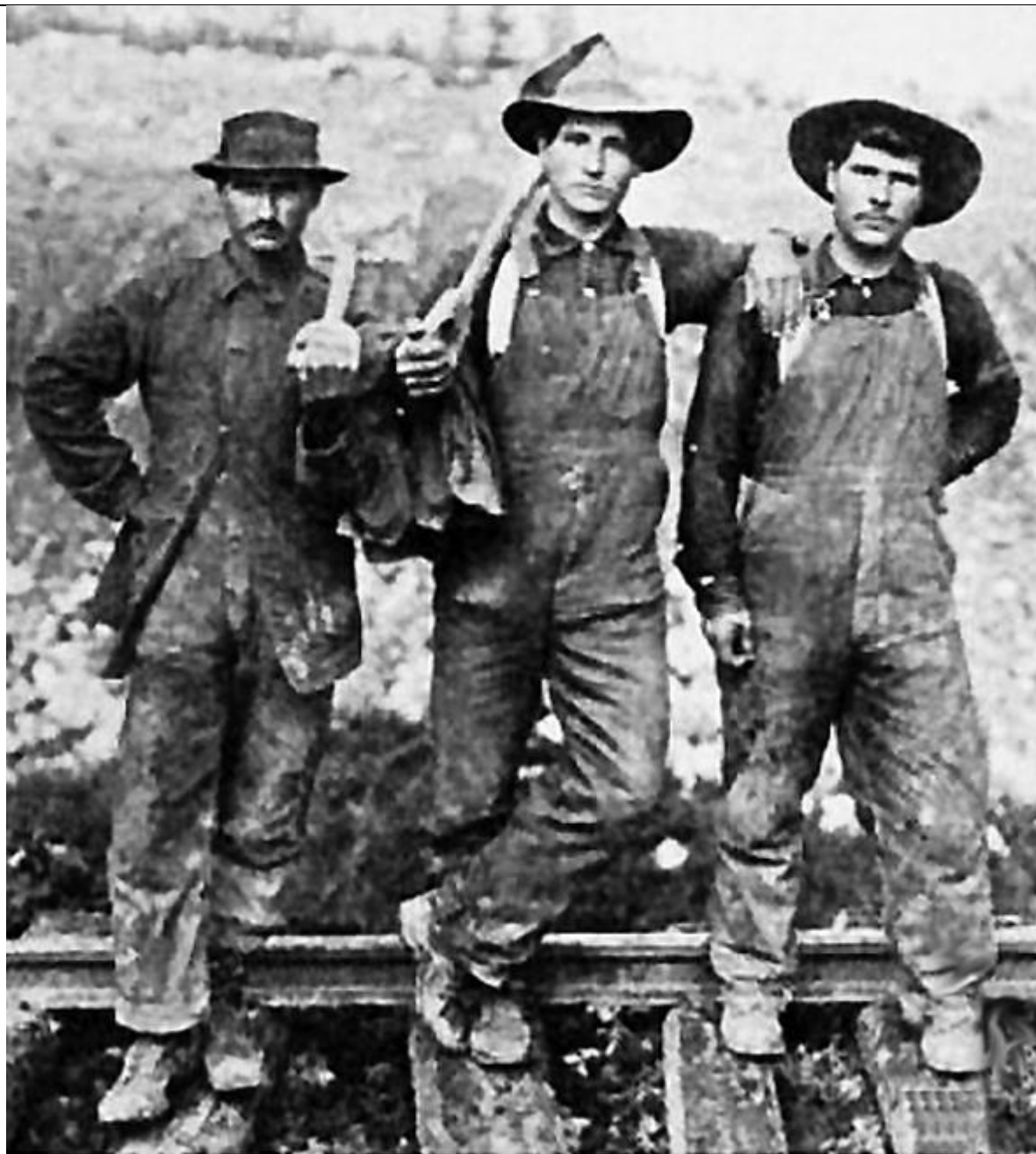
Farmer's wore work smocks from 1700 through 1900 in most western nations, though smocks began to go out of fashion in late 1800s.

