

The Vintager

JULY/AUGUST
2014

VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.VINTAGERS.ORG

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE EDWARDIAN GUNNER

A RAVE REVIEW FOR DOVER FURNACE BY STERLING MCDEVITT

Last Friday, my Vintager Chapter held its monthly shoot at the Berretta Shooting Grounds at Dover Furnace, the venue for this year's Vintage Cup, and I was extremely impressed. I had shot there only once before and I had forgotten how beautiful the property is. We shot the Blue course in the morning. It was set up for a high level competitive shoot, very challenging, but interesting, and a lot of fun. In the afternoon we shot the Green course which also offered a great variety of targets which were somewhat easier to hit. Both courses are huge, so carts are a necessity. All the traps were automated. The courses are pristine and well maintained. The staff were constantly patrolling the course in ATVs, asking if they could be of any assistance, making sure the traps were all working, and assuring that we all had a good time.

Since I was last there they have built a banquet hall where we had lunch and an inn with a lovely terrace where we had cocktails and a dining room where we had dinner. Both the food and the service were impeccable.

This is a first class operation, the equal of the best private clubs I have ever visited. Throughout the day, the quality of the staff and management were much in evidence.

Hammers back, Sterling



At Dover Furnace (left to right) Sterling McDevitt, Russ Hughes, Bob Moran, Rick Carlson, Barb Carlson, Frank Conroy

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WHY WE BUY THE GUNS WE BUY

By John M. Chudzik

Why do we buy the Guns we buy? A fair question, but can it be answered. I will tell you that I am not a collector, all of the guns that I own, I shoot (save one). So while I may be the conservator of some very nice guns in my "collection," they all have to perform. But what is it that they have to do, why do I have them, what perceived need did they fill at the time? I shall try to answer this, but I warn you, I do not have a Single Reason.

I came to gun ownership early, I have the benefit of a Father who owned and used guns, for hunting and vermin control. I cannot say that he used them for games of sport or competition, at least I never saw him do so, nor has he ever mentioned it. My Grandfather on my Father's side also owned guns but did not hunt; he did not have any use for a woodchuck in the garden and allowed no chipmunk solace in his garage, so they were tools. On my Mother's side, my Grandfather did hunt as a young man and I still own a sixteen gauge Model Twelve that he used for birds and, later in life, to keep woodchucks from digging holes in the fields his milk cows grazed in.

I have an accumulation of rifles, pistols and shotguns now but I could not claim as any progression of purchase or interest. I do happen to like John Browning's 1911 and have several; Bill Ruger's single-action Blackhawk is also a pretty neat design. I am heavy in rimfire rifles as they seem to be all that is economical to shoot. I have modern sporting rifles and bolt actions, I even have some very heavy caliber rifles just in case a hunt for big game presents itself.

But most of my "collection" is shotguns, or simply "Guns" as our brothers in the U.K. would refer to them and that is how I will refer to them further. I think I like these guns above all other types of firearm. Where I live in Massachusetts, I have more hunting opportunities with them than with rifles. I do shoot for sport and am able to play more "games" with my guns that allow me to keep my eye in for hunting. So how do I justify buying the guns that I buy?

I got into proper guns late, by that I mean that I used pumps and semi-automatics and even dabbled in over and under shotguns for Skeet and Trap shooting for some time. But I always fell back on my Grandfather's Model Twelve to hunt with. I was in my twenties and didn't have a great deal of money and used what I knew. Even now I still take that Model Twelve out at least one day per season.

I came to side-by-sides more by chance than anything. I was shooting Skeet at my local club one day when some fellow Vintagers were there shooting newly purchased guns, and they were pretty. (The guns not the Vintagers.) I was lucky that they took the time to show me their guns and even let me shoot a few rounds and I had a great deal of fun, more fun than I was having with what I had brought.

What was my first proper gun, a Midland Hammer back-action with rounded bar and twist barrels, not pretty but a start. I shot that gun for a full summer and got pretty

good with it—I could break as many targets with my Skeet gun. I have since let that gun go, had many like it and let them go. I haven't bought any of them for the exact same reason, nor have I let them go for exactly the same reason.

