

For further information on costuming visit www.vintagedancers.org e-mail Query@VintageDancers.org or call Katy Bishop at (781) 593-3038 or Barbara Pugliese at (781) 396-2870. Please don't call earlier than 9am or later than 10pm eastern time.

Basic Resources list:

The Commonwealth Vintage Dancers

Costumes@VintageDancers.org
CVD has an 1860s man's stock (necktie) pattern available for \$2.00, contact Katy Bishop at: **Vintage Victorian**
P. O. Box 9, Nahant, MA 01908
Also available from Katy Bishop: Vintage Dress Series books, including period dress and hairstyles from period sources.
vintage@shore.net, www.VintageVictorian.com

Past Patterns (765) 962-3333

PO Box 6029, Dayton, OH 45406-0299
merchant@pastpatterns.com
www.pastpatterns.com
Highly recommended publisher of patterns taken from original period garments; they are highly accurate.

Folkwear (888) 200-9099

2000 Riverside Drive #3, Asheville NC 28804
mail@folkwear.com www.folkwear.com
Supplier of historical and ethnic patterns that are quite accurate and easy to use, has catalog.

Patterns of Fashion (Books)

by Janet Arnold
Drama Book, ISBN 0 333 13607 1
Has historically accurate 1/4 scale patterns for gowns, taken from actual garments, has evening gown patterns for many periods.

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

608-264-6428
Patterns of History, 30 North Carroll Street, Madison, WI 53703
Leslie.Bellais@wisconsinhistory.org
www.wisconsinhistory.org/patterns/
A line of historical patterns from original garments.

Ageless Patterns (760) 288-0379

PO Box 46, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
agelesspatterns@aol.com
www.agelesspatterns.com
Publisher of period patterns, mainly taken from Harper's Bazar pattern sheets, also carries historical patterns produced by others.

Keezer's (617) 547-2455
140 River Street, Cambridge, MA
info@keezers.com www.keezers.com
Used and new men's formal wear, excellent prices.

Dover Publications Inc.

31 East 2nd Street
Mineola, New York 11501-3582
www.doverpublications.com
Publisher of period catalogues, books, and costume reference books, has catalog, no phone orders, also available in most bookstores.

Greenberg and Hammer Inc. (800) 955-5135

24 W. 57th Street
New York, NY 10019
greenberghammer1@cs.com
www.greenberg-hammer.com
Supplier of sewing notions, including corset supplies

Alteryears (626) 585-2994

3749 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
sales@alteryears.com, www.alteryears.com
Supplier of a wide variety of patterns, supplies and books, they carry patterns from most historical pattern companies, has catalog.

Amazon Drygoods (800) 798-7979

2218 E. 11th Street
Davenport, IA 52803
info@amazondrygoods.com,
www.amazondrygoods.com
Supplier of a wide variety of patterns, supplies and books, carry patterns from most historical pattern companies, has catalogs.

Thai Silks (800) 722-7455, (800) 221-7455 in CA

252 State Street
Los Altos, CA 94022
thaisilk@pacbell.net, www.thaisilks.com
Supplier of silks, in many styles, about half the price of retail stores, has price list and sample sets.

Oriental Silk Co. (213) 651-2323

8377 Beverly Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90048
www.orientalsilk.com
Silk supplier, a little more expensive than Thai silks, but they carry some linens and wools and Kwong Chow silk satin, an excellent satin, has price list and samples.

Costume Resource for the Newport Vintage Dance Week



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THE Commonwealth Vintage Dancers

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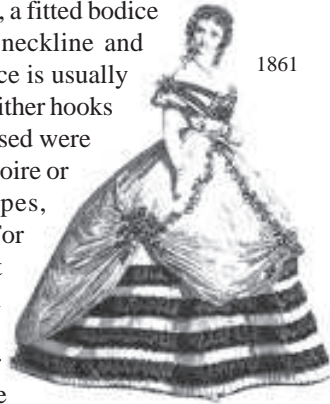
Katy Bishop & Patri and Barbara Pugliese