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-



**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, Dorian 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."



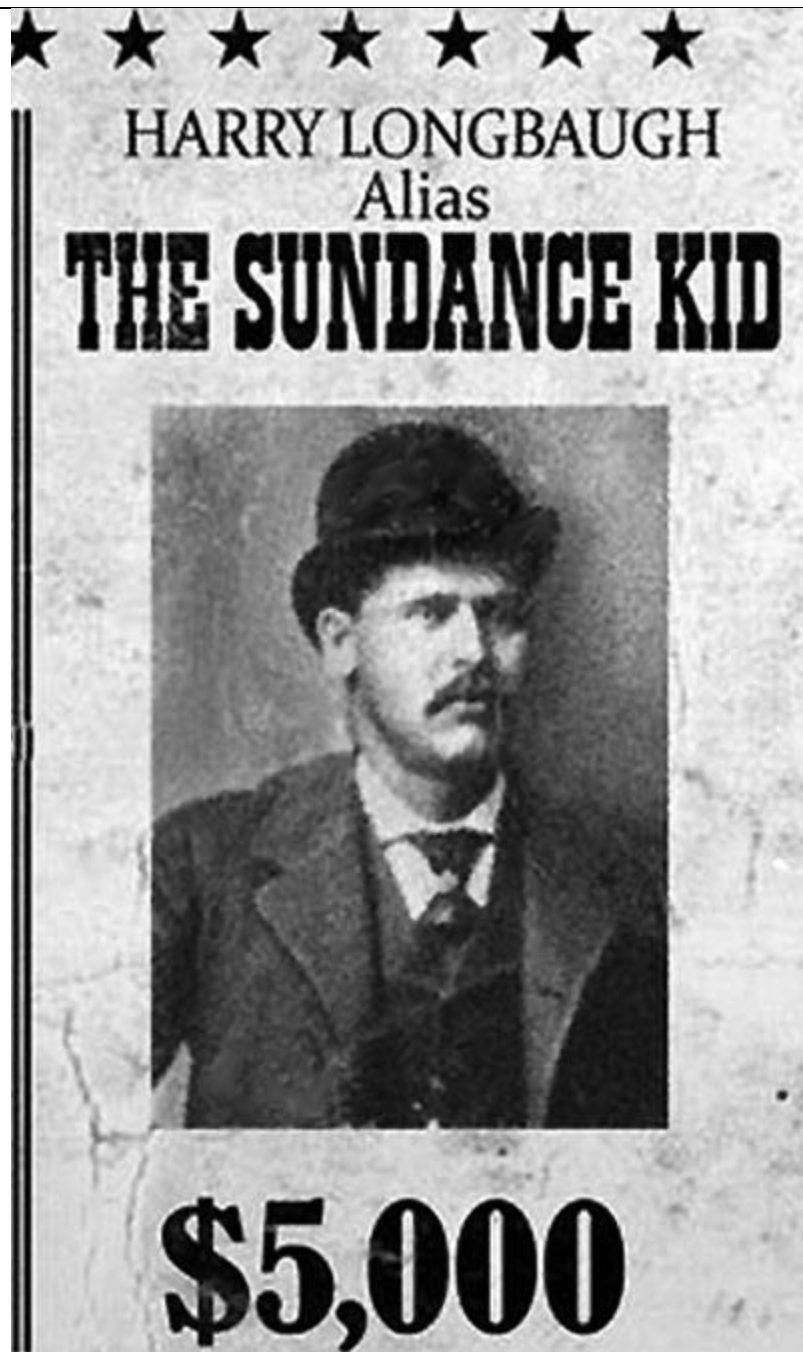
1889, Working cowboy & bandit, Butch Cassidy

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 vertical rows of braid down the bodice front, and on the cuffs of long 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.