

Special Thanks to—

“Fanny & Vera’s Helpful Hints & Timely Tips”

Much of the information in this booklet was taken from this web site.
<http://69.10.163.110/suesgoodco/newcivilians/index.htm>

After contacting them to ask permission to use some of the tips from their site. This is the answer received.

“You are welcome to quote our info to help your volunteers with the Sesquicentennial. Kudos to you and your group for your efforts to teach history in your community!”

*Warm Regards
Miss Fanny*

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Members of this committee are available for advice and encouragement
Don't be afraid to call.

For information about the entire event or to volunteer, contact
Mary Ann at 634-7092 or mbucher@kmtel.com
Web site.—Coming Soon
<http://www.civilwarmn.com>

Creative Costuming Tips



Wasioja Civil War Event
“Experience The Past”
June 26-27, 2011

Wasioja Civil War Days²

'Experience The Past"

June 25 - 26, 2011

VISION

To enrich the history of Dodge Co, enhance economic development, preserve the heritage of the local community and develop community pride for future generations

MISSION

To provide an educational, entertaining, historical and fundraising event for Dodge County and Wasioja Township in cooperation with the Dodge County Historical Society

GOALS/OBJECTIVES

- ?? Promote Dodge County Historical Society events, activities and educational components.
- ?? Provide educational and historical events that represent the 1860's era..
- ?? Create a fundraising and endowment plan to preserve facilities, building and landscaping in the Wasioja area.
- ?? Develop a series of programs before and during the 2011 Wasioja Civil War Days that will enhance the awareness of Dodge County and Wasioja involvement in the Civil War (The War Between the States).
- ?? Enhance economic development through purchases and investments of local goods and services.
- ?? Create a sense of Community Pride through beautification, landscape improvement and neighborhood socialization

Area Costume Makers and Rentals¹⁹

Rental

- ?? Colette Flom—Kenyon, MN 507-789-5618
Rent or sew to order.
- ?? Masquerade Costume Rental at Mantorville Square.
507-635-5554 manatorvillesquare@kmtel.com
www.mantorvillesquare.com
- ?? Costume Creations 533-4834 Rental—Officers of both colors, Southern Belle.

Sews To Order

- ?? Mary Schmidt 320-468-6228 rednringo@centurytel.net
Sews to order.
- ?? Custom Design by Lady Kathleen Design to order.
?? 398-6894 klc1952@yahoo.com
- ?? Sharon Dahms 527-2954 Sews to order.
- ?? Custom Costumes 281-3777 Some period and sews to order.
- ?? Adeline Schletty 527-2397 Will seww to order.

Dodge County Costume Guild

Will offer workshops including

- ?? Repeat of
 - ?? Corset
 - ?? Duct Tape Dress Form
- ?? Coming Up
 - ?? Chemise, Petticoat & Drawers
 - ?? Tips and tricks
 - ?? Bonnet Making Workshop

For information and dates Contact Mary Ann
634-7092 or mbucher@kmtel.com

Pattern Sources

- ?? Simplicity, McCall's & Butterick—Historical Patterns . Probably Simplicity is the best. Watch for frequent sales for \$1.00. Usually at Hancock, sometimes Joanne's
- ?? Truly Victorian—www.truleyvictorian.com
Nice patterns—expensive, but all sizes come in each pattern.
- ?? Past Perfect - <http://www.pastpatterns.com/>
- ?? Ageless Patterns <http://www.agelesspatterns.com/>
- ?? Laughing Moon <http://www.lafnmoon.com/>
- ?? Smoke & Fire <http://www.smoke-fire.com/pattern-shop.htm>
- ?? Men's Simplicity #4083 Has coat, cape, vest and dickey.
- ?? Patterns of Time <http://www.patternsoftime.com>
- ?? Long Ago <http://www.longago.com/index.html>
- ??

