



## Basic List of Underclothing / Underpinnings & Accessories

### Woman's and Girls Historic Costumes

Underpinnings and accessories make the difference in getting that authentic look you will want in your historic costumes.



**NOTE: This is a basic list that will fit most time lines.  
Small changes in style can be expected depending on your historic era.**



**Chemise, Camisole's and Corset Covers:** Used through most time lines and the four runner of the slip. Chemises were worn under the corset to keep the corset clean. Chemises were used for bed clothing, blouses and basic underwear. Corset covers are usually short sleeveless ones were used to cover over the corset to hide boning and are referred to as camisoles today.

### **Modesty Petticoat / Hoop skirt / Over Hoop Petticoat or Corded Petticoat**

All were used to hold the dress out and depending on your costume you may want to use 2-3 different types.



Hoopskirts were made of bands inserted in to fabric or wire hoops held together by cording or twill tape, Hoops average 90 inches around for day wear, and hoops can be much bigger for balls and special occasions.



Corded petticoats are made by sewing cording in to fabric and average 65-75 inches around. Because they are comfortable and still hold your historic costume dress out more than just a petticoat they are used for working / house / camp dresses.



The ladies modesty under slip / petticoat is worn under the hoop, not always needed if your chemise is long enough.



The over hoop petticoat is used to hide hoop especially with light fabric costumes and ball gowns, the over hoop is made very full, usually inches shorter than the dress, white or colored cotton or taffeta.



**Drawers / Pantalets / Pantaloon:** Most were made of 100% cotton or linen, with trimmed edges. Pantaloon are closed where Drawers were made with an open crotch. White, but for cold weather striped or checked made of wool and flannel. Pantaloon as we tend to call them today are one of the most important parts of a costume when using a hoop skirt.

**Stockings:** Most 100% knitted cotton, were long and held up with garters. The colors most used were; white, black and tan, also wool and printed silk.



**Corset / Stays:** A necessity for making the historic costume dress look accurate. Corset can be very comfortable and a great help for the back if fitted correctly.



Civil War



Edwardian- Empire

**Collar and under sleeves:** A ladies and girls accessory that is most always used, made detachable for easy cleaning for most Historic reenactment costumes. Detachable under sleeves and / or cuffs help keep your costume clean and fresh and are always used with pagoda or an open type of sleeves. Both collar and sleeves are usually white.

If you are a working girl such as house wife, servant, nurse, etc. you will need an apron.



Bib / pin Apron



Half Apron



Empire / Edwardian

**Gloves:** Short for day, long or short for balls and entertaining, usually white or yellow depending on the time line of your costume. Example: short white cotton gloves for balls during the Civil War.

**Fans:** Depending on your time line they were made of paper, lace, cloth. There is a whole language of the fan and a fun thing to do at your next tea.



**Reticules:** A small bag or purse that attached to the wrist with ribbon or cording or to your belt.

**Chatelaine:** An Ornamental clasp or pin worn at the waist with chains or ribbons that was attached to the waist to transport needles, small scissors, keys, thread, pins, keys, etc. Chatelaines were used while working at home.

**Shoes:** Black or brown with small heels that curve in on both sides were used through many Historic time lines. Also, Mary Jane's and ankle boots that lace up the front with a leather sole and short heel were worn.

**Bonnets and Hats:** Many changes throughout the years. Most were re-worked by their owners many times, changing style and colors.



Early American



1800s



Pioneer/Prairie



Victorian

**Jewelry:** French wires were used for mounting earrings not posts. Broaches, cameos and wide cuff bracelets were very popular.

**Parasol:** Small umbrellas that were used to keep the sun off of ones face, many collapsed to fit nicely in a reticule.

### Basic rule of thumb when choosing your character's costume:

Pick the time in the life that she was best known for.

**Example: Clara Barton:** The life span of that specific character may have been, 1821-1912 but she was best known for her work during the 1860 to 1900, therefore you might want to choose a costume from the late 1800's

- Early 1600's to the 1800's is Early American, Buck skinning, & Pilgrim costumes to Colonial Costumes
- Early 1800's Empire, to a fuller style with Mutton Sleeves.
- Mid 1800's civil War, Prairie & Nurse Costumes.
- Late 1800's, Victorian with bustles.
- Earlier Victorian might use a fuller skirt with a bustle
- Latter Victorian might use a flatter skirt with a bustle and Mutton sleeves, like the Gibson girl.

