

Baker Street Elementary

Presents
"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



Baker Street Elementary

The Life and Times in Victorian London

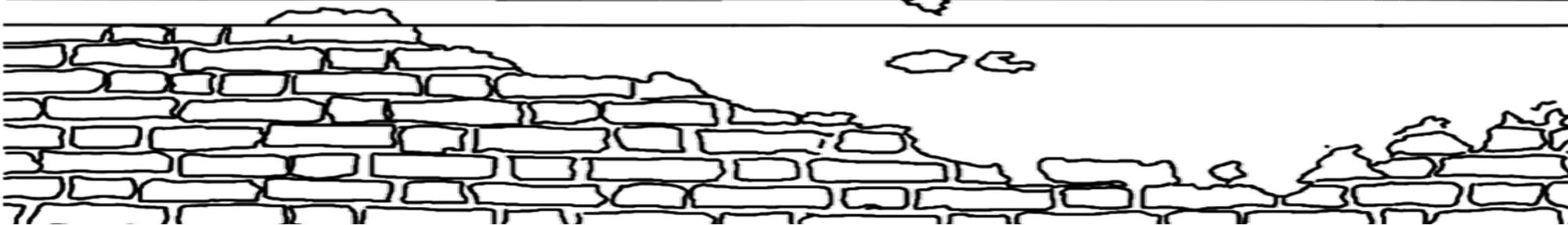
AB023 -- Development of Victorian Costumes -- February, 2022



Welcome to topic # AB017... Today we will be looking at the fashions of the Victorian period. Thanks so much to AboutBritain.com for use of their summary text for this lesson...



Victorian costumes changed subtly during the sixty-three years that Queen Victoria was on the throne.



*Early Victorian fashion
for ladies of means
was defined by full
crinoline skirts.*



By mid-Victorian times these had developed into bustles and finally in the late Victorian era, Victorian costumes were typified by slim fitting suits, dresses and S-bend corsets.



Despite the defined fashion changes, Victorian costumes still covered the arms and legs of ladies, right down to their ankles.





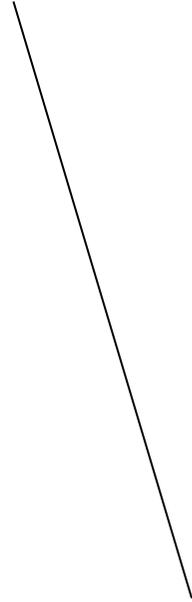
This period of early Victorian costume was from 1837 to 1856.



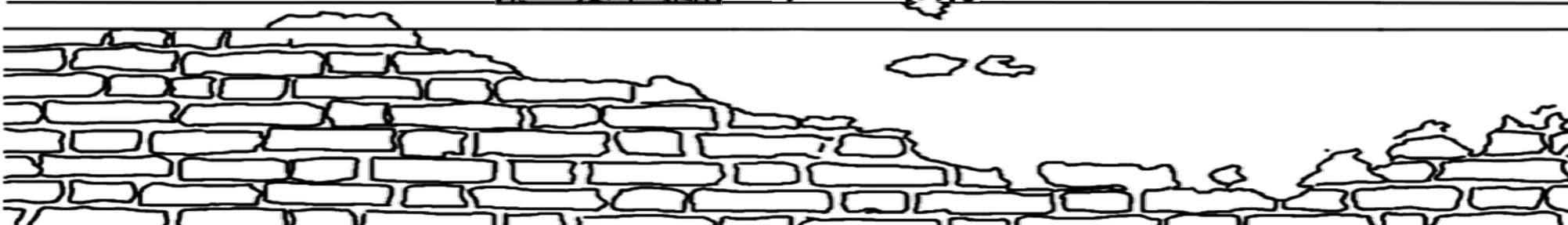
Dresses had lavish trimmings in comparison to the plainer Regency era fashions. Boned bodices were worn to emphasize the narrow waist and bustline of Victorian ladies.



False undersleeves called engageantes were fashionable and gave dresses a layered look with fancy cuffs showing beneath the full sleeves.



*By the 1840s and 50s full
hooped skirts known as crinolines
were popular and they carried on
into mid-Victorian times.*



For evening wear, middle and upper class ladies were beginning to wear bold bertha necklines...



