Pioneer Clothing

Men

Shirts: Men's shirts were worn loose. Plain colors were common, but stripes or plaids were also used. Light colors were coolest in the hot summer months

Pants: Men wore their pants loose. Wool or linen was used. Corduroy, twill and canvas pants were also good choices. Colors included blue, black, gray and browns, especially beige and tan.

Suspenders: Men's pants were held up by suspenders that were buttoned on the outside of the waistband and crossed in the back.

Hats: Men's everyday hats ranged from pilot caps to straw hats, wide-brimmed low felt hats or round, crowned hats. There were no baseball caps!

Ties: Usually vests/ties were worn only on Sunday or when attending a meeting or social event. Ties were small, black and silky, wrapped around the neck once and tied in the front with a square knot.

Women

Dresses: Women's basic dresses were floor length. The dress could be plain or have many ruffles. The sleeves were full, and long, with buttons or bands at the wrists. The neckline was usually high, with buttons up the front. Fabrics were cotton in solid colors or small print. Bright colors were popular (especially bright yellow). Blouses and long skirts or jumpers could be used.

Aprons: The standard apron was six to 12 inches shorter than the skirt length. It gathered at the waist and tied. The bib attached at the waist and was pinned to the dress bodice at the top two corners, hence, the name pinafore (pinned at two of the four corners). Daytime aprons were made of calico remnants. Sunday aprons were made from white fabric and did not have a bib.

Bonnets: Women wore bonnets whenever they were outside. They were made of cotton with a deep stiffened brim and back ruffle to protect the neck from the sun. They could be white, plain colors or a print, but they never matched the fabric of the dress.

Pantaloons: Pantaloons were worn underneath the dress and were normally white. The garment reached between knee and mid calf.