

1830 - 1839

CLOTHING TRENDS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS, 1830-1829

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1830 – 1839 - MEN, WORKING-CLASS

(Work smocks were worn from 1700 through 1900. Some items are duplicated here for convenience.)



A Farmer wears a work smock and trousers. 1800 to 1900

Of the large Germanic Whitmer family in Fayette, New York, David had a strong mind and body. Here he wears the usual American linen smock to cover his clothing while working. If the day were hot, a farmer might wear nothing on his torso except his tough linen smock. He also wears a broad-brimmed, low crowned hat and heavy leather work shoes.

David's family hosted Joseph Smith, Jr. for one month while the Prophet used this safe place to get away from mobs while translating the *Book of Mormon* from ancient gold plates.

SOURCE: This ink drawing, a portrait by Robert Barrett, is displayed in the Grandin Print Shop, Palmyra, New York. The clothing was carefully coached by Carma for the artist.

Photo by Carma; free use



Reversible smock on a potato farmer in America or Britain, ca.1775 - 1850.

A contemporary, watercolor brush drawing of a village potato market shows two sellers in long, smocks. The man in center wears a very plain, long smock which is reversible. It has identical, triangular neck openings front and back that fasten with a single button and allow him to alternate sides to distribute wear. The woman at right rear has a wide tray of bread loaves on her head to sell. All wear a variety of old, crushed hats. Some potatoes are in baskets, but others are in large sacks with one smocked man resting on top of them. It appears that the men wear gaiters – the man on left with very long, over-the-knee gaiters, which may protect him from the dirt of the potato fields or excessive wear on his knees.

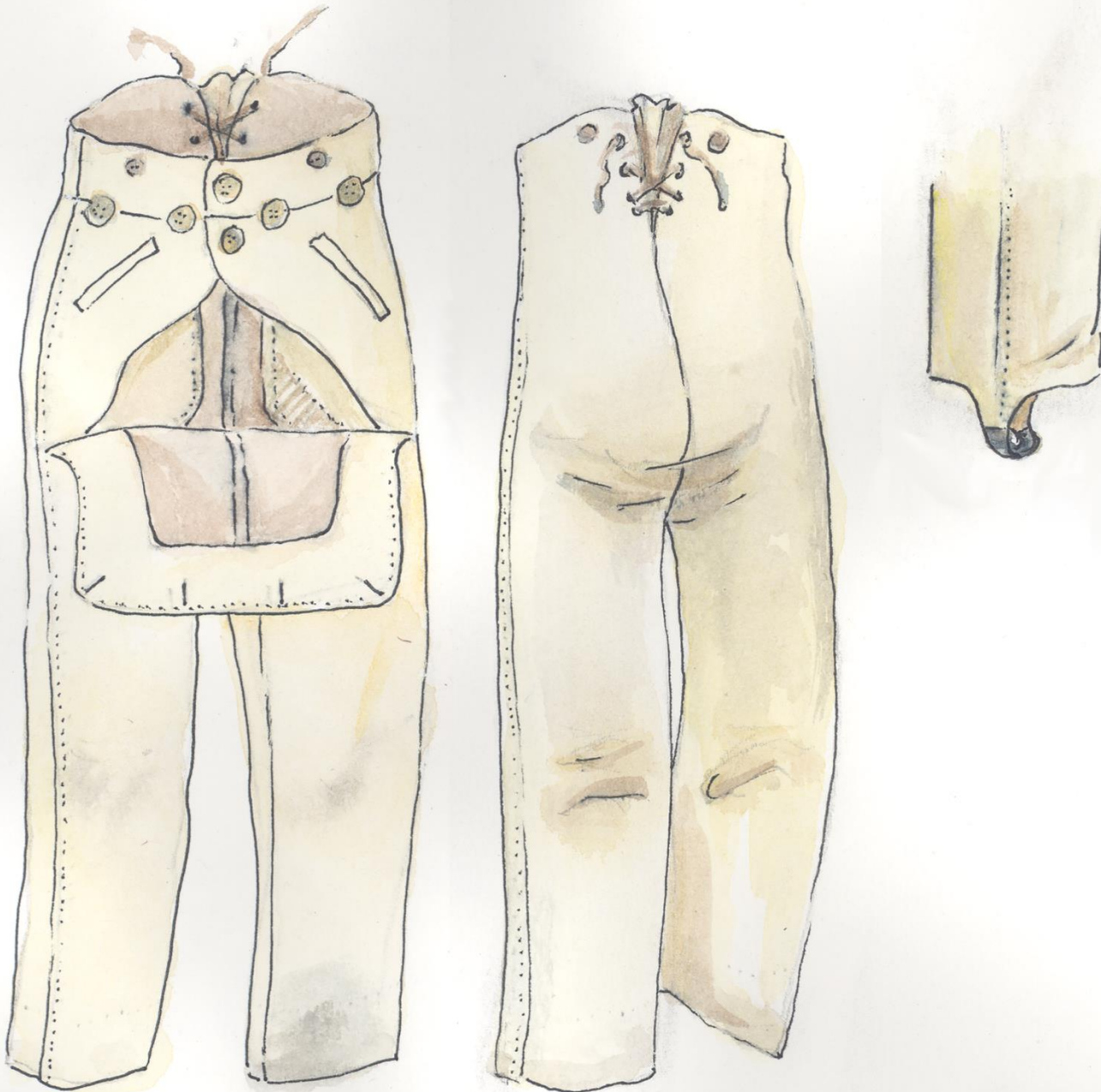
SOURCE: W. H. Pyne, artist, in "*Microcosm*,"