I don't buy guns because I am investing, as I said I do not collect them for their value, if I did I would not shoot them. I do have one firearm that I do not shoot, I don't deserve to. I was given a Colt 1911 by a gentleman that I knew; he had been a serviceman during WW II. This man had been a lineman for the Signal Corps. And had been assigned this pistol as his only weapon, after all the signal boys don't get there until later, right? Well he went ashore on June 7, 1944 with climbing spikes, a pair of pliers, a hammer, a bag of nails, a spool of wire and this pistol. He did fire this pistol twice during his service, both times to save his life and accounted for two enemy soldiers in doing so.

When this gentleman returned home, he had this pistol, and had not fired it since. He started a family and went about making a life after the war. One day his wife found the pistol and told him she did not want it in the house, to go sell it. I have not crossed a beach; I have not had to defend my life with a firearm, but some things a man just does not sell. This gentleman was cleaning out his attic one day and found it hidden right where he had put it so many years before. He brought this pistol to me and related this story. Sadly, three months later he passed. I have cleaned and oiled this pistol several times but I have not fired it. I never will.

I have bought guns that seemed like a great deal, but that was foolish because those great deal guns are all gone now, most I was lucky to have made back what I paid. I have bought guns that I thought were a challenge to fix up, that was foolish too because many of them were never of the quality to have survived the 100 or more years of service and abuse they had been given. I have bought guns that I thought I had a vision for and have tried to turn into something they were not. Foolish, as I have rarely been happy with the results, not for lack of paying top dollar to the best workmen available. I have just found that these guns never have the pizzazz of that first sight, the look I fell in love with on first introduction. Don't get me wrong, I know when a stock could use a new oil finish, but now I am reluctant to do so unless it is really needed. The same with Browning and Blacking, I do ask myself if it can go another year before the finish is too thin, but also will I enjoy this gun in its current state?

I have bought guns that I thought would be fun and challenging to reload. I do reload and have great fun shooting my 2½ inch chamber 12 gauge guns; the more I shoot them the more I love them. I found it really challenging to reload for a 2⅞ ten gauge Blisset Hammer gun but that has waned and, though I love the gun, I will pass it on. I have remarked to friends that I love to reload more than I love to shoot. Any of you who know me know that there are days that I seem to just be emptying hulls and do not know what I'm doing behind either trigger. I will say that every time I pull the handle I get a reloaded

shell, I do not break a clay every time I pull a trigger.

I have bought or traded guns from friends and acquaintances, from contacts and from gun shops all through New England. Friends are good because you have a level of trust in your purchase that goes without saying. I have many guns from friends and have never been disappointed in the deal. I have been offered many guns at a "friend's" price and taken advantage of this offer many times. The only downside is that I might be accused of not knowing what the gun is worth, while I don't per-se know, I have never haggled on a "friends" price. Unfortunately I have passed several of these guns along after buying them and can only blame myself and changing tastes for no longer being as enamored as I was at the time of purchase. Many times, true to my word at the time of purchase, I cannot tell you whom I bought the gun from, or more usually, the price that I paid. Everyone has more than one friend and no one wants to be slighted, so some things are secrets, right? Trouble is, I don't really know what it is worth and am embarrassed to ask, so I pass it along for what I have into it: gun, case, tools & accessories.

I buy from acquaintances, almost like a friend, but this purchase may actually be a friend of a friend so confidence is still high but the deal is not as good, not being the actual friend. This is still a good purchase but you have less apprehension about being seen without that particular gun again by your friend. We have all been there when your friend asks you how that gun is that you were given a great deal on, and having to explain that you sold it, or "passed it on."

Now contacts are great as they may not even be a gun owner, just someone who happens to know where a gun is that might interest you. He may be a friend that is a gun owner, just not interested in side-by-sides, or not in Hammer guns (if that is your thing) or not in a particular maker. This purchase may be like going on a blind date or it may be an introduction at a gun show, you never know from where it will come or where it will go. Contacts rarely know if the gun is still available or the price and condition.

Gun shops, and I include the big-boys here as well, are a place where you can make a trade of guns that you may wish to pass on or consolidate many into a single better one. I have made many faulty deals based on having the cash at the time when I would have been better served tucking the cash away and waiting for the right one. You

can have confidence in gun shops for buying a safe gun but it is a business and they have to keep the lights on and the employees paid. There aren't a lot of deals, but you might trade away a mistake in purchasing that you no longer love.

