

**Friends of Camp
Floyd
Civilian Handbook**

Version I

January 2015

Civilian Activities

Impressions

Developing a specific impression and first person interpretation is not required by the Group. However, as a civilian, a specific impression, whether in first or third person, can make it easier to explain your presence at events, provides a road map for further research, creates a background for activities at events, and acts as a springboard for interacting with the public. The appendix includes a list of possible impressions appropriate for events and information about developing a first person impression. Don't feel you have to limit yourself to just those impressions listed.

Children

Children are welcome to participate with The Friends of Camp Floyd Group and are an asset to the impression of families. All participants under the age of 18 must either have a parent or guardian present. Children under 12 must be supervised at all times. Please do not expect anyone else to watch your children without first asking. Parents should consider purchasing period toys and games for children. Modern toys should be kept and played with in a closed tent.

Authenticity Guidelines

We take a progressive stance on appropriate clothing and necessary gear, and encourage all members to research independently. The following provides basic information to begin developing an accurate civilian impression. We do not expect new civilian participants to be fully equipped or to have a fully developed impression at the beginning. We know that creating an accurate and authentic impression is an ongoing process and takes time and research. Our members are eager to assist new recruits by sharing their research, directing them to suppliers and loaning items as available. If you have any questions as to an item's suitability, wait to use it until the questions have been satisfied.

Toiletries and Medicine

Modern toiletries and medicines can be hidden in a small antique appearing wooden or metal box, or a drawstring bag. Please do not attempt to participate in an event without your medication or any necessary medical device.

Smoking

Modern cigarette usage by a person in historic clothing is not allowed in plain view in the civilian camp. Modern cigarette use is allowed away from the historic impression area. The use of tobacco by women was limited to lower class and some rural middle class women in the South; primarily through the use of clay or corncob pipes, possibly cigars (although not as likely), and chewing or dipping tobacco. Men are allowed more freedom in the use of tobacco, provided the method is of the 1860s such as cigars, pipes, dip, chew, or hand rolled cigarettes. Also, please dispose of any cigarette packaging and butts safely and appropriately.

Appearance

For your first few events, while you are still deciding whether or not this hobby is right for you, only the basic clothing items are required. You may even be able to borrow enough of the clothing basics to get by for your first few events. Once you have decided to become involved in Living History, you can begin to put together your own. Wardrobe Prices of most items will vary greatly, depending upon whether you buy them ready made. At the end of this packet we have included a list of recommended suppliers.

A few things to keep in mind:

- All fibers should be 100% natural fibers (wool, silk, cotton, or linen), and the clothing should be suited to your impression.
- Use only buttons or hooks and eyes for closures (never zippers, velcro, or snaps)

Prohibited

- Zippers
- Velcro
- Wristwatches
- John Wayne-type bandannas
- Painted fingernails
- Obvious synthetic fabrics
- Obvious modern makeup
- Visible body jewelry that would not have been appropriate for the 1860s
- Visible tattoos that would not have been appropriate for the 1860s

WOMEN

The Basics: What you should get as soon as possible.

Proper undergarments, including a corset, chemise, drawers, petticoat, and stockings, are very important, and should be among the second level of clothing purchased or sewn. However, for the first few reenactments, you can make do with a minimum or in some cases without.

One of the first pieces of undergarments you will need is a **petticoat**. This garment is necessary to give the proper fullness to your dress especially if you do not choose to wear a hoop. No matter your impression or the style of your wardrobe, a petticoat will always be used. They are very simply constructed from panels of fabric (muslin will do) gathered into a waistband.

A **chemise** may not be necessary for the first few events, but is one of the first undergarments you should consider. The chemise protects your outer garment and, when wearing a corset, serves as a buffer between your skin and the corset.