Pattern should have a gathered and darted bodice. Dart the lining and gather the outside piece. A great place to read about patters is <http://www.gbacg.org/great-pattern-review/>

Fabric, Supplies, Web Sites, and Ideas

- ?? Dress probably needs 10 yards of fabric.
- ?? Garments will hang better if you flat line everything.
- ?? Excellent Web site. So much information and links found on this site, Plan to spend an afternoon.
<http://69.10.163.110/suesgoodco/newcivilians/index.htm>
- Another Research Site
- ?? <http://www.cwrl.utexas.edu/~ulrich/19cdress/>

This Booklet Contains Useful and Practical Information

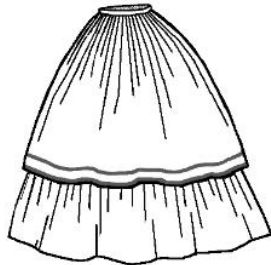
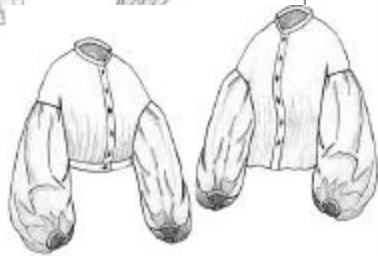
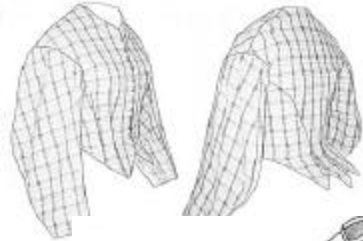
This booklet is designed by the “Wasioja Civil War Days” Costume Committee to help you, not only with costuming ideas, but to share historical information regarding Civilian clothing of the Civil War Era. It is not necessary that everyone is totally historically correct, but all are encouraged to enjoy the history and to have fun dressing up before, during, and after the event. When you put on your frock coat or hoop-skirted outfit, you will become a window to the past. It is our duty to provide a clean view through that window. Please put in the effort to research the details of your 1860's persona & your characterization. You don't want to be like a window covered in dust. Remember that if the image we portray at our Civil War Event is somewhat correct, we have done a service to the visitors and to the people of the 1860's.

The booklet includes

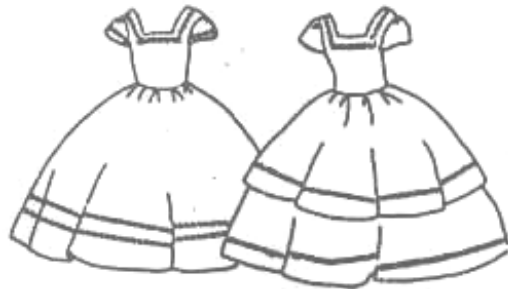
- ?? Drawings
- ?? Patterns and designs—Men's, women's & children
- ?? Hints and ideas
- ?? Fabrics ideas
- ?? Interesting historical stuff
- ?? Web sites and books
- ?? Costume rental sites
- ?? Where you might get a costume made
- ?? Committee members—for resource and help

Women

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Girls



Shopping Tricks

17

Thrift, Consignment and Second Hand Stores

Of the three, thrift stores generally have the best prices. Look in the out of the way corners, under shelves, in nooks and boxes. Thrift stores are a great source of sewing items. Look for boxes tucked away with bias tape, hooks and eyes, buttons, wooden spools, laces and trims.

Yard and Garage Sales

Some great finds can be made if you have a lucky day. Most newspapers print ads in the local papers. Try estate sales—there is a lot of stuff to get rid of. Skip ads that start with the word baby.

Church and Charity Rummage Sales

The best source of treasure hunting. Be friendly and chatty, you will get a better price in the end, the volunteers will often point out an item you might have missed. Two ways to shop at rummage sales. Be the first one there to get the best stuff or wait until the end and go for the \$1 bag sale. Both have advantages. Some wonderful buys in the \$1 bag. Of course, the joy of hunting and gathering is coming home with an array of reenactment gear all bought with the same dollar.

