

# THE ATHENAEUM SUMMER SESSION

## Clothing Guidelines

### Fabric

1. Daywear fabrics should be of natural fiber (such as cotton) or look like natural fiber. It can be a cotton/polyester blend if it has a cotton look.
2. Fabrics can be striped, plaid, polka dots, solid color, have geometric designs, or be floral. If it is floral, it should be medium-to-large size flowers—not calico style.
3. Useful evening fabrics for ball gowns and high tea include velvet, moiré, taffeta, satin and silk.
4. Trimmings could be included except for eyelet, which is used for under garments.
5. Young girls did not use Red.

### Jewelry

1. If you wear earrings, they must be dangling. Hanging cameos or tear-drop Pearls are good choices, but there are many others.
2. Pierced ears were popular in the 1860's. If you wear pierced earrings, they Need to be the “fish-hook” style, not posts (posts had not yet been invented at that time.) If the ears are not pierced, then “screw type” earrings should be worn.
3. Women did not wear wristwatches during the 1860's. Women who carried a timepiece carried a pocket watch. We have seen a few cases of watches being worn as a pin or broach.
4. Sometimes a pin or broach was worn. Cameos were very popular. “Bar” pins were also worn.
5. Pearls or choker style necklaces could be worn. This was usually in the evening when necklines were lower.
6. When in doubt, keep it simple.
7. If you have multiple ear piercings, earrings may only be worn in the lowest hole. You must pull your hair over your ears in order that the holes do not show.

### General Rules

1. During the daylight hours, a lady is covered from the neck down including sleeves/under sleeves to the wrist.
2. Gloves or mitts are always worn. Mitts are never worn to a ball where full fingered white or ivory gloves are to be worn.
3. When outside, a hat or bonnet must be worn.
4. Little or no make-up is worn.
5. No nail polish is worn.
6. Hair was either in a snood or is braided and twisted low on the neck. Hair was to be parted in the middle and bangs must be concealed, rolled, or pinned.
7. Hats and bonnets must have wide ribbons attached so that they can be tied under the chin.
8. Garments must not be low cut. The only garments that can be lower in the neckline are dinner dresses, tea dresses, and ball gowns. Ball gowns can be off the shoulder (but they do not have to be) and the arms may also be shown. Ball gowns are not strapless.
9. Pantalots should be between ankle and knee in length, but closer to the ankle than the knee.
10. Married ladies did not wear feathers.
11. Undergarments such as a chemise (similar to a cotton slip or a camisole) should be worn underneath to prevent any skin from showing.
12. Skirts should be hemmed four inches from the floor.

There are lots of things to know about clothing of the 1860's. We do not know all of the answers, but we will be happy to assist you—just call!!