Ladies' Evening Dress for the mid 19th Century

1860



Ladies' evening gowns of this era typically consist of a full gathered or pleated skirt, worn over a wired hoop (110-125" in circumference at the hem), a fitted bodice with rounded off-the-shoulder neckline and short puffed sleeves. The bodice is usually fastened at the center back by either hooks and eyes or lacing. Fabrics used were most often silks in taffeta, moire or brocades, in solids, stripes, small prints or plaids. For summer wear lightweight silk organza and cotton muslins were also used. Colors would be lighter for



1861

young ladies, darker for older women. Bright red should be avoided, as would black (in America) and very dark colors. The gown can be decorated with contrasting trim and black or white lace. Decorative elements (ruffles, bows, geometric designs, etc.) on the bodice and skirt usually matched, with the skirt decoration reflected on a smaller scale on the berthe of the bodice.



Shoes should be fairly flat such as ballet flats or "character ballets," in white or a color to compliment the gown. Hair should be worn parted in the center and pulled away from the face, rolled on the sides and pulled into a bun fairly low in the neck. Evening head dresses can be circlets, wreaths, or decorative combs with ribbons, flowers and feathers. Earrings should be dangles, and short bead necklaces are appropriate, as well as gold bracelets; a matched pair of bracelets is especially fashionable. Wrist length white gloves and a small fan also makes a good summertime accessory.

An old prom dress or bridesmaid dress, if the skirt is suitably full (100+ inches at the hem) and long can be easily altered to approximate the style of an 1860's ball dress with the addition of suitable sleeves and trims. If you

wish to make a more accurate gown, Past Patterns has several patterns which are quite good including: ball bodice #704, skirts #700 and #801, chemises #707 and drawers #706. A corset is indispensable for achieving a smooth fit for your bodice; Past Patterns has several options including #703, #708 and #213.



1859

Men's Evening Wear of the Ragtime Era

Gentlemen's evening dress of this era is fairly similar to modern formal wear consisting of a black tail coat or tuxedo jacket. White formal shirts can have wing tip collars, vests and bow ties should be either white or black (cummerbunds are not appropriate). White gloves add the final touch of formality for ballroom wear. Flexible soled shoes such as Capezio black jazz oxfords are quite suitable for dancing.



1914



1920's

Men's Summer Day Wear for the 19th and early 20th Centuries

Gentlemen's daywear of this era would be light colored suits with coordinating vests and colorful bow ties. A simple alternative would be a period style shirt with knickers and a linen vest, worn to play informal outdoor games. A straw hat or boater completes the outfit nicely and will



1892

deflect the sun while playing town ball or croquet. More formal would be a morning suit (cutaway or swallow-tailed coat) in black or grey; black or white vest; black, grey or grey striped trousers, with top hat, spats, and cane.



c. 1910

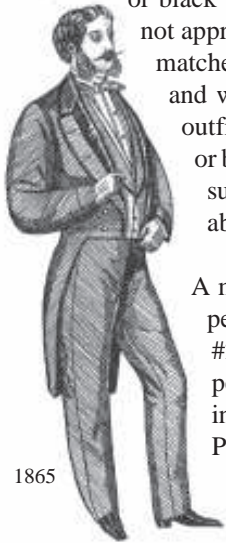


1920's

Any of the views in Folkwear vest pattern #222 (which also contains a bow tie pattern) in light colored linens or cotton.

Men's Evening Wear of the mid 19th Century

Gentlemen's evening wear of this era consisted of a black tail coat, white or black waistcoat, usually with lapels (cummerbunds are not appropriate), without points at the waist. The trousers matched the coat, without satin ribbon at the side seams and with no crease down the front and back. The outfit is completed with a stock or cravat in white or black, and white gloves. Flexible soled shoes such as Capezio black jazz oxfords are comfortable for dancing.



1865



1854

A modern tail coat is a good approximation of the period dress coat, and the Folkwear vest pattern #222, view B, produces an excellent vest for this period, or Past Patterns #018. See resources list for information on the CVD stock (necktie) pattern. Past Patterns shirt #007 makes a good formal shirt.

Men's Evening Wear of the late 19th Century

Gentlemen's evening dress of this era is fairly similar to modern formal wear: black tail coat (the "recently" invented tuxedo jacket is also an acceptable, though less formal, alternative); white formal shirts with stand up or wing tip collar; vest (ideally with lapels and scooped front- cummerbunds are not period); bow tie which can be either white or black. White gloves are *de rigueur* for ballroom wear. Flexible soled shoes such as Capezio black jazz oxfords are suitable for dancing.