A Field Guide for Creative Shopping

Clothing first— You will probably not find an 1860's gown just waiting for you. This is the best place to find bed skirts for petticoats. White cotton sheets make into a chemise or aprons. Solid dark colors work well also. White cotton shirts with big puffy sleeves, lace and crocheted collars. Homespun style men's. in a small stripe, check or plaid can be turned into a period shirt. If you need a cape, then keep your eyes open for wool blankets. It will take two blankets to make a full-length cape.

Wal Mart—South in Rochester for \$1—2.00 per yard fabric. New stock comes acouple of times a week. Dress probably needs 10 yards.

Hankies. They are one of the most useful tools of a lady. Wave good-bye to your soldier boy as you wipe that tear. Test the gentlemen around you by dropping your hankie. Plain white linen, white lace or tating, or if you are in mourning a one inch black edging.

Gloves Estate Sales

Jewelry Look for brooches in cameo, jet, obsidian or locket style
Decorative chains can be made into chatelaines.

Baskets are a great way to carry or hide your belongings , you might even come across that wicker trunk large enough to hold your ice chest,.

Laundry

Laundry was probably the household task most detested by the Civil War Era housewife. It was a time consuming and often many days-long process.

Washing a "good" dress might begin with the laundress removing the trimming and the buttons. Then she might separate the lining from the garment itself to keep the weight of the wet fabric from stretching unevenly. A day dress might have five yards of fabric in the skirt alone! Then the washing process could begin.

Clothing would be soaked at length (perhaps even overnight), then scrubbed on a washboard with lye or vegetable soap.

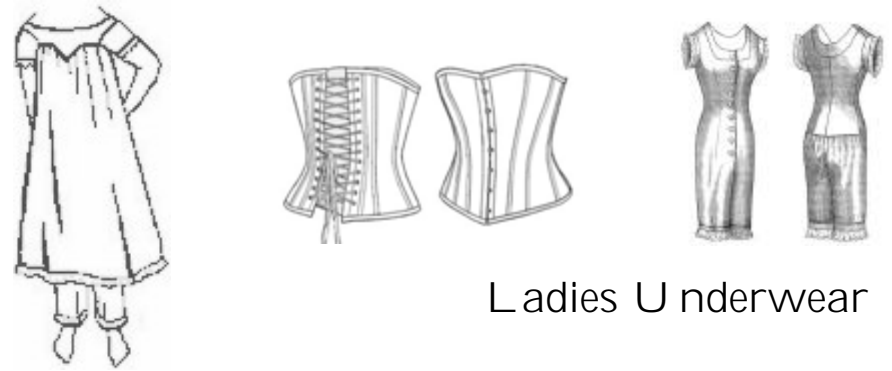
Next, the clothing would be placed in a vat of boiling water and stirred with a long stick to prevent yellow spots from forming. Of course, not all dyes were colorfast, so the garment may lose color in this process.

The clothing would be rinsed again, perhaps with a bluing agent, to increase brightness and whiteness, and then wrung out (a process demanding considerable strength!) and hung to dry. During the winter, the clothing would have to be hung indoors, in a room with a fire, and the process could take days.

When the clothes are still damp, they would be taken off the line and ironed with heavy flat irons and possibly starch.

Then, our exhausted housewife would have to reattach lining, buttons and trims, so the dress could be worn again.

This is why chemises, petticoats, pantalets, aprons, undersleeves, and detachable collars were so important in protecting the main outer garment from soil -- they were much more easily washed. The casual observer assumes those items exist for modesty's sake, but it is really for practical's sake! It is also an excellent reason to incorporate these items into your impression - so you can explain their purpose to spectators.



Ladies Underwear

Chemise goes on first, under corset to keep the corset clean from your body oils and dirt. The chemise has usually short sleeves and comes to mid calf in length. May trim/ lace around the sleeve bottom edge.

