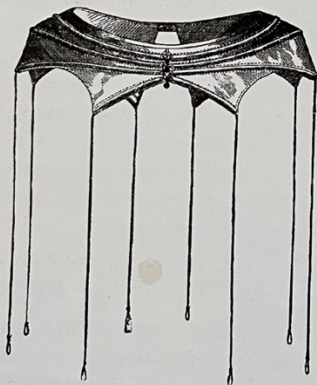




a



b

FIGURE 13.8a and b (a) Outdoor garments from 1863. On the right, a full, plaid mantle trimmed with cording and tassels, worn over a dress with a skirt having a band of matching plaid around the hem. On the left, a coat of the pardessus type, closed with frogs. The skirt under the jacket is raised from the ground by means of a **porte jupe** or **dress elevator**. (b) A dress elevator, which was placed under the skirt and fastened to the hem of the skirt with loops that enclose buttons. A tab at the front of the elevator pulled to raise the device in much the same way that one would raise a modern-day Venetian blind. (Courtesy of Picture Collection, New York Public Library.)

or lace. The silhouette of evening dresses of the latter years of the 1860s, like that of daytime dresses, fit more closely through the waistline, which moved higher, and skirt fullness swung toward the back. (See Figure 13.9.)

OUTDOOR GARMENTS

Outdoors, women wore either sleeved, unfitted coats of varying lengths (see Figure 13.8a); sleeved, fitted coats of varying lengths; or sleeveless loose capes, cloaks, and shawls. (See Figure 13.8a.)

The tendency of fashion magazines to assign names to each of a number of different styles tends to confuse terminology. The following are some of the names reported by Cunnington and Cunnington (1970) for these garments:

- **pardessus**: sleeved outdoor garment.
- **paletot**: sleeved outdoor garment that fitted the figure.
- **pelisse-mantle**: double-breasted, sleeved, unfitted coat with wide, flat collar and wide, reversed cuffs.
- **mantle**: three-quarter-length coat, fitted to waist in front, full at the back, with either long loose sleeves or full, shawl-like sleeves cut as part of the mantle.
- **shawl-mantle**: loose cloak, reaching almost to the skirt hem.
- **talma-mantle**: full cloak with tasseled hood or flat collar.
- **rotonde**: shorter version of the talma-mantle.
- **burnous**: a hooded cape.
- **zouave**: short, collarless jacket, trimmed with braid and often worn over a Garibaldi shirt (see Figures 13.6 and 13.13a). Zouave jackets derived from the uniforms of Algerian troops that fought as part of the French army. During the American Civil War, a regiment called the Zouaves fought for the North and adopted, in part, the costume of the French Zouaves.

HAIR AND HEADRESS

See Illustrated Table 13.2 for examples of hairstyles and head coverings for the Crinoline Period.

Women generally parted their hair in the center and drew it over the ears smoothly or in waves and



FIGURE 13.10 Men of the 1850s at left and right wear frock coats. The man at center wears a tailcoat. Generally for daytime wear coats and trousers were not of the same color. Top hats were the most popular hat style for men. (Picture Collection, The Branch Libraries, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.)

were “a tablespoon of gin thrown into lukewarm water will remove redness in the face produced by exertion” (*Godey's* 1854). “Water to thicken hair and prevent its falling out: distil [sic] and cool as slowly as possible two pounds of honey, a handful of rosemary, and twelve handfuls of the curlings or tendrils of grapevines, infused in a gallon of new milk” (*Godey's* 1864).

COSTUME FOR MEN: 1850–1870 GARMENTS

Men wore long or short cotton or linen underdrawers and an undervest of cotton or linen next to the skin in the warm months and, sometimes, wool in the winter. (See Illustrated Table 13.1, page 364.) Shirts showed

no major changes in shape from earlier styles. Points of the collar extended to the jaw. With less of the shirt front exposed at the neck, shirts worn in the daytime lost their decorative tucking or ruffles. Evening shirts, however, had embroidered or ruffled fronts. Most shirts were white; some shirts for country or sports-wear were colored. Ties and cravats were wrapped around the collar. (See Figures 13.10 and 13.12.)

As before, suits were made up of coats, waistcoats (vests), and trousers. Coats did not button shut but were worn open leaving the waistcoat visible. (See Figure 13.10.) Dress coats (formerly called tailcoats) were cut with a short, square “cut-in” in front and tails at the back. Although they were worn for both day and evening for formal occasions in the 1850s, by the 1860s tailcoats were strictly evening dress. Evening coats were black, some with velvet-faced lapels.

Construction of the frock coat was the same as in the previous decade. It was fitted through the torso. The skirt was not overly full. In the 1860s the frock coat waistline dropped somewhat, and the waistline was less well defined. These coats lengthened after 1855, and remained longer for the rest of the period. (See Figure 13.11.)

There were other popular coat styles as well. Morning coats (also called riding coats or Newmarket coats) curved back gradually from the waist, the curve becoming less pronounced in the 1860s. The **sack jacket** (called a lounging jacket in England) was a loose, comfortable jacket with no waistline. Sack jackets had straight fronts, center vents in back, sleeves without cuffs, and small collars with short lapels. (See Figure 13.12.) **Reefers** or **pea jackets** were loose, double-breasted jackets with side vents and small collars. These were also worn as overcoats.