*...which exposed
their shoulders in a
most daring fashion
statement!*

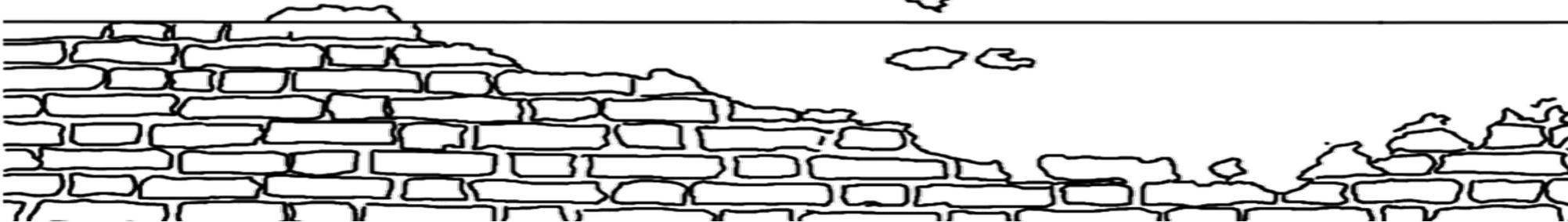


From 1860 to 1880 full crinoline skirts gradually changed and all the fullness was bunched at the back of the dress in a full bustle.





These were initially soft bustles which emphasized the hips and the back of the skirt.





*Crinolines and rigid
cages gradually
disappeared.*



Contrasting underskirts were worn and were revealed by the top overskirt being divided or being caught up around the lower hemline.





*Shorter top skirts
were called aprons and
created a full layered
look to the dress.*



As fashions continued to change, hard bustles came into fashion in 1883, often with flowing trains...



*...which trailed behind
from the jutting out shelf
created by a spring
pivoted metal band.*



Dresses were straight down at the front with severely tailored bodices and all the fabric was gathered behind.

