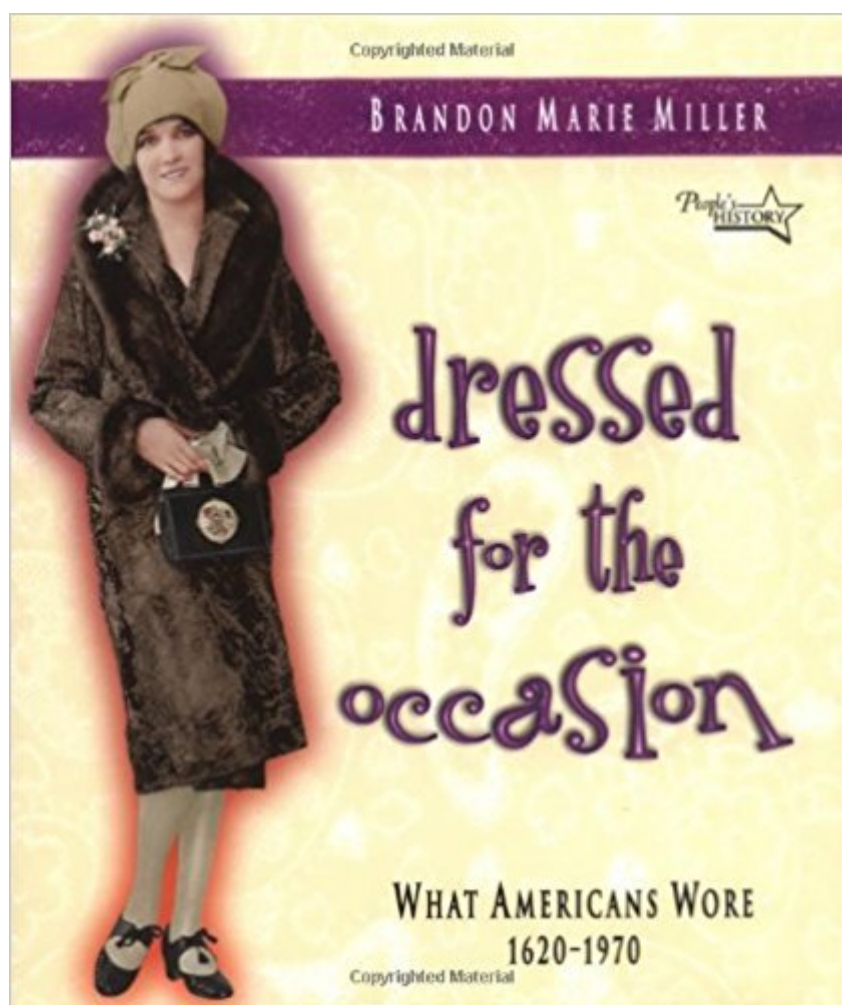


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# Dressed For The Occasion: What Americans Wore, 1620-1970 (People's History)



## Synopsis

Examines the history, manufacture, and care of American clothing from colonial times to the 1970s and discusses its relationship to the social milieu.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 5-9-An excellent overview. Miller not only tells what Americans wore, but why. She frames her information within a socioeconomic context as she relates fashion to the larger culture in a vivid portrait of self-expression by its wearers. Evening, work, leisure, children's attire, and mourning clothes are covered as well as Native American dress. Interesting tidbits, such as what was under those hoop skirts, enliven the presentation. The text is highlighted with sepia-toned reproductions and photographs. Refer students needing more in-depth information on narrower periods of history to titles such as Bobbie Kalman's 19th Century Clothing (1993) and 18th Century Clothing (1993), and Bobbie Kalman and David Schimpky's Children's Clothing of the 1800s (1995, all Crabtree). Joyce Adams Burner, Hillcrest Library, Prairie Village, KS Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Gr. 5<sup>^</sup>-8. Although this is a whirlwind tour of men's and women's fashion, there's nothing slipshod about it, and it is full of nifty facts. The Puritans banned silk roses on shoes in the mid-1650s; eighteenth-century parents, obsessed with their children's posture, both put girls and boys in corsets. We learn that the "powder room" was originally a special room for men and women to have

great quantities of powder put on their oiled hair, and we learn how very recent is the concept of clean bodies, let alone clean clothes. Miller notes how often women's dress was designed to constrain and hobble females: the Victorian woman may have been considered fragile, but she wore about 20 pounds of clothing. The bobbed hair and short chemise dresses of the 1920s were truly shocking after centuries of constriction. There's a wonderful bit about the gulf between the clean-cut look of the 1950s and the greaser look of James Dean and, later, Elvis Presley, and a sobering look at the crumbling of deep mourning clothes when so many women would have been obliged to wear them after World War I. Entertaining, fascinating, and replete with captivating bits. GraceAnne A. DeCandido

Not exactly what we were expecting. Very simplistic. Good info, just not enough of it for my daughter who is really into historical clothing.

I wanted a book like this for research for my writing, and it fit the bill just fine. Thank you.

I really enjoyed this book. It is short and can be read in an afternoon, however each word is exquisite! I didn't know clothes were so interesting years ago. It is just amazing! The author really did a great job. I highly recommend this book. You can read about petticoats - why did women wear so many at one time? Buckskin - how did they make it into clean white, soft clothing? Which famous movie star prompted men to go shirtless in the 1930's? You'll find all these answers and more. Also I like the way the author included men and women of various nationalities in the pictures. Pics from long ago, which I've never seen before. Amazing. Just love it.

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