Drawers are also one of the first items of underwear you want to consider. Civil War era women wore knee length drawers that had no crotch seam; because of the skirts and petticoats you will be wearing, you will find that authentically constructed drawers are much more convenient than modern underwear. Elizabeth Stewart Clark's web site also includes instructions for drawer construction. Stockings may be white cotton knee socks (buy two pair, one for Saturday and one for Sunday), and you can buy the round type garters at first from any sutler. We emphasize cotton, because it breathes.

Dress

The first suggested outer garment is a simple everyday dress or work dress. These dresses are easier and less costly to construct and you probably will find more use for this style of dress. A fancier day dress and/or ball gown can be quite an investment of time and money; you should be sure the hobby is for you before you decide to invest in one of these



Ladies undergarments called underpinnings consist of a chemise, drawers and corset as well as stockings.



Ladies Camp/Work Dress: The Dress pictured is an original homespun

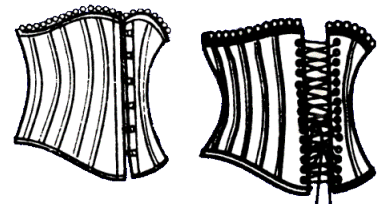
Shoes

Shoes are a major but very important investment. Until you decide that you want to continue in reenacting, purchase a pair of "granny" or ankle boots from any shoe store. They should be black leather, square or rounded toe, lace up the side or front, flat heeled, as smooth soled as possible (avoid the tire tread look), and without any extra trim. Be sure to try them on with your socks/stockings, because you will want them to be comfortable. As soon as you can afford it, order a pair of good period boots.

Filling Out Your Wardrobe

Corset

A corset may sound restrictive and you may feel that it is not really necessary; however, a corset will give you the proper silhouette for a woman of the 1860s. They are not as confining or as uncomfortable as you might think. You can have a corset made for you. Once your basics are put together, this is something you want to think about getting.



Hoops

There will be occasions when wearing hoops will be appropriate; however, hoops are not something you must have. Petticoats alone are acceptable at a majority of events. If you decide to wear hoops, **PLEASE DO NOT PURCHASE A BRIDAL HOOP.** They are not the same shape as a 1860s style hoop. Talk to one of the women and they can help you with this.

Apron

An apron is very handy for a female reenactor. It protects the dress and usually has good pockets to stash things in. A pattern is not needed--just a gathered piece of fabric to cover the front (hip to hip and almost skirt length), apron strings, pockets, and a bib (if desired) **without shoulder straps**. The fabric should be sturdy cotton, and the color can be light, dark, a small plaid, or a small reproduction print. Pin the bib to the bodice of your dress with straight pins.

Headwear

A sunbonnet protects you from the sun and keeps the wind off of your ears, although it can be warm. Sunbonnets can be plain, corded, or slat, but should be made out of cotton fabric. Civil War era sunbonnets tended to have a "skirt" that came down to below the shoulder line.



Shawl

A shawl of some description is desirable for spring, summer, or fall events when the evenings might be cool. Any handwoven-appearing cotton or wool fabric, in either a square or a rectangle, in natural colors, would be appropriate.

Other Considerations

Hairstyles

The adage is "Part in the center--Pull it back--Plaster it down." Center parts are required. Bangs should be blended in with the hair on the side of the face and pinned or hair sprayed down if necessary. Buns, rolls, or braids at the back neckline are appropriate. If your hair is relatively short, you should consider wearing fake hairpieces. Women should avoid the snoods that are sold online and at sutlers. The period appropriate term is "hairnet", and the snoods sold by sutlers are generally bright colors, artificial fibers, and made with elastic. Hairnets like those sold at many drugstores for less than a dollar are appropriate. On younger women, these were often combined with a ribbon.



Jewelry

A work dress really requires no jewelry, but if you choose to wear something, it should be limited at most to a belt buckle, a simple brooch, a pocket watch, and perhaps a pair of earrings (hook back or loop). You may add a bracelet or rings if you are wearing a better dress. Never wear a wristwatch, antique jewelry that would devastate you if you lost it, a high school or college ring, or a modern solitaire engagement ring. Simple gold bands are excellent for married women.