### People in history who wore Civil War and other Living History Nurse Sets / Outfits

- **Violet Jessop**, Nurse survivor of the Titanic
- **Elizabeth Blackwell**(1821-1910) First woman doctor and first in her class, and sister, Emily, also became a doctor.
- **Clara Barton** (1821-1912) Cared for the sick and wounded soldiers in the Civil War, latter started the American Red Cross.
- **Harriet Tubman** (1820-1913) Self freed slave that became a nurse, laundress, scout and spy for the union.
- **Sarah Emma Edmonds** (1841-1898) only official female veteran of the Union army, found in battles and spied behind the Confederate lines. Served the last two years as a nurse, then published her adventures.
- **Louisa May Alcott** (1832-1888) Civil war nurse and writer, in 1868 she wrote Little Women.
- **Susie King Taylor** (1848-1912) First African American Nurse in the Union Army, opened a school for a freed slaves.

### Famous women in Pilgrim / Shaker Era

Suggested Wear: Black, Dark Blue, Burgundy Dress and our Add-on Pilgrim set, underskirt, and pantaloons.

- **Priscilla Mullins Alden** (1602-1685) Sailed on the Mayflower in 1620.
- **Anne Bradstreet** (1612-1672) First Important American poet.
- **"Mother Ann" Lee** (1736-1784) Started the religious group, the Shakers.

### Famous women in Civil War Era

- **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**(1815-1902) Helped found the National Women's suffrage Association
- **Lucretius Mott**(1793-1880) Quaker minister and an Underground Railroad Abolitionist
- **Sarah and Angelina Grimke** (1792-1873)Lectured for slaves and female equality
- **Susan B Anthony**(1820-1906) A leader in the suffrage for women, and the first women to have her face on US money.
- **Amelia Bloomer**(1818-1894)One of the first women to edit her own newspaper, and to wear the "Turkish Pantaloons".
- **Victoria Woodruff** (1838-1937) First woman to run for the presidency of the United States, owned a stock brokerage and was a journalist.
- **Edmonia Lewis** (1830-198) African American father and a Chippewa mother, she became a famous sculptor.
- **Harriet Hosmer** (1830-1900) One of America's first female sculptors.
- **Mary Baker Eddy** (1821-1910) Christian Science Founder.
- **Nellie Bly** (1867-1922) First woman investigative reporter, Elizabeth Chochrane Seaman, aka Nellie Bly, wrote famous story's about her undercover work.
- **Helen Keller** (1880-1968) Conquered blindness and deafness, and wrote her autobiography.
- **Jane Addams** (1860-1935) Helped began Hall House in Chicago to help the poor, won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1931 and invented the profession of social work.
- **Harriet Quimby** (1875-1912) First woman to fly a plane across the English Channel in 1912

### These civil war / prairie pioneer costumes would work good for some characters in these plays

- **A Christmas Carol** adapted by Greg Oliver Bodine from the novella by Charles Dickens
- **The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn** adapted by Timothy Mason, from the novel by Mark Twain
- **The Secret Garden** adapted by Jerry R Montoya, based on novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett
- **Little House on the Prairie** with Laura Ingalls
- **Mill Girls** by Eliza Anderson
- **Orphan Trains, Little Women** by Deborah Craig
- **The King and I**

- Scrooge
- Seven Brides for Seven Brothers
- Scarlet
- Gone With the Wind with Scarlet O'Hara
- Gettysburg
- True Woman
- Ann and the King
- Shenandoah
- The Blue and Gray
- Loves Enduring Promise

**Famous women in the Colonial, Regency, Empire and Titanic Era's Costumes and Outfits.**

- Violet Jessop, Nurse survivor of the Titanic
- Mercy Otis Warren (1728-1814) Wrote, plays poetry and history volumes.
- Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784) First African American to be published.
- Abigail Adams (1744-1818) Wife of a president and mother to another president.
- Betsy Ross (1752-1836) Helped design and sew our nation's first flag.
- Margaret Corbin (1751-1800) Carried water to the patriots, known also as Molly Pitcher.
- Sybil Ludington (1761-1839) Rode 40 miles spreading the alarm that the redcoats were coming.
- Deborah Sampson (1760-1827) Dresses as a man and fought in the Revolutionary War.
- Dolley Madison (1768-1849) First Lady, saved important papers and portraits from the burning capital.
- Emma Hart Willard (1787-1870) First woman to campaign for education for girls in America.

**These Colonial / Early American costumes would work good for some characters in these plays**

- Lake-Like by Laura Shamas
- Young Jane Eyre adapted by Marisha Chamberlain, Novel by Charlotte Bronte
- Is he Dead adapted David Ives, by Mark Twain
- Pride and Prejudice
- Sense and Sensibility by Jane Austen
- Danial Boone
- The Patriot
- Emma
- School for Scandal
- Beauty and the Beast
- Sleeping Beauty

**These Victorian, late 1800's, early 1900 costumes would work good for some characters in these plays**

- Titanic
- Phantom of Opera
- Dracula
- Brigadoon
- The Secret Garden
- Around the World in 80 Days
- My Fair Lady, Sound of Music
- Velveteen Rabbit
- A Christmas Carol, Revisited by Steve A Rowell
- Mullen's Alley by Timothy Mason
- Rock of Ages by Mary Kron