Corsets, stays, hoopskirts, panniers, pantalets, shifts and chemises were all necessary. It is impossible to achieve a historically accurate look without the proper corset or stays for your time period. Not all women of the Civil War era wore corsets. Reform dressers, elderly women, the overweight woman or those too poor to afford such a fashion garment did not avail themselves of the corset's molding properties. If you choose to shun the corset for your attire remember that the silhouette provided by modern bras is not period correct either, so be prepared to "hang loose". Historic clothing was designed with the assumption that a corset would be worn.

Drawers/ bloomers were worn crotch less & for a lack of words, for easier bathroom use. You wouldn't have to pull your drawers down, making it easier to have your hands free for the rest of your clothing. Some are made with a "V" shape or straight cut waist band. The legs in front are split from the waist band in front to the back. Both legs are sewn to the waist band. There is one row of lace at the bottom of the legs along a couple of rows of tucks for growth or shrinkage.

Drawers are long (ankle length) up till 1863 when the new fashion came into play, especially for the Union states. Then from 1863 on was what is called the short drawers / bloomers, (slightly below the knee cap). *See page 11*

Petticoat

This is an absolutely essential item. You *must* have a petticoat; -you really need two! Petticoats of the period were very full at the hem, and often had a ruffle on the bottom for added fullness. They were also heavily starched for even more fullness. The petticoat was secured by means of a drawstring through a casing at the waistline. The petticoat was a functional garment designed they were not heavily trimmed so they could be washed & starched frequently. *See page 10*

Hoop

The hoop was a FASHION item, worn with fashionable dresses. Working women would NOT wear a hoop. Nurses were forbidden to wear hoops, as they needed to walk between rows of cots and could not have a boned sweep of skirt flogging the wounded as she passed. Laundresses, farmwives, and especially cooks would avoid hoop skirts as a hazard to their employment.

Necklines: Jewel necklines were universal and when visible were finished with an edging of piping or tape. Most necklines were enhanced with a removable white collar. Collars were basted in so that they could be removed from the dress for laundering. The exceptions were black collars for women in mourning and an occasional upright or frilled collar. Collars were generally enhanced with a brooch at the throat or a nice ribbon tie.

Sleeves: Most sleeves were very wide, with exaggerated width at the elbow. Some were gathered at the shoulder seam and at the wrist. The Bishop sleeve was gathered at the shoulder, wide at the elbow and tapered to a narrow wrist. Others were of the "coat sleeve" variety-made of two pieces, they were smooth at the shoulder seam, wide at the elbow, then tapered to a narrow wrist or with a wide opening above the wrist and undersleeves beneath. Most photos show undersleeves worn with sleeves--a look that is under-represented at reenactments. Pagoda sleeves with huge sleeve openings over undersleeves were a holdover from the 50s that was seen throughout the 1860's.

Bodices: Most bodices were fitted closely to the torso with darts, gathers or tucks from the waistband up to the bustline. Shoulders were cut very wide and extended down the arm to a dropped armhole. Bodices were generally constructed separately from the skirt, then basted to the waistband of the skirt to make the dress or sewn to the skirt with a single waistband. Bodices closed with a center front opening, using hooks and eyes or buttons. Bodices were lined to give them body.

Skirts: Fashionable skirts were as wide as possible, the width was accentuated with the support of hoops or multiple starched petticoats. With a very few exceptions, no trim was applied to the skirt. Skirts were not lined, nor were they hemmed as we do today by turning under a portion of the fashion fabric. Hemming was done by applying a wide band of fabric (old dress fabric, muslin, even flour sacks) to the underside to give the skirt weight for a smooth fit. This hem band was usually quite wide--6 to 12 inches was the norm. Because skirts are fashioned to be very full, a lot of fabric must somehow be gathered up into the waist band with minimal bulk. Generally, knife pleats of various widths were used to fold the bulky fabric into a smooth line at the waist. Knife pleats were directional to the front of the skirt, where they formed an inverted box pleat.