Getting Started: A List of Simple Clothing Items for Female Reenactresses

This price list belongs to Jordan Baker contact her for basic clothing needs. She will be happy to get you started

- Chemise \$25.00
- Drawers \$40.00
- 2 Petticoats \$20.00 Each
- Corset -- Contact me for websites
- Blouse: \$30.00
 - Matching Camp Skirt + \$40.00
- Pinner Apron* \$18.00 (also sold as a half apron)
- Slat Bonnet or Straw Hat
 - Slat Bonnet - Bonnet worn when doing chores around camp, not to be worn with dressy clothing \$25.00
 - Simple Straw hat with ribbon or cotton band around crown - \$20.00



MEN'S CLOTHING

The Basics: What you should get as soon as possible

Trousers

1860s' trousers are constructed a little differently than modern slacks; pockets are positioned differently, the seat is baggier, waists are higher, flies are buttoned and they were worn with suspenders. Trousers can be made from cotton drill or twill weave, wool or linen. Solid colors range from blacks and browns to off-whites. Plaids and stripes were also popular with certain sets.



Shirt

The simplest, most correct fabric to use would be a solid, striped, or woven plaid cotton (summer) fabric in darker and/or "natural dye" colors such as browns, brown-blacks, blacks, indigo blues, madder red/browns, off-whites (natural color wool or cotton)

Suspenders

The most popular version consisted of two straps of leather, cloth or knitted material with buttonholes at one end and either buttonholes or straps and buckles for adjustment.

Shoes

Shoes are a major but very important investment. Until you decide that you want to continue in reenacting, boots (calf or ankle) will do. They should be black leather, square or rounded toe, flat heeled, as smooth soled as possible (avoid the tire tread look), not too thick of a sole and without any extra trim. As soon as you can afford it, order a pair of good period boots or shoes

Hat

Most men wore some type of hat in public. You may be able to do without for your first few event, but you should get one as soon as possible. There are several different styles to choose from and many suppliers.

Filling Out Your Wardrobe

Vest

If you are portraying a laborer or a person of the lower classes, a vest may not be necessary; however, if you are portraying a man of any means at all, a vest is a necessary piece of clothing. Vests may be of cotton, wool or silk.



Sack Coat or Frock Coat

Just like the vest, a coat is a necessary garment; although, you may do without if you are portraying a laborer or a person of the lower classes. The sack coat is less formal than the frock coat but both styles were worn on a daily basis and by all ages of men. Coats could be made of wool, cotton, or silk (frock only), and did not necessarily have to match the trousers. Keep in mind that a civilian frock coat is similar but not the same as a military frock coat

Cravat

Cravats, or ties, ranged in width and style, from the basic thin strip to frilly cravats with decorative prints and wide cut black. If you wear a frock coat, you almost always will need a cravat.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHING

Children grow fast and investing in clothes that may not fit even before they are completed is not the most practical thing to do. Members of the Friends of Camp Floyd group may have children's clothes available to lend out.

Basic guidelines

While we would love to see all the children dressed appropriately, we understand it can be difficult to dress children in period correct clothes; therefore, we do not expect the same level of authenticity in children's appearance that we do with adults. There are a few basic guidelines, however, that should be followed:

- Children's clothing should be of equal economic level to their parents.
- Children should be dressed to their age, rather than their physical development.
- Children's clothing should be of appropriate period fabric such as wool, cotton, linen or silk.

Girls

Dress

Girls' dresses should fasten in the back until approximately age 12 and should be the appropriate length for their age (see the diagram in the appendix). Fabrics appropriate for a woman's dress would be appropriate for a girl's dress.

Undergarments

Petticoats, a corded petticoat, or petticoats or a child's hoop should be worn underneath to give the proper silhouette. The child's hoop should only be worn with a better dress. A chemise and drawers would also be worn by girls.