1892



1892

Folkwear vest pattern number #222 view B (also contains a bow tie pattern), done in black or white are suitable for this period.

Ladies' Evening Dress for the late 19th Century

Ladies' evening dress of this era consists of a fitted bodice with scooped or square cut neckline, usually with extravagantly large puffed sleeves, and a full length gored or A line skirt. Gowns were made up in a wide range of fabrics from heavy brocade and velvet to lightweight silk chiffon. A skirt with a train, although elegant, is not very practical for dancing. The gown can be ornamented with elaborate lace, contrasting trim, colored ribbon bows or fancy beadwork.



1894

Full length white gloves would complete the outfit splendidly. Shoes in a color to compliment the gown, with a fairly low heel of 1-2 inches (such as Capezio character shoes), are comfortable for late Victorian dancing. Hair should be worn up, in a bun fairly high on the head and was usually dressed with small ornaments and feathers. Earrings should be danglers, and short bead necklaces are appropriate. A large fan also makes a good summertime accessory.

Resale, thrift or vintage clothing shops are a good source for a suitable outfit. Past Patterns ball gown #206, with the addition of full puffed sleeves and skirt patterns numbers #208 and #1097 are appropriate for 1890s evening gowns. Patterns of Fashion also has accurate ball gown patterns. Fitted day gown bodices such as Past Patterns #207 and #903 can be easily altered by cutting it with a lower neckline and shorter puffed sleeves.



1899



1896

Ladies' Evening Dress for the Ragtime Era.



1915

Ladies' evening dress of this era consists of a high waisted gown, usually in soft fabric such as chiffon or lightweight satin, often ornamented with elaborate lace or beadwork and draped asymmetrically. The long skirt should have enough fullness for dancing. Full length white gloves would complete the outfit splendidly. Shoes in a color to compliment the gown, with a medium height heel of 1½-2 inches, such as Capezio character shoes are comfortable for Ragtime dancing. Hair should be worn up and was usually dressed with decorative headbands, ornaments, or feathers.

Past Patterns #8109, 4269 and 8390 among others lend themselves to evening styling. Occasionally Simplicity and Butterick have some Ragtime inspired patterns which can be made more accurate by the elimination of zippers and the addition of buttons or hooks and eyes. When designing your skirt, be sure to allow enough fullness for dancing.



1914



1912



1914



1913-14



1916

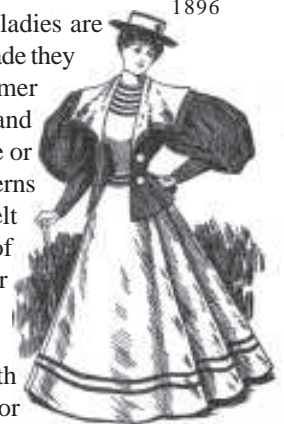
Ladies' Late 19th and Early 20th Century Summer Day Wear



1860

Afternoon events have no specified period, ladies are welcomed to wear clothing from whatever decade they like best. Dress for daytime wear in the summer months are typically dresses or skirts and blouses sometimes with jackets in white or a light color, occasionally with floral patterns or stripes. A brightly colored sash or belt adds a dash of color. Specific styles of sleeves and skirts vary by decade or even year to year.

The outfit can be completed with the addition of a straw hat with or without flowers and feathers. A parasol or fan can help keep a lady cool, and cotton, kid, or crochet gloves add formality.



1896



1880

Past Patterns has many patterns suitable for 19th and early 20th Century day wear, especially skirts #208 and #1097, blouses #212, #404, #405, and #406, bodices #701 and #702, dress #302, polonaise #904, and jacket #113. Folkwear skirt pattern #209, dresses #220 and #227 and outfit #216, blouses #205, #210, or bathing costume #253 (excellent for a trip to the beach) are all very useful patterns. Occasionally Simplicity and Butterick have some Victorian inspired patterns which can be made more accurate by the elimination of zippers and the addition of buttons or hooks and eyes.



1918



1909
Bathing Costume



1897