But I digress; "Why We Buy the Guns We Buy" is the name of this essay. Was I ever going to answer the question, probably not? I do not know that I have an answer to my own buying habits. I did not ask "Why Do We Buy The Guns We Buy?" I laid it out as a statement, "Why We Buy the Guns We Buy." I congratulate you if in reading this you were able to answer it as a question or treated it as an introspective of your own "collection." I opened up my safe and took a look; I have mostly Hammer Guns (the higher and more narrow the better). I like Damascus barrels thirty inches long and I prefer twelve gauges, chamber length does not matter. I do prefer round bar back-actions and I am quite heavy on Jones-Lever actions.

Why these? I like the lines of the guns made on this design, I have a nice sidelock now but by the time you read this it will have been put on a table for sale, guns look best with hammers. I have a boxlock in sixteen gauge that I love but I do not shoot well, the grip is small enough that I can't grip it well. This gun raps my middle finger so hard that I can't shoot more than one round of skeet, nice gun, but my hand is too big—on the table.

I don't know why I buy what I buy, but I think I'm maturing in my preferences or at least refining them. I might be talked into a purchase that I don't need but only if I can justify the purchase—unfortunately I don't know what that justification might be. I don't need a gun to hunt with, I have several. I don't need a gun to shoot Clays with, I have several. I don't need a gun for rainy day shooting, every single proper gun I own was born of the British Isles, a particularly rainy place, so they can take it. I don't need a gun to complete my collection, I don't collect. I don't need a gun to resurrect as a challenge, I admit that I am beaten.

Though I do know a friend with a nice boxlock with Damascus barrels that needs a stock and some finishing to make up a very nice game gun, a gun with Pizzazz.

And That, My Friend, is
Why We Buy the Guns We Buy.



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Happy Birthday!

Missed in May

23 Sheppard Kelly, IL

July

2 Erik Anderson, NY
2 Bill Seaman, WV
2 Mike Tepedino, MA
7 Betty Jacob, NH
11 Toby Barclay, UK
14 Bruce Gray, NY
17 James Wollschlager, CT
18 Ernest Boscoe Godfrey, AL
18 Max Scheller, CT
20 Garland Gentry, VA
20 Bob Krish, CT
22 Randy Lawrence, OH
25 Mimi Palmer, AL
26 Jim Finkel, SC
26 John Morin, MA
26 Tom Whittle, ME
29 Pete Kogut, NH

August

? Micheline Lombardi, RI
3 John Giordano, NJ
3 Robert S. Hill, FL
6 Ronald Kolodziej
7 Paul Rodhouse, FL
8 Denny Iker, TX
8 Joan Samuels, LA
14 George Pittelko, SC
14 Leonard Wurman, WI
15 Jeff Seim, CO
16 Erin Loos, CT
25 Ty Sockwell, AL
25 David Tilden, NH
26 Rob Anderson, CO
27 Bill Jacob, NH
28 F. Jack Hurley, NC
30 Russ Cuatt, NY
30 Tom Noto, FL
30 Richard Wehner, MD

In case of an error or an omission,
please call 413-339-5347

Contact Information for all Chapters

ALABAMA

John Johnson, President
205-980-4890
JOHNJ@mortgageamerica.com

CAROLINA:

Bill Curry, President
704-523-2293 • jwwcurry@yahoo.com

CHATSWORTH, EASTERN NY, WESTERN VT

Steve Donbeck, President
518-395-7210

ROCKY MOUNTAIN, CO:

Robert Nikkel, President
970-214-1605 • renikkel@q.com

LEATHERSTOCKING, NY:

Don Nickerson, President
607-638-9258 • negrouse1@hotmail.com

DOWN EAST, ME:

Dave Cousineau, President
207-363-7441 • vintagersdave@aol.com

BUCKEYE, OH:

Mark Douglas, President
hi-sport@sbcglobal.net

NORTHEAST:

Ray Poudrier, President
413-339-5347 • vintagersray@hotmail.com

KNICKERBOCKERS, NJ, NY, PA:

John Giordano, President
973-736-8091 • jgiord6087@aol.com

LONG ISLAND GOLD COAST

Randell Beck, President
516-509-6943 • beckrandell@gmail.com

SUNSHINE, FLA:

Hal M. Hare, President
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What's going on in your chapter?
Spread the word & stay up to date at
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2014 UPCOMING EVENTS

BUCKEYE (OHIO)

July 13, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, October 12—Cardinal Shooting Center, Marengo, OH

July 6—Jaqua's Fine Guns and Trap Club, Findlay, OH

June 8, Aug. 3—Black Wing Shooting Center, Delaware, OH

ALABAMA

Events Pending

Contact: John Johnson, President
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KNICKERBOCKER (EASTERN NEW YORK)

