

Everyone

- 1) All historical attire must be approved by the Director of the Old Sacramento Living History Program before obtaining your final permit. It is suggested that you talk with the Director first before buying any clothing.
- 2) Your attire consists of everything a person may wear on the outside including but not limited to shoes, hats, shirts, pants, etc.
- 3) Changes in attire other than color choices needs new approval.
- 4) If you are planning to wear a costume other than described below you are responsible for 3 additional sources of research to lend authenticity of your historical attire.
- 5) No zippers. Zippers came with warning labels during this time period.
- 6) Makeup: if your character uses makeup the color red was not used.
- 7) No tennis shoes or open toed shoes.
- 8) No ball caps
- 9) No tinted glasses or plastic frames

Men's Basics

- 1) No Blue jeans (most modern jeans are the wrong color and style) If you must wear denim wear button fly pants in either brown, tan or black. Belt loops should be hidden.
- 2) Shirts need to be long sleeve. Men rolled their sleeves up when it was hot. This also helps you to buy less clothes. Stripes, prints, solids are all appropriate. The most popular shirts had band style collars. Other shirts had removable formal collars, squared or rounded collars. If you are wearing your shirt loose it must have a squared shirt tails.
- 3) Vests: No always needed. Working men did not always wear a vest. It was worn on men in formal occasions or who worked in offices or stores.
- 4) Pants: Button fly or drop/fall front pants of wool, linen and cotton blends are good choices. Synthetic fabrics are often too warm in the summer.
- 5) No Belts to hold up your pants: Suspenders, a rope tied around your waist or piece of fabric tied around your waist are acceptable. Belts were worn to hold a gun or other weapon. Suspenders should hook to pants with either a button or rivet not clip on.
- 6) Hats: No modern cowboy hats. A wool felt or straw hat is highly recommended unless wearing more formal clothes. Hats in general should have a rounded or squared off top. For formal clothes a top hat or bowler would be appropriate. Military hats such as kepis or office hats were only worn with uniforms.
- 7) Shoes or boots: No modern cowboy boots. The easiest choice it to wear boots with a rounded or square toe. Leather shoes in black or brown are most common. Boots can just cover the ankle or go entirely to the knee. Dress shoes are similar to modern dress shoes. There can be side elastic in the boot.
- 8) Coats: Suit coats or equivalent. Should be made of wool, linen or cotton blend. Most men would own a coat to place over there shirt when going to town or conducting business. There are several styles to choose from for a more formal person.
- 9) Overcoats: Leather, wool or cotton blends. Men wore capes. A wool poncho is acceptable. So is using a wool blanket. Overcoat styles similar to modern formal overcoats mostly double breasted. Greatcoats similar to military overcoats of the time period, or modern trench coats with an optional half cape at top. (For modern coat please check styles before purchase)
- 10) Accessories: Men do not wear earrings or necklaces. Watches are worn on a chain or placed in a pocket. Please keep watches hidden on your wrist.
- 11) If you are wearing military clothing everything must be military style, no mix and match. (See OSLHP Director form more information)
- 12) Gloves- leather, cloth or knitted gloves are appropriate.

