

Clara's 1842 Pleated Dress

In the 1840s, fashion began to change rapidly. Clara's dress shows many characteristics of early 1840s dresses. Pleats were very popular, and over the decade, skirts changed from a conical shape (like Clara's dress) to a wide bell shape, formed with many layers of petticoats. Sleeves became more detailed, with layered ruffles becoming more popular than the puffed sleeves of the 1820s and 30s. Young girls still wore pantaloons under shorter dresses.

Clara's boots are made of linen with leather toes, and have a thin, flat sole, with no heel.

Her bonnet is a straw poke bonnet lined with gathered silk, and tied with a big bow under her chin. Her hair is styled with rows of ringlets, a very popular hairstyle at the time.

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