

Lesson #61 U.S. History

Home Life

Frances Millard – Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU)

Drinking caused a lost work and abuse at the home to wife and children

1860’s – Shift from hard liquor to light German lager Beer

Anheuser – Bush, Schlitz, Pabst, Miller (Muller)

Anti – Saloon League

Drugs Narcotics

(Bayer Company German) made Heroin available in 1898 became Drug of choice

Opium

Laudanum

Weed – Marijuana

Cocaine – soft Drinks (1880’s) until 1900 (wonder Drug)

Coca used for upset stomachs, tuberculosis, typhoid fever, asthma, alcoholism

All were allowed over the counter all forms of drugs were legal and in wide use until 1911

Tonic (Medicines) for women:

Percent of Alcohol

Lydia Pinkham’s Vegetable Compound	20.6 %
Whiskol, a non-intoxication Stimulant.	28 2%
Schenck’s Seaweed Tonic (entirely harmless)	19.5 %
Warren’s Safe Tonic Bitters	22.2 %
Burdock Blood Bitters	25.2 %
Boker’s Stomach Bitters	42.6 %
Parker’s Tonic “purely vegetable”	41.5 %

*Liquor that is labeled 100% proof is 50% alcohol

Social Etiquette

Invitations were designed as keepsakes or souvenirs for memory of the night. A private ball invitation should be sent ten days before the event and response should be within two days.

Public ball were organized by a committee and sent two weeks before the event. The same was done with the dance card as a souvenir of the event.

Etiquette important and followed strict rules from how to ask a woman to dance to correct execute a bow. The upper class tried to maintain a distance from the middle-class interlopers. A dance manual said that etiquette was a wall one builds around oneself for protection from unrefined and offensive low-class persons. Courtesy – Thank hostess – mistakes could carry a burden and an embracement to partner

Meticulous and controlled movements were required as well as dress appropriate for age and station - married or single – Young or old. Married women wore silk and unmarried wore gauze or lace. Blondes should wear delicate colors and brunettes should wear rich vibrant colors and both should discourage excessive ornamentation a single bracelet with flower in hair. The gentleman should keep jewelry at a minimum to cufflinks and pocket watch. He should dress so as not to be noticed. A true gentleman displays his wife or daughter. Both male and female wore gloves and had a spare set just in case the first became of soiled.

When asking a woman to dance it was carefully orchestrated with the gentleman stand a comfortable distance from the lady, bow slightly towards her requesting the Honor of her presence as a dance partner. Never should a gentleman ask the same lady for more than four dances at the same Ball. A lady never refused a request unless she already had another proposal.

Social messages – handkerchiefs, parasols, gloves and how they were held would send delicate social message

The language of dance became a powerful tool in flirtation with handkerchiefs, fans, gloves, parasols, and other gestures. A handkerchief in a lady's hand communicated an interest in someone. Holding gloves with fingers downward illustrate a wish to be acquainted with a particular gentleman. She could show displeasure in a gentleman by drawing her fan through her hand. A parasol could signal a gentleman to get to leave by simply folding it up in his presence.

Clothes - displayed rank and social position – celluloid combs and collars – aniline dyes in socks

Married women should wear silk

Unmarried women should wear gauze or lace

Brunettes should wear vibrant colors

Blondes should wear soft colors

All should limit jewels and flowers in the hair

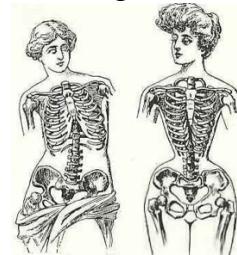
Gentlemen should dress not to be noticed

To be Dress was Formal clothes

Un-dressed was informal clothes

Women - were corseted so tight that one needed a bedpost to anchor the pulley to tighten their waist to the point of collapsing their rib cage into permanent deformity. (At the same time women were making public complaints about the barbaric practice of feet binding in China of female babies.) Furthermore, the corset allowed so little oxygen to the lungs that any exercise beyond a normal slow pace would cause a depletion of oxygen to the brain and down she went! This was identified in the early 19th century as Hysterics of Fainting (thus the Fainting couch – treated with pocket knife to cut the strings on the corset and her tonic) and by the late 19th century as the disease was being identified as neurasthenia – that set off a revolution in health programs from religion to foods.

Women dressed in a shift, stays (corset), petty coats, additional hidden pockets, a roll, stockings, garters, gown, a stomacher, a kerchief, an apron, and shoes. The cloths could weigh up to 37 pounds. There was resentment for the style was deluding national dress styles



A woman without stays was consider not quite proper or worst a “loose woman”

Saw foot binding in China as Barbaric

While Victorian women waltz and held their mid-waist in with a corset collapsing their rib cage, they were protested binding of feet in China. They protested the consumption of alcohol while they themselves took tonics containing from 13.5 (Brown's Sarsaparilla) to 35.7 (Warner's Safe Tonic Bitters) percent alcohol.