Women's Clothing

- 1) Choose a costume that allows you to work in easily. If you are wearing a corset or many petticoats you may be uncomfortable in the heat of summer.
- 2) If you are going to wear men's clothing then follow the clothing guide for men.
- 3) Very few women wore pants. Some women wearing pants are wearing dress reform or bloomer costumes.
- 4) No corset needed unless specific to dress.
- 5) Dresses- one or two pieces of matching fabric. A one-piece dress is really two sewn together.
- 6) Shirt and blouse combinations: Can be many different combinations of prints and solids.
- 7) Petticoats- at least one is needed to give dress fullness. Depending on style of dress more will be needed. A hoop skirt is only used for specific outfits and is unsuitable for most street performance except dancing.
- 8) Variety of styles of work dresses. These are comfortable, usually made of cotton and very durable.
- 9) Hats: Needed when outside. Can be removed for performances. Straw hats and soft bonnets are very convenient. Regular bonnets were made of felt or straw. The style of bonnet depends on style of dress.
- 10) Hair: Most women wore a hat outside. Place hair in hat when appropriate. Also the use of a snood (netting) is a good choice. Hair designs include a bun, French twist, chignon and braids. Pony tails were for working but not being seen.
- 11) Gloves: generally worn when walking about. White kid or cotton are very versatile. Leather gloves work as well. Gloves come in all colors. Long sleeve gloves were only worn during formal occasions.
- 12) Accessories: Small earrings are acceptable for everyday wear. Necklaces should be limited. Watches are not worn on the wrist, but usually on a chain as a necklace or pocket watch. Hide your wristwatch. Please be careful choosing reproduction jewelry.
- 13) Shoes: Leather boots are worn everyday. Boots came mostly in white, brown or black. Acceptable boots come at least to the ankle or as high as the knee and have either a round or square toe. Laces are most common. Boots with side elastic are acceptable. Unless dancing silk slippers are not worn. Mary Jane shoes for dancing or children are good choices.
- 14) Aprons: Only certain types of dresses call for aprons.
- 15) Makeup- Very few women wore makeup. These women were mostly prostitutes or actresses. Please keep your everyday makeup to a minimum.

Men's Costume



Bib or fall front



Button Fly



1852 civilian



Bib Front



Pleated-Dress



Blockade shirt



Brocade and Wool Double Breasted Shawl



Notched Collar



Shawl Collar





Sack Coat



Great Coat



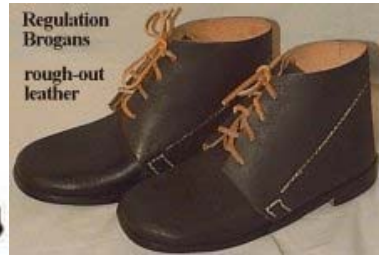
Civilian



Military



Brogans



Brogans



Bowler Hat



Lawman



Dutch



Vaquero



Gaucha



Low Sombrero



Top Hat

Women's Clothing Examples



Bloomer or rational Dress



1860s camp dress



1860s



1860s



1860s wrapper



1860s shirt and skirt



1850s wrapper



1850s round dress



Prairie Dress



Carpet Bag



Slat Bonnet



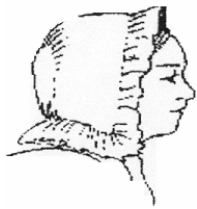
Button Bonnet



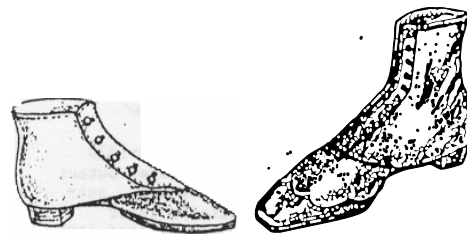
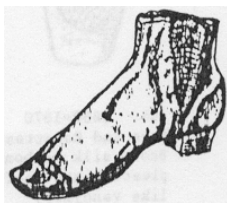
Poke Bonnet



Felt Bonnet late 1850-60s



Day Cap 1840s-mid 50s



Additional Information

Quick Fixes

- 1) Modern cowboy hats: Steam the inside of the hat to make rounded.
- 2) Pants: Hide belt loops or remove, Add Buttons for suspenders

Places to buy clothing

Locally:

Handley's Western Wear
314 East Bidwell
Folsom
(916) 983-2668
10% discount for re-enactors

Online:

R.K. Sutlery
www.sutlery.com

Timeless Stitches
www.tstitches.com

Patterns:

Saundra Ross Altman's Past Patterns:
www.pastpatterns.com or in local fabric stores

McCall's ad Simplicity
Local Fabric stores

Alter Years
www.alteryears.com patterns and accessories