Shoes

Ankle high boots or Mary Janes are appropriate. These will most likely be replaced often, so synthetic materials are fine. They will show, so have the speed laces snipped from the boots.

Stockings

White cotton knee socks will work best.

Headwear

Slat bonnet, corded sunbonnets, and low brim straw hats are best for girls

Boys

Boys should wear dresses or skirts until about age three. These dresses look very similar to girls' dresses.

Trousers

Sturdy trousers made of cotton drill, duck, twill, or wool. Boy's trousers will button either on the front or the side. For boys 2-6, a button suit, which consists of trousers and shirt buttoned together, is your best option.

Shirt

For boys 2-6 a French blouse or button suit would be appropriate. For older boys, a period shirt worn with trousers is best.

Vest or Sack Coat

For older boys, a shirt, trousers and sack coat made of the same fabrics as trousers, similar to men's wear, is appropriate

Headgear

Slouch hat, mechanic's cap, etc., there are several styles available.

Shoes

Ankle high boots similar to those for a girl. Synthetic materials are acceptable, just clip the speed laces.

Infants**Gown**

All infants, regardless of sex wore a gown and petticoats.

Bonnet

Keeps the sun, wind, rain and cold away.

Civilian Camping

Tents

Only period correct tents are allowed in the civilian camp.

There may be tent space or tents that can be borrowed until you are able to acquire your own. Tents can be purchased from several different suppliers, see the resource list in the appendix for recommendations. When looking for a tent to purchase, please keep in mind what you are able to put up yourself with a minimum of help. We are all willing to help, but may not be available when you are setting up camp. Also keep in mind that you may be putting up your tent in the dark, the simpler the better.

Bedding

Cots, sleeping bags, and air mattress are permissible if you have a period looking quilt, blanket, or a sheet to put over them to disguise them. If you are sleeping on the ground, you may want a gum blanket, poncho, or a piece of plastic (tucked under) to put down first.

Eating Utensils

Knives, forks, and spoons can be purchased from a number of sources, including sutlers. . Wooden handled forks generally had three tines and all metal (silver) forks had four. In general, the simpler, the better. A Tin plate is needed. A tin cup without a brass or crimped bottom is also good, but if you plan to use it with acidic drinks (colas, coffee, lemonade, etc.) make sure you do not have lead soldering.

Baskets or Boxes

A basket with a handle is useful as a place to stash a camera and a purse, to be covered with a hand towel or other piece of cloth, when you go shopping or doing other activities. A large laundry type basket is a good way to carry your things into camp from a parking area. Simple natural willow, wicker, or split white oak is fine. Wooden boxes without modern advertising are also acceptable, but heavier. You will need to plan on being able to physically carry all of your own gear, however we are willing to help.

Chair or Stool

An antique-looking wooden folding or ladder-back chair can come in handy while sitting about camp or attending a talk or tea.

Lighting

Even though it is not period, consider bringing a very small flashlight to use for the midnight trips to the restrooms or to locate that extra blanket in the middle of the night. For your first few reenactments, you may not need a candle lantern or candlestick if you are tenting with someone who is fully equipped and willing to share.

Food and Food Storage

Preparing meals and cleaning up afterward is very time consuming at events, so for most events, we like to bring food that requires little to no preparation and cooking. This allows us more time for other activities and relaxation. We suggest bringing foods that will not spoil easily nor attract many ants. This may include fruit, cookies, uncut bread, or cheese wrapped in paper. A list of period foods that do not require refrigeration is included in the appendix. Please keep the food either in period looking containers, muslin bags, or plain brown paper wrapping, or have plastic containers hidden within the tent. If you bring a cooler, make provisions to keep it hidden under a quilt or other fabric covering. Beverages should be drank only from period looking cups, mugs, or glasses while you are in period clothing.