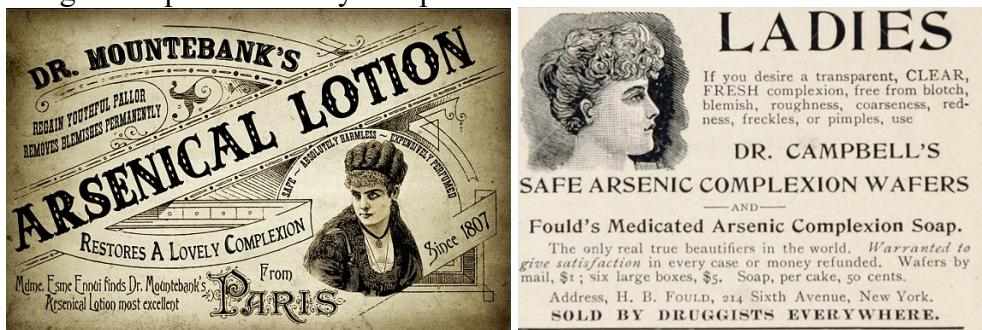
The waltz dance also was accused of leading young women to lascivious thoughts.

Fashion was not related to comfort one diary spoke about staying upstairs until "tea time" to be comfortable in the sultry Virginia heat.

Apron for the front of the dress and made of wool – as cotton would catch fire quickly and wool smolders

Petticoats were to keep the dress clean from dirt – a thick cord along the hem of bottom skirt formed a hoop to allow freedom of movement when walking

Face make-up = white lead, egg whites and other substances as a base then covered with white powder of potato or rice powder. White lead and vinegar were used as beauty products. Rouge a deep red or cherry on lips.



Fabric dots were used in the beginning to hide pox marks it is believed over time the dots developed their own meanings. A dot on the right cheek meant marriage, left cheek announced engagement, and one by the corner of the eye mistress.

Fire was important in everyday life – 50 pounds of wood or coal per day – stove hot whole day – candles, soap, cooking, water for washing (boiling water, rinsing, soaking, washboard)

Gas and kerosene also add soot to home

Wool aprons reduce risk of spark catching dress on fire

Cotton more flammable than silk or wool. Clara Webster died on stage in 1844 when her dress got to close to the *Limelight* lights on the front of the stage. Lime was the throwing into the flame to make it burn brighter.

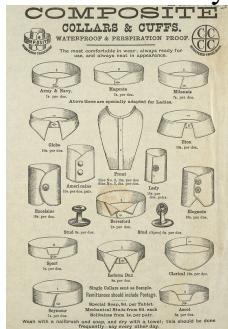
German chemist's isolated Nicotine – later nitrobenzene was used in shoe polish and when wet caused individuals to turn blue this was made worst when taking in liquor. Death could result.

Dyes in dresses and cotton replace silk and wool creating a fire hazard in clothing.

Arsenic and Old Lace – Dark green dye with arsenic used in fabric used to make the bright green color. Arsenic used in shampoos, soaps, dresses, gloves, shoes, and artificial followers for hair and clothes. Even tonics used as medication had arsenic in the solution – *Fowler's Tonic*.

Alkaline used in dyes to make violet and reds in shoes caused health problems. Their sweat reacted with the alkaline and could cause fainting or worst problems.

Celluloid a highly flammable material was used in combs, buttons, collars and even dentures and caused many accidents and death.



The clothes of children were of no different to the dangers. Young boys wore a tunic dress until the age of 6-7 and then moved to Knickerbocker from 7-14 years old. Young girls under 12 years of age wore a dress just below the knee. Girls 16 had ankle length dresses and women wore their dress at floor length. The danger to children is reflexed in the Iroquois Theater Fire of December 30, 1903.

Medical

Hysteria = invented to diagnosis neurotic systems of upper middle-class women

Melancholy = for males – dancing used as a cure/ therapeutic

Mercury was given as a medical cure for Syphilis.

Hats were made using Mercury – the “Mad Hatter” – Beaver hats were replaced by Silk Hats



Charles Durang saw dance as a way of controlling male habits of drinking, smoking, and gambling

W.C. Wilkinson saw dance as evil and the reason for social decay

Mothers control inside the House – Cult of Domesticity (Middle and Upper Classes)

Woman in an affair polluted the blood line

Father outside of the House

Man in an affair added to the blood line (Guess who came up with that line?)