1800 to 1850 – Broadfall trousers.

Trousers did not have a center front opening during the first half of the 1800s, and long before. Instead, they had a broad flap that folded up to fasten at the waist.

Sometimes the flap was narrower and closer to the center, as seen in images below. A very narrow flap was usually called a “French fall.”

Often, a wide broadfall opened at the sides into hidden pockets of various designs.



A shoemaker's clothing of 1829 to 1840.

Much of his shoe sewing with tight linen thread is done in the man's lap. His heavy work shirt and low blousy breeches are well covered by a bib apron of tow linen or leather. His woolen sox are in square-toed tough shoes. The leather tanner and shoemaker pictured here, Jared Carter, made footwear to finance his family, as well as his own missionary work, which was intense and effective. He spread the *Book of Mormon* to a wide population beyond Palmyra, New York.

SOURCE: This quarter life-size, portrait of Jared, drawn by Robert Barrett in ink, is shown in the Grandin Print Shop, Palmyra, New York. The shop is a modern display in the very place where *The Book of Mormon, Another Testament of Jesus Christ* was first printed in 1829.





**1830s to 1860s.
Tanners work
hard in
unpleasant
stench to
process hides
into leather. ca.**

These men wear long leather aprons to protect their clothing from the solutions in the odoriferous tannery. It is a wonder men could even breathe in an environment that took "a lot of getting used to."

Man at left scrapes hair off pelts, another trims fat and tissues from

the inner side, while men on right work the hides in different solutions. The men's shirtsleeves are rolled above the elbows, and most wear caps with or without brims. They all wear gaiters over their ankles and feet for leg protection from the intensely strong solutions.

SOURCE: Seen in Carol Belanger Grafton, Ed., *Trades and Occupations: A Pictorial Archive from Early Sources* (Dover Pictorial Archive) Paperback – August 1, 1990. Up to 10 images may be used at no cost.



**1830s to '60s
Workmen
chopping wood &
tearing out trees.**

These men are clearing land for new construction. Two wear wide-brimmed felt hats, rough shirts, and waistcoats. The third has One man seems to have a coat, but the shoulder seam indicates a dropped-shoulder shirt, though he does have a tie.