Water

Summer reenactments can be very hot purchase a water gourd, historic looking bottle or jug (cork or porcelain stopper), or a Civil War reproduction canteen. You will want to purchase bottled water and keep them in your tent.

Other Considerations

- We ask that, at least while the camp is open to the public, civilians appear in period dress. We are a progressive group and strive for period dress at all times during the event. See the Clothing section for appropriate attire for events.
- Modern items including soda cans, cigarettes, plastic, coolers, etc. must be hidden away in a tent closed to the public.
- If event rules allow the presence of alcohol, please drink responsibly, and ensure that nobody under legal drinking age has access to alcohol.
- **No** illegal drug use will be tolerated, period.

Appendix

Impression Suggestions

Roles for Women

Refugee
Laundress
Cook
Pacifist
Abolitionist
Copperhead
Seamstress
Milliner
Local farmwife
Wife/daughter of tradesman or farmer
Town gossip/busybody/local character
Society matron, social belle
Entertainer, singer, actress
Public speaker-social issues, reform, etc
Boarding house keeper
Visitor or traveler
Vagrant
Hired servant
Grouchy old woman
Town drunk or naysayer

Roles for Men

Refugee
Preacher or chaplain
Carpetbagger
Grouchy old man
Town drunk or naysayer
Local farmer
Doctor or dentist
Carpenter
Tradesman: baker, tinker, blacksmith, barber, rum seller, brewer, telegraph office, postmaster, printer, newspaper reporter, saddler, miller, tailor, machinist, mechanic, cooper (barrel maker)
Potential military recruit
Vagrant
Visitor or traveler
Traveling salesman
Hired servant
Hired hand
Teacher

Suggested Sutlers

- **Fall Creek Sutlery**
 - <http://fcsutler.com>
- **Abrahams Lady**
 - <http://www.abrahamslady.com>
- **Fugawee**
 - <http://www.fugawee.com>
- **Pair-O-Dice Mercantile**
 - *For children's games and writing supplies. As far as other goods this sutler is not recommended, you can find less expensive items elsewhere.*
 - <http://www.ushist.com/>
- **Panther Primitives**
 - <http://www.pantherprimitives.com/>
- **Wild West Mercantile**
 - wwmerc.com
- **Blockade Runner**
 - www.blockaderunner.com
 - The uniforms and civilians clothing are not high quality, but they offer a number of interesting accessories. They have probably the best selection of buttons and buckles on the market. Service is generally quite good.
- **Hamilton Dry Goods & Period Fabrics**
 - www.periodfabric.com/
 - www.hamiltondrygoods.com

Event Checklist

The following checklist may help you as you are preparing for events.. Space has been left if you need to add other items.

Clothes

Ladies Clothing

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drawers | <input type="checkbox"/> Petticoats | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemises |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corset | <input type="checkbox"/> Socks and Shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Hoops |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dresses, blouses and skirts and any separate articles such as undersleeves. | <input type="checkbox"/> Hair pins and other items necessary for hair styling. | <input type="checkbox"/> Outer wear for cold nights such as a shawl or wool Zouave jacket |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Headwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Crocheted gloves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jewelry | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> |

Men's Clothing

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drawers | <input type="checkbox"/> Socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Hats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> Trousers | <input type="checkbox"/> Vests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shirts | <input type="checkbox"/> Cravats | <input type="checkbox"/> Sack coat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frock Coat | <input type="checkbox"/> Suspenders | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Little Girls Clothing

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dresses | <input type="checkbox"/> Petticoats | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Headwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shawl or Zouave jacket | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Boys Clothing

Reminder: Boys should wear dresses or skirts until about age three.