Contact: John Giordano, President
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NORTHEAST (NEW ENGLAND)

July 18—Barre Sportsmen's Club, Barre, MA

August 15—Westford Sportsmen's Club*, Westford, MA

October 17—East Glastonbury Fish & Game*, Marlborough, CT

November—TBD

December 5—Addieville East Farm*, Mapleville, RI

*Catering by Chef Andy Lussier

DOWN EAST (MAINE)

July and August—4th Sundays of the month, Informal clays, Scarborough Fish & Game, Scarborough, ME

SUNSHINE (FLORIDA)

Events Pending

Contact: Hal M. Hare, President
862-583-4858 • hal.hare@sbcglobal.net

CHATSWORTH

Events Pending

Contact: Steve Donbeck, President
518-395-7210

LEATHERSTOCKING (CENTRAL NEW YORK)

August 2—BSA Shoot, Sunset Farm Sporting Clays, Delanson, NY

October 4—Rocky Ridge Farm, Otego, NY, Annual Pheasant Shoot

ROCKY MOUNTAIN (COLORADO)

July 4-6—Cast & Blast, Spur Outfitters, Saratoga, WY

July 26—Sage Productions, Piney Valley, Wolcott, CO

Aug. 9—Elephant Hunt with Ellis Brown, Fort Collins, CO

Aug. 24—Refined Bunch Game Feast, Quail Run, Kiowa, CO

October 5—Get Ready for Pheasants, Golden Gun Club, Watkins, CO

CAROLINA

August TBD—Primland Weekend

October 24-26—Fall Southern Side-by-Side, Backwoods Quail, Georgetown, SC

LONG ISLAND/GOLD COAST (NEW YORK)

July 13—TBD—5—Stand and Sporting Clays

August 10—TBD—Trap

September 14—TBD—Skeet

October 12—TBD—Flurry followed by dinner

November 9—TBD—Sporting Clays

December 14—TBD—U pick

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PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE BOXES:

SMALL GAUGE EVENTS **Thursday, Sept 25** **Friday, Sept 26** **Saturday, Sept 27 (9 AM – 5 PM)**

| | | | | |
|-------|--------|------------|----------------|-----------------|
| 16GA | Hammer | Hammerless | 24GA | |
| 20GA | Hammer | Hammerless | 32GA | |
| 28GA | Hammer | Hammerless | | |
| 410GA | Hammer | Hammerless | # events _____ | @ \$50 ea _____ |

RIFLE EVENTS **Thursday, Sept. 25 and Friday Sept. 26 (9 AM – 4 PM)**

STOPPING RIFLE (Preferred Time: Morning Afternoon)
 32 rounds-16 per day both Thurs & Fri \$100/gun _____

STALKING RIFLE (Preferred Time: Morning Afternoon)
 32 rounds-16 per day both Thurs & Fri
 Alex Henry Cup \$100/gun _____

Friday, Sept 26 and Saturday, Sept 27 (9 AM – 5 PM)

| | |
|---|------------|
| 10 GA EVENT: 50 Targets HAMMER HAMMERLESS | \$50 _____ |
| 12 GA PRELIMINARY EVENT: 50 Targets | \$50 _____ |
| RST 12 GA HAMMER EVENT: 50 Targets | \$50 _____ |
| AMERICAN CLASSICS EVENT (Fox/Parker Challenge): 50 Targets | \$50 _____ |

Saturday, Sept 27

| | |
|--|------------|
| GCCA DRILLING: 50 Targets (9 AM - 12 PM) | \$50 _____ |
| GCCA CAPE GUN: 50 TARGETS (9 AM – 12 PM) | \$50 _____ |
| BLACK POWDER CARTRIDGE: 50 Targets (1-3 PM) | \$50 _____ |
| 5-STAND: 50 TARGETS (9 AM – 5 PM) | \$50 _____ |

Sunday, Sept 28

WORLD SIDE-BY-SIDE CHAMPIONSHIPS MAIN EVENT: 100 TARGETS

(European start from 9:00 AM to 11:00 PM, complete course by 2:30 PM)
 SENIOR (16-60) VETERAN (over 60) LADIES
 HAMMER HAMMERLESS

SAMUELS' LADIES INVITATIONAL (Must Choose Trophy or Non-Trophy)
 SHOOTER #1 _____ SHOOTER #2 _____

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| TROPHY | \$150 _____ |
| NONTROPHY—VINTAGER | \$100 _____ |
| NONTROPHY—NON-VINTAGER | \$120 _____ |

VINTAGER CHAPTER CHALLENGe: You must designate your Chapter. Will be the top five shooters per chapter.