Man on the right wears an apron and a misshapen top hat.

At the back waist of man lower left, we see the center, criss-cross ties that adjust the waistband to fit.

Sketch altered by Carma from W. H. Pyne, artist, in "*Microcosm*,"



Ca. 1830 – '90. Working men in a Tinsmith's shop.

One young man wears a folded paper hat while his partner has a wool cap. Caps would keep sparks and bits of hot metal from burning his hair. (How to make the ubiquitous workman's paper hat may be found on YouTube).

Both men wear long trousers and vests over their light-colored shirts with rolled-up sleeves, but neither wears a tie.

They must cut sheet metal with snips, hammer out curves for tin containers, and join edges with alloys of lead. A small melting stove is on the bench at left.

SOURCE: Old engraving of American workmen.



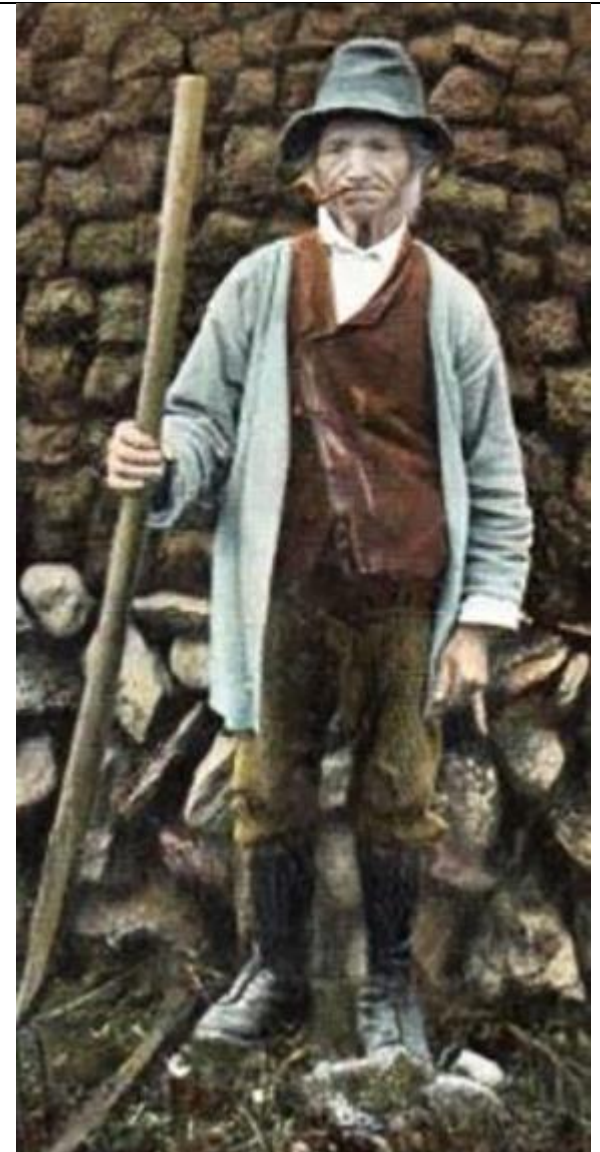
1820s to 1850s. Working men.

These men were not able to care about fashion. If their clothes resembled those of wealthier classes, it was generally because they were purchased 4th or 5th hand.

Left - The short coat is typically worn only by working men and sometimes by children, but has the sleeve and collar style of the 1830s. Similar on top to a tailcoat or frock coat, it has no bottom section. He wears a cloth newsboy cap with a bill slanting down.

Right – In this hand-tinted daguerreotype, a farmer or peat gatherer wears a home-made barn coat. His worn-out waistcoat is shabby and lapped over to fit, probably fastened with a pin. His shirt has no tie. Trousers tuck into high work boots.

His hat might once have been a felt top hat, but has been smashed out of recognition. Still, it keeps his head warm in cold weather.



Found on Pinterest – 1830 working men clothing