Boning was used generously, particularly in fancy or ball gown bodices.

Boning was placed in casings along seam lines.

HOOKS & EYES Gowns & bodices fastened with hooks & eyes. These metal fasteners were sturdy and inexpensive.

Note—The ubiquitous white blouse and calico skirt worn by so many reenactresses has no basis in fact. It is a quick way to outfit new folks in mass-produced separates available, but is NOT a period correct look. Move on to a matching bodice or bolero and skirt as soon as possible.

(Continued from page 14)

?? Cut a hole on each side of the rear waistband, then insert a leather lace to secure/adjust the waistband. Finishing the holes with a buttonhole stitch will prevent ripping/raveling.

?? Sew buttons to the waistband where needed to attach braces.

?? Unfortunately, modern pants will have a zipper fly. If you are ambitious, you can remove the zipper and add buttons and buttonholes. If not, try to conceal the zipper fly with a vest or coat.

Easy Vest Modification

You can modify a purchased vest into a period style that will get you through your first reenactment until you can fashion a reproduction vest. This is a trick we used to stock our trunk of loaner gear. Search the men's wear section of your local thrift store, look only at the vest front--it should be a sturdy vest crafted of nice wool fabric in a drab color.

Replace any plastic buttons with metal, shell or fabric covered buttons. Fold under the points on the hem of the vest front and stitch down to give your vest a straight hem in front.

Frock Coat

We have heard that a frock coat can be fashioned out of a suit purchased at garage or Goodwill. Cut off around waist and use the pants for the bottom. Haven't tried it.

Tricks for Men

V era's Quick n' E asy Manly Shirt

A good quality cotton, flannel or wool men's shirt can easily be modified to the period look of a four button pullover. You will want to find a printed shirt with a loose fit. (Buy it an extra size larger) The print should be pin strips in a mattress ticking style, a small plaid or small check in a muted, drab color. Avoid loud or bright colors. If you find one with out a collar, even better.

Open up the seam that attaches the collar to the neckband. Remove the collar and stitch the neckband closed. Remove any pockets. Next rip the seam that attaches the button hole tab to the shirt, starting at the bottom and stopping short of the fourth button from the neck. Measure down about an inch and a half from the fourth button hole and cut off the bottom part of the fabric tab. Fold the two corners to the back, forming a point and sew together. Sew together the bottom half of the open front of the shirt. The small strip or check pattern will make this seam invisible. Sew the point down over the top of this seam. If the shirt has wide cuffs, cut them down. Turn the edges in and stitch the two sides together.

Manly Makeover for Modern Pants

Until you can acquire a pair of reproduction trousers, our modified pants project will get you out to the first reenactment or two in a reasonable approximation of period style. Some types of modern pants can be made over into period-looking trousers with a minimum of adjustments and sewing. This is one of the easier modification projects we have, so fear not-you can do this!

The hardest part is the search for the basic pant. At your local thrift shop, peruse the pants section. **Don't even look at the jeans**, you want to examine the "suit" types of slacks. Buy slacks one size larger, or at least in a style that fits loosely in the seat and leg. Try to find pants with NO back pockets, or at least with patch pockets that can be removed. Search for fabrics in dull colors, in wool, wool blend, or a homespun-looking cotton fabric. Period pants did not have front pleats, so avoid them. Remove all belt loops from the pants. Remove any back pockets. Split the rear seam down about 3-4 inches.

(Continued on page 15)

Bonnets & Caps

A bonnet or hat was essential when ladies ventured outside. One always wore a hat or bonnet when in public!

Bonnets—Bonnets were functional or purely decorative in nature. A bonnet kept your head warm in winter, protected you from the sun in summer, preserved hairstyles from the ravages of wind, or displayed your elegant good taste with their elaborate decoration. Fancy bonnets were often held in place with long, flowing ties or ribbon (a yard is not too long) so that a bow could be tied under the chin and the ends would flutter down as far as the waistline.