CARTE BLANCHE - One entry to All Shooting Events (Excluding fun 5-stand) \$600 _____

SATURDAY GRAND FORMAL BANQUET
 @ \$75 per person, all inclusive # of tickets @ \$75 _____ Total _____

TOTAL DUE ALL EVENTS _____

Management reserves the right to change program without notice.

METHOD OF PAYMENT: (ALL MONIES IN U.S. FUNDS)

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**PRE-REGISTRATION ENDS ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2014 AS OUR OFFICES ARE CLOSED THE WEEK BEFORE THE EVENT.
 WE WILL BE UNABLE TO ACCEPT ANY FAXES OR EMAILS. AFTER THIS DATE SHOOTERS MAY REGISTER ON SITE AT THE EVENT.
 NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL AND REQUEST FOR A REFUND MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 13, 2014.
 REFUNDS WILL NOT BE GRANTED AFTER THIS DATE. ALL REFUNDS ARE SUBJECT TO A \$20 PROCESSING FEE.**

18TH ANNUAL VINTAGE CUP

World Side-by-Side Gun and Rifle Championships and Fine Gun Exhibition
September 25-28, 2014, at Dover Furnace Shooting Grounds,
30 Ore Bed Road, Dover Plains, New York.

Area Accommodations

Rooms have been blocked at the locations listed below.
Be certain to mention Vintage Cup or Code to obtain special pricing.

Cottonwood Motel – \$125/\$145

2639 Rte 44, Millbrook, NY
845/677-3283

Code: Vintage Cup (cut-off June 23)

Hilton Garden Inn Danbury – \$129/\$105

119 Mill Plain Road, Danbury, CT
203/205-2000

Code: CUP14 (cut-off August 24)

Courtyard by Marriott Danbury – \$129

3 Eagle Road, Danbury, CT
203/730-2228

Code: The Vintage Cup (cut-off August 24)

Hampton Inn Danbury – \$119/\$109

381 Newtown Road, Danbury, CT
203/748-6677

Code: VOG (cut-off September 2)

Other Accommodations

Sharon Motor Lodge

1 Calkinstown Road
Sharon, CT
860/364-0036

The Poughkeepsie Grand Hotel

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845/485-5300

Marriot Courtyard Poughkeepsie

2641 South Road/Route 9
Poughkeepsie, NY
845/485-6336



Address Correction Requested

P.O. Box 31
29 Pond Road
Hawley, MA 01339

413-339-5347
vintagersray@hotmail.com
www.vintagers.org

JULY/AUGUST 2014



Phone: 570-553-1651 • www.rstshells.com

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Alexandra's Auxiliary

A Newsletter for Vintager Ladies and the men who love them...

The Etiquette of Victorian Clothing

BECAUSE WE KNOW YOU'VE BEEN WONDERING...

There's no doubt about it, Victorian women wore a lot of clothes. There's also no doubt that Victorians had specific rules—a code of etiquette—for what sort of clothing could and should be worn for every occasion.

This was often trying to purse and patience, but every woman who had any hope of being considered a “lady” lived by the etiquette of dress. Whether a lady was preparing for an evening at the opera, a shopping spree, or a quiet vacation, there was little doubt as to what sort of clothing she ought to wear.

“A large fraction of our time was spent in changing our clothes,” one Victorian woman wrote in her memoir. “You came down to breakfast ready for church in your ‘best dress’... After church you went into tweeds. You always changed again before tea, into a ‘tea-gown’ if you possessed that special creation; the less affluent wore a summer day-frock. However small your dress allowance, a different dinner dress for each night was considered necessary. Thus a Friday to Monday party meant taking your ‘Sunday Best,’ two tweed coats and skirts with appropriate shirts, three evening frocks, three garments suitable for tea, your ‘best

hat’...a variety of country hats and caps, as likely as not a riding-habit...rows of indoor and outdoor shoes, boots and gaiters, numberless accessories in the way of petticoats, shawls, scarves, ornamental combs...All this



necessitated at least one huge domed trunk, called a ‘Noah’s Ark,’ an immense hat-box and a heavy dressing case.”