Waistcoats for daytime ended above the natural waist. (See Figure 13.10.) Both single- and double-breasted styles were worn; the latter had wider lapels. For evening, waistcoats were single breasted and longer.

Instep straps disappeared after 1850, but trousers fit close to the leg. Pegged-top styles, which were wider at the top and narrowed gradually to the ankle, were also seen. After 1860, legs widened somewhat. For day-



FIGURE 13.11 Adult men of 1868 wearing a variety of outdoor coats and jackets. By the late 1860s men's coats were less closely fitted and top hats were not so high. The young man third from left wears a pea jacket and the child at second from left wears short breeches and a matching braid-trim jacket that looks to be of velvet. (Picture Collection, The Branch Libraries, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.)

time some were made of striped or checked fabrics. Bands made from colored strips of fabric covered side seams of some styles. Men commonly wore suspenders (called in England, **braces**) to hold their trousers in place. As an alternative, some pants were constructed with a tab and buckle at the back of the waistband and did not require suspenders. An embroidered or needlepoint pair of suspenders was considered an appropriate gift from a lady to a gentleman.

A new sportswear garment called **knickerbockers** appeared after 1850. They were cut with loose legs and belted into a band that buckled just below the knee. The term was later shortened to **knickers**. Wearing knickerbockers for sports seem to have originated from the practice of wearing fitted knee breeches for riding, shooting, and hunting. (See Table 9.1, page 245, for a discussion of the origin of the term *knickers*.)

Some garments were worn only in the privacy of one's home. These included dressing gowns, which were made in decorative fabrics and worn with nightcaps, and smoking jackets, which were loose jackets cut like a sack jacket and made in velvet, cashmere, or other decorative fabrics and worn with small, tasseled caps.



FIGURE 13.12 Man c. 1850 wearing a sack jacket, a loosely fitted coat, introduced in the late 1840s for casual wear. (Fashion Plate, c. 1850.)

OUTDOOR GARMENTS

The trend toward looser, more comfortable clothing was evident in overcoats. Some overcoats were fitted with a defined waist while others were loose, with no clear waistline definition. Combined coat-apes had a loose fit and capelike or full sleeves, and/or an overcape. (The term *paletot* continued to be used to refer to the general category of overcoats.) (See Figure 13.11.)

Named coat styles included:

- The **chesterfield**, either single- or double-breasted.
- The **frock overcoat**, cut along the same lines as the frock coat, but longer.
- **Inverness cape**, a large, loose overcoat with full sleeves and a cape ending at wrist length.
- **Raglan cape**, in spite of the name, a full overcoat with an innovative sleeve construction. Instead of setting the sleeve into a round armhole, it was joined in a diagonal hole seam running from under the arm to the neckline.

In addition, there was a wide variety of capes or cloaks with sleeves. A man's cloak similar to the lady's talma mantle was worn for evening. Waterproof coats, such as the mackintosh, continued in use. Men also wore large shawls over suits for out-of-doors. Some of the most famous photographs of President Abraham Lincoln show him wearing a dark shawl outdoors.

HAIR AND HEADDRESS

Men wore their hair fairly short, and either curly or waved. Long, full side whiskers were stylish. Mustaches became more popular in the 1850s; by the 1860s being clean shaven was no longer fashionable. (See Figures 13.10 to 13.12.)

The top hat was the predominant style of headcovering. (See Figures 13.10 and 13.11.) Other styles included the **wide awake**, with a low crown and wide brim and made of felt or straw; caps for casual wear; derbies (bowlers); and straw hats with flat crowns and narrow brims. The **Stetson hat** was born in 1865 when John B. Stetson, who was traveling in the western United

States, made himself a broad-brimmed, high-crowned felt hat of beaver and rabbit skins. Cowboys adopted this practical, water-repellent, wide-brimmed, crushable hat, and Stetson began to manufacture these hats on his return to New Jersey (Watson 1994).

FOOTWEAR

Important types of footwear included laced shoes, half or short boots with elastic sides or buttoned or laced closings, and long boots. Short or long gaiters or spatterdashers (spats) were added to shoes for sportswear.

ACCESSORIES

Men carried canes, umbrellas with decorative handles, and wore gloves.

JEWELRY

For men, jewelry was largely confined to watches and watch chains, tie pins, rings, and a variety of ornamental buttons and studs.

COSTUME FOR CHILDREN: THE CRINOLINE PERIOD

Infants unable to walk were dressed in long gowns. Once they were able to walk and until the age of 5 or 6, boys and girls both wore short skirts. (See Figure 13.13b.) Infants wore caps indoors and out, which were intended to keep them from losing heat from their heads. Many infants' caps were quite decorative, made of cotton or linen and trimmed with elaborate embroidery and lace. Others were knitted or crocheted.

COSTUME FOR BOYS AND GIRLS: 1850–1870

Girls wore shorter versions of the styles adopted by adult women. (See Figures 13.14 and 13.15.) Skirts lengthened as girls grew. At age 4, girls and boys wore dresses ending just below the knee. Skirts for girls age 16 had gradually lengthened to two inches above the ankle. Older girls wore hoops to hold out their skirts. Pantalettes continued in use until the end of the period, after which they were no longer worn.