Spoon Bonnets—These were very fashionable during the Civil War. The spoon bonnet served no function other than to frame the face with an elaborately decorated brim. The brim rose straight up off the forehead and was sometimes quite tall. The decorations on this type of bonnet were placed inside the brim, rather than on the crown. Younger, wealthier or more fashionable women would be most likely to adopt this style of bonnet.

Sunbonnets—The sunbonnet was universally worn in a variety of fabrics from plain to fancy and designed to shade the face & neck from the tanning effects of the sun. The brim of fabric bonnets, most often identified with frontier and farm women, was usually stiffened with inset slats of wood or by sewing rows of piping to the fabric, so that it projected over the face and provided shade. These bonnets covered the hair completely. A little fabric or lace "cape" was attached to the back of the bonnet to shade the neck. This cape was also called a bavolet or curtain. Sunbonnet brims were sometimes crafted of straw and were plain or decorated with fabrics, lace, ribbon or braid. Silk flowers were very popular for adorning bonnets --feathers did not come into style until after the war. The inside brim of fancy sunbonnets were often decorated with rows of ruffles or lace.

Caps—These were elaborate little confections that were pinned into the hair. Their purpose was to neaten up appearance or to camouflage thinning hair in older women. Generally, these were worn around the home or to casual occasions among friends. Caps can be a very effective ploy to hide a modern or short hairstyle when at a reenactments. Caps were worn back on the crown of the head. The fabric of the cap was usually long enough to conceal the hair to the nape of the neck. Caps were often elaborately decorated with lace, ruffles, ruching or ribbon.

Mop Hats—This cap was worn by farmwives and cooks. It was a circle of muslin with a gathering 2 inches from the outer edge.

Types of Fabric

Cotton, linen, wool, and silk were readily available (at least in the North) and most garments were made of some blend of these. A linsey-woolsey or a lawn is next to impossible to find these days, so you will most likely be choosing 100% cotton. Feel free to wear silk, if your impression warrants it. The wool made today is much heavier than the wools of the 19th century. If using synthetics 80% wool 20% nylon blend is recommended. It looks and feels like wool, but is much lighter (and less expensive).

You Can't Go Wrong With Solids

The easiest thing to choose is a solid fabric. Pick a cotton broadcloth or poplin in nearly any basic shade, and you will be fine. No lime green or hot pink! A navy, tan, black (for mourning), gray, brown or dusty shades of red, pink, or lavender are appropriate. Solids are also usually cheaper than prints, and you won't have to worry about matching up prints and seams. There will be no "wrong side" of the fabric, and you will have less waste. Solids are also a good choice if your impression is that of a less affluent lady. Dresses made of prints and plaids are a sign of wealth.

Plaids

The plaid family includes stripes, checks, and twills, also. Plaids are woven; that is the pattern of the fabric is created by weaving different colored fibers in different directions. As the war progressed and blockades kept fabric and notions from the South, southern families returned to the arts of spinning and weaving to make their own "homespun's". A small scale check or plaid with a knobby feel would be a great example of a homespun dress. We might not wear such a bold plaid these days, but it was not uncommon to wear plaid dresses during this period, and it demonstrated the wearer's financial status.

Prints

Prints are the most challenging category. You really have to take several things into consideration. How old are you (in your Civil War impression?) and what is your social and financial status? Would you have made this dress yourself or hired a seamstress? Are you a Northern or Southern lady?

And older woman might be wearing a made-over dress from an earlier decade. A young, unmarried woman from an affluent family might

(Continued on page 9)

Shirts T-shaped body and sleeve, button or not May use purchased shirt in a larger size so the sleeves have the appropriate dropped shoulder and fullness. Modify the collar by removing the collar from the band and construct a deeper band with a deep collar. Attach permanently. May do the same thing with cuffs. Cuffs were deep with cuff links.