Even something as deceptively simple as the length of a skirt was cause for much consideration. In 1905, *The Delineator* recited the rules: For shopping and similar activities, the instep length, a mere two inches from the ground, was worn; a skirt one inch longer, called the clearing length, was a favorite for shirtwaist gowns and general street wear; for tailored dresses worn for visiting or afternoon chores,

the round length, touching the floor, was considered best; skirts in what were called the medium- and long- sweep were suitable only in the house, since they trailed the ground; and trains of six to ten inches were appropriate only for evening gowns, while a wedding gown could have a sweep measuring two and one-fourth yards from the belt to the end of the train.

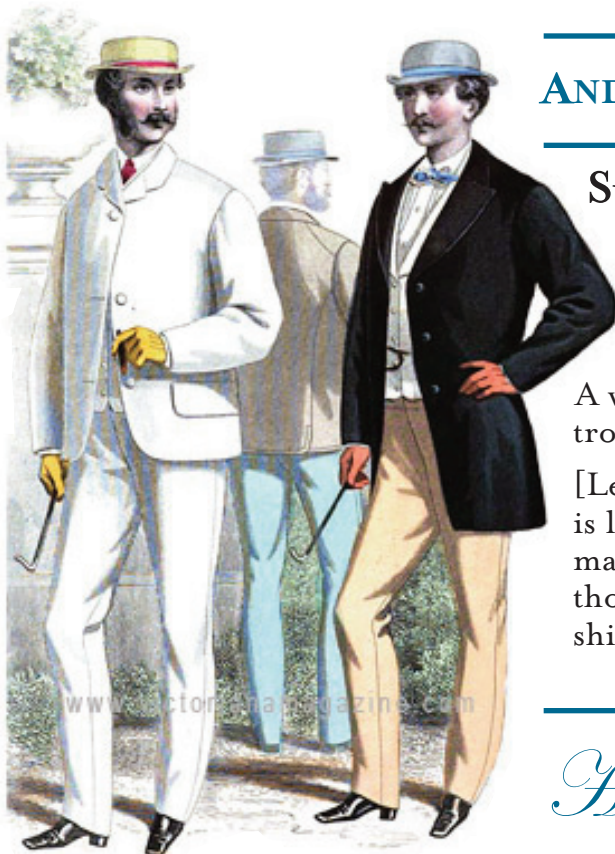
NO MORE THAN SEVEN POUNDS OF UNDERWEAR?

In 1880, the Rational Dress Society was founded to promote the adoption of a style of dress based upon considerations of health, comfort and beauty." Apart from campaigning against tight-lacing, heavy skirts, and high heels, the Society aimed to "recommend that the maximum weight of underclothing (without shoes) should not exceed 7 lbs." Although many women applauded the efforts of the Rational Dress Society, few were willing to go against the grain of society and actually wear the clothing recommended by the Society. Those that did were often ridiculed in public. Culottes, or some other version of trousers were widely attacked on grounds of appearance, and as contrary to God's will. Saint Paul's injunction against cross-dressing was the text/excuse for declaring this or that article of clothing un-Christian. Never mind that St. Paul didn't wear pants. They weren't invented for another seventeen hundred years after his lifetime. Attacks against Rational Dress were also thinly veiled attacks against Lesbianism. Brimmed hats were favored in the summer

because the brim shielded the face from the sun. In addition, parasols were handy for blocking the sun, while a fan could be used to stir up cooling air.

Although women were doomed to spend the season in misery, Men's fashion did change in the summertime. During warm weather, men wore white or light-colored knickerbockers or trousers for playing tennis, boating, and most other activities. Often a striped jacket was paired with light trousers. The outfit was completed by an oval straw hat called a 'boater.' We call a lightweight "nautical" jacket a blazer and the flat straw hat a boater, while the English call the jacket a reefer and the hat a skimmer.

It wasn't until 1897, Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, that it became acceptable for women to dress in thin fabrics like muslin, gauze, chiffon, and lace in the summertime. The Queen herself voiced her support of the lighter materials and the world universally adopted lightweight materials for the summertime much to the relief of women everywhere.



AND WHAT WERE THE MEN WEARING?

Summer Walking Suits

[Right] A summer Victorian costume consists of a single-breasted frock coat with three holes and buttons. The sleeves have a short vent at the hands. A white drill collar vest and drab Angola trousers complete the costume.

[Left] The summer lounging suit costume is light, cool, easy, and comfortable making it the most agreeable wear for those months when the summer sun is shining in all its glorious brilliancy.

Happy Summer Everyone!