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dresses | <input type="checkbox"/> Petticoats | <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Headwear | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Older Boys Clothing

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Socks | <input type="checkbox"/> Hat | <input type="checkbox"/> Sack Coat |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trousers | <input type="checkbox"/> Vests | <input type="checkbox"/> Shirts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Shoes | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Infants

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gown | <input type="checkbox"/> Bonnet | <input type="checkbox"/> Socks (if preferred) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemise | <input type="checkbox"/> Petticoats | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Toiletries

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Medication | <input type="checkbox"/> Pain relievers | <input type="checkbox"/> Allergy Medication |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen | <input type="checkbox"/> Hygiene items | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Camping Equipment

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tent | <input type="checkbox"/> Ground cloth | <input type="checkbox"/> Tent stakes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tent Poles | <input type="checkbox"/> Hammer | <input type="checkbox"/> Cots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bedding | <input type="checkbox"/> Chairs or S | <input type="checkbox"/> Folding Tables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food | <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Plates, Utensils, Cups |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cooking equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Dish soap | <input type="checkbox"/> Flour sack towels or plain kitchen towels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Large trash bags for clean up after event and for any items that get wet | <input type="checkbox"/> Candles | <input type="checkbox"/> Period lighting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flash light | <input type="checkbox"/> Wicker baskets or wood boxes | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Things to Do

There is quite a bit of downtime you will want something to do during this time.

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sewing | <input type="checkbox"/> Knitting | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Period Newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Period Games | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> |

Impression needs

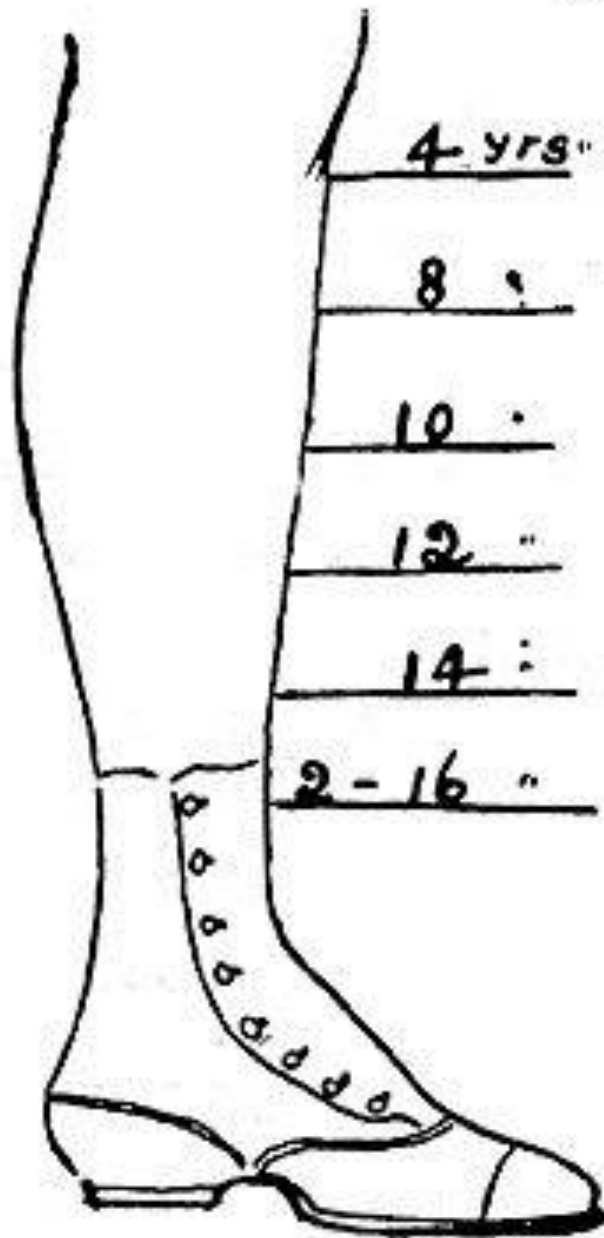
| | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> |

Other

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Event Information | <input type="checkbox"/> Directions & Map | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> |

Girls Dress Length Reference Guide

2131



The proper length for little girls' skirts at various ages.