Working Man Shirt—may be of a small check or dark muted plaid. Long sleeved are full with buttons or placket. Wear braces or suspenders.

Cravat—or tie Can be permanent or removable, pattern or plain and fastened with Velcro.

Dickey— In hot weather, a dickey with collar and pleated front may be worn under the vest. Velcro the collar in the back Must wear a coat over.

Vests—May be plain to match the coat or of a satin or brocade fabric. Are straight on the bottom and have a collar or plain.

Pants—May use dark purchased pants with buttons sewed on to attach braces. If constructing new, a button fly. No jeans.

Footwear—Scout consignment stores for black or brown leather (or faux leather) boot with a rounded or squared toe. No waffle soles.

Jewelry—Stick pins, cuff links, watch chain and fob.

Boys

Until the age of 4-5 boys wore dresses. Boys parted their hair on the side. Once boys reached the age of eight or so, boys can dress in the miniature versions of civilian menswear. Many enjoy dressing up like soldiers, and while 19th century boys would have been eager to "play soldier". Only the wealthiest of families would have been able to afford "mini-uniforms" specially made up for their children.

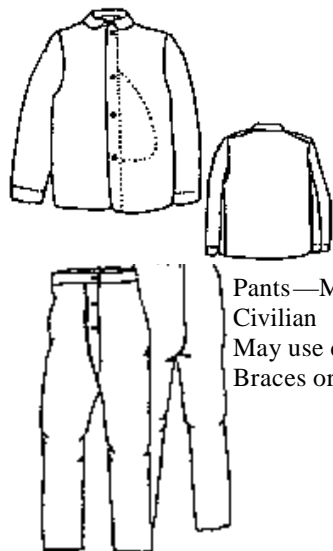
Toddlers

Dress and drawers. There is a reason that boys were dressed this way - it was practical for changing diapers & was economic because the clothing worked for subsequent children regardless of gender. **"Button suit"**. The suit included a waist banded, skirted, front-button shirt and button-side, drop front pants. Buttons on the shirt's waist band are buttoned through button holes on the waist band of the pants. These buttonholes come in handy when the boy is ready to wear braces or suspenders.

Frock Coat and Vest—Vest can be with or without collar. Dark color coat and vest, either dark or brocade
 Idea—have heard that a frock coat can be fashioned out of a mans suit. Cut off around waist and use the pants for the bottom.



Sack Coat—Enlisted man or civilian.
 Dark blue—Very little shape—wool



Pants—Military or Civilian
 May use dark pants.
 Braces or suspenders.



Kepi Hat—Military

(Continued from page 8)

have access to the very latest styles and fabrics. Northern women were far more likely to have access to fabrics than southerners, because of the blockades.

Popular Colors for Prints: Indigos, dark pinks, cheddar yellow, rust, many shades of red and brown. Greens were a little wonky back then, but there were plenty of dyes available by the 1850's.

Types of prints: Small scale geometric prints were very popular. Skip the calicos. In the 19th century, "calico" was a generic term for any printed cotton, it bears no relation to the small scale florals of today. Large scale florals, or florals with birds were used on upholstery, but not in garments. A floral pattern over a stripe might work for a period dress, but most modern florals are just not period correct.

Layers of Women's Clothing

Here's a list of the Civil War women's clothing that they wore starting next to the skin and working out in layers:

Layer 1

- * Drawers (underpants) made of cotton or linen and trimmed with lace
- * Chemise (long undershirt) usually made of linen
- * Stockings held up with garters

Layer 2

- * Corset or stays stiffened with whale bone
- * Crinoline, hoop skirt, or 1 or 2 petticoats (dark color if traveling due to mud and dirt)

Layer 3

- * Petticoat bodice, corset cover, or camisole

Layer 4

- * Bodice
- * Skirt, often held up with "braces" (suspenders)
- * Belt
- * Slippers made of satin, velvet, done in knit, or crochet

Layer 5 (outerwear for leaving the house)

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| * Shawl, jacket, or mantle | * Bag or purse |
| * Gloves or mitts | * Handkerchief |
| * Button up boots | * Fan sometimes made of sandalwood |
| * Parasol | * Watch pocket |
| * Bonnet or hat | |

\$1.00 and 1 Hour Petticoat ¹⁰

- ?? One solid color dust ruffle from a yard sale or thrift store, any size.
- ?? 1 drawstring (or 3/4 elastic)

So quick and easy, even the most novice seamstress can whip one up in no time. First measure the desired length of your petticoat. Measure from your waist line to desired hem line-(usually 6-4 inches off the ground) and add 2 inches for the casing.

Cutting Unfold the dust ruffle and lay it flat. Draw a line lengthwise down the center of the dust ruffle. Cut the ruffle in half lengthwise on your line, then cut off the ruffle at the "foot" end of the fabric. A twin size dust ruffle is usually just the right length for a petticoat when cut this way. If you use a larger ruffle, measure from the cut line to the end of the ruffle. If it is longer than the desired length of your petticoat, cut off more from the "center" line of the ruffle.



Sewing Sew the side seams together. Fold down 1/4 inch, then fold down another 1 inch and sew the casing, leaving an opening to insert the drawstring. (Or insert elastic, if preferred.)



The ruffle end of the bed skirt could be used for Undersleeves

Quick n' Thrifty Undersleeve Project

Scour the blouse section of your local thrift store for a white cotton or linen blouse with full sleeves and a band cuff. Cut off the sleeve just at the armseye. Fold under a casing on the cut edge and insert elastic. Be sure to replace any plastic buttons on the cuff with period correct buttons. Iron your new undersleeve with fabric sizing or starch and you're done

Hoop

Again watch garage sales for bridal hoops. You might find them for \$1.00 to \$20.00

Quick and Dandy Drawers¹¹

Drawers were worn under the chemise. The corset was cinched up over the chemise & drawers. Hence the open crotch seam. Once your corset was clamped in place, the drawers could not be pulled down. The same practically of the period is useful for today's reenactress, it is handy to visit the restroom and not have to readjust all that clothing.

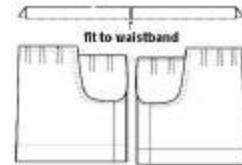
Materials

One pair (2) thrift shop pillowcases in white 100% cotton

Cutting Lay pillowcases together, open ends aligned. Cut along dotted lines.



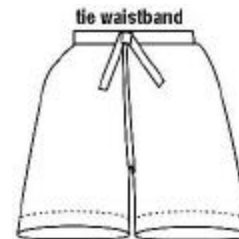
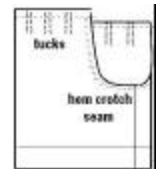
Sewing



Turn under the raw edges on the crotch seam line and sew. (Remember, the crotch seam is left open from front to back, do not sew this seam closed.)

Make tucks along waistline

?Set in drawer legs to waistband



?Tack ends of waistband together in back

?Use excess waistband to tie in front
May use lace or other trim on the bottom. May put a casing 1 1/2 inch from bottom and run ribbon or elastic.

You can also create these drawers with a waistband that closes with a button

Quick Shawl Project

Purchase a square of fabric. A nice woven wool blanket from a thrift shop is excellent material for a shawl. Purchased fabric should be very wide, 50 - 60 inches wide if at all possible. Wide fabrics are often available in the decorating or upholstery section of fabric stores. Choose a wool fabric in a solid, heather, and/or somber colored plaid. Cut off the selvages from your square of fabric, fringe the ends to at least 1/2 inch from the edge to prevent your shawl from raveling. Fold fabric square in half diagonally—shawl is complete.