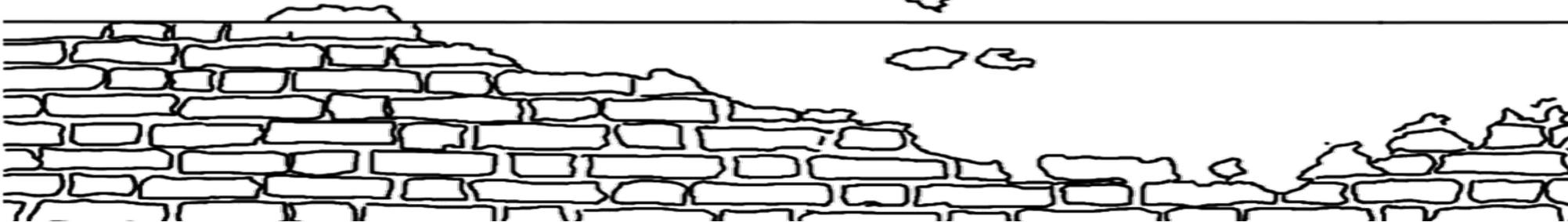


*It gave women the
look of the rear
end of a horse.*



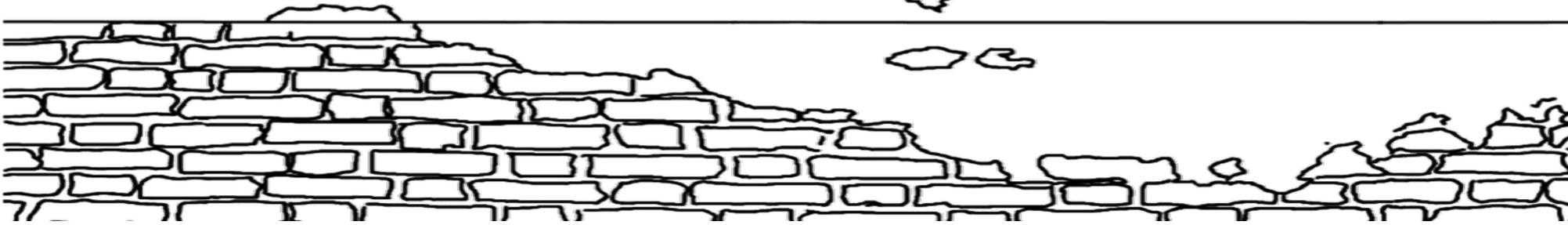


*The late Victorian era
ran from 1878 to
1901.*





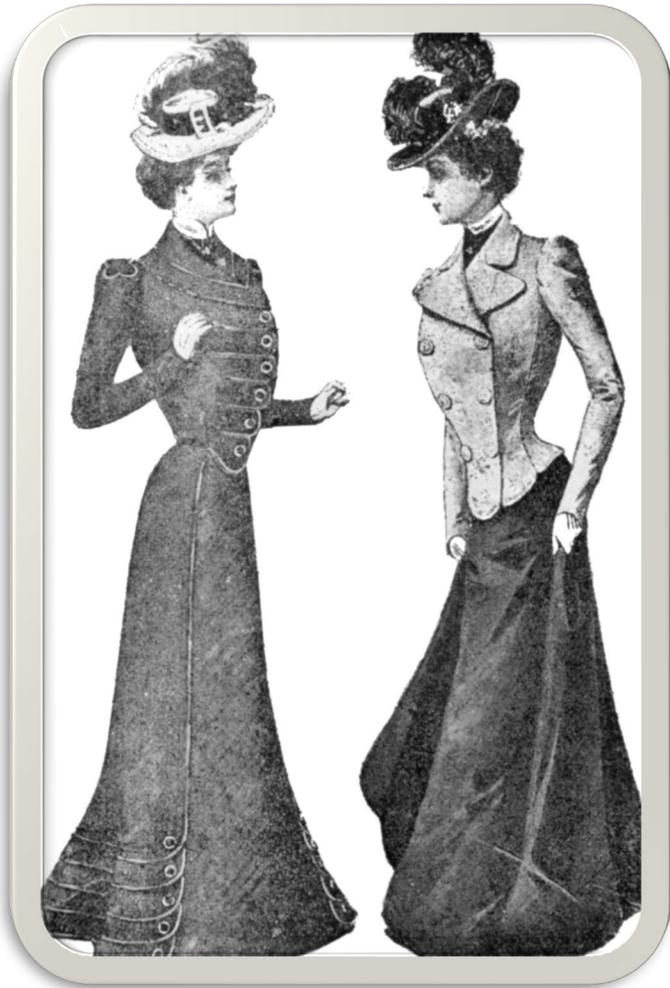
Trains remained a fashionable feature but dresses became slimmer and bustles faded out.



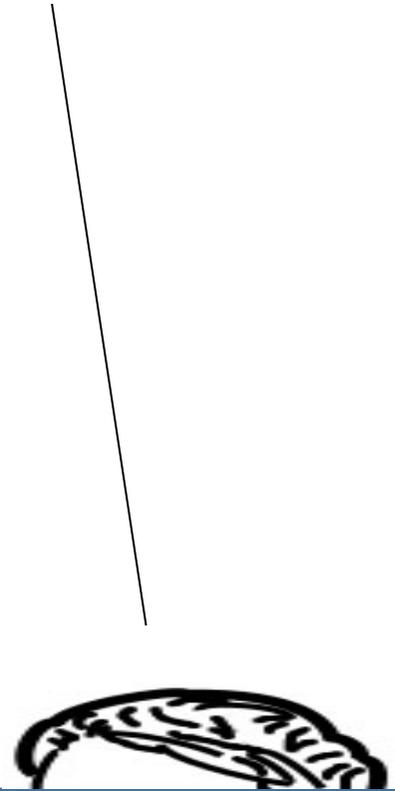


Leg of mutton sleeves with full gathers at the top and slimmer from the elbow to the wrist, accented the slim fitting full length skirts.





By the 1890s tailored suits were slim, plain and figure-hugging.



This early power dressing was embraced by Victorian women as an air of confidence reflected the growing emancipation of women.



*Dresses at this time
were almost always made
of two contrasting colors.*



Bold purple, royal blue, deep red, peacock blue and bright apple green were popular for daywear with softer hues in the evening.

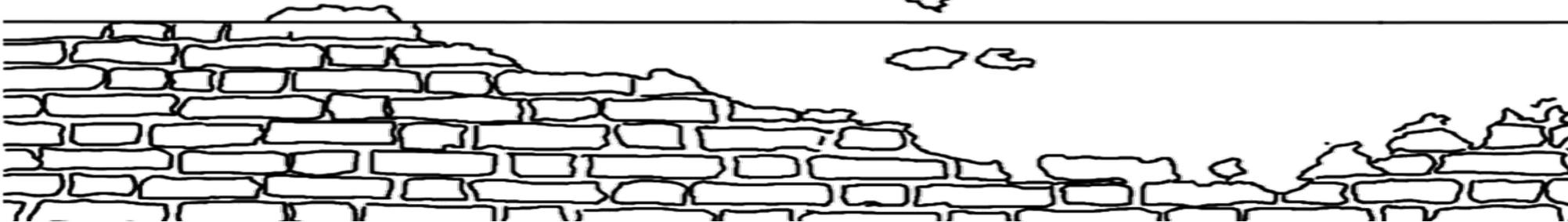


For formal social events dresses were extravagantly trimmed in contrasting fabrics.



Evening, or Reception Gowns

*By the end of the
Victorian era S-bend
corsets were fashionable.*





*Slightly healthier and easier
to breathe in than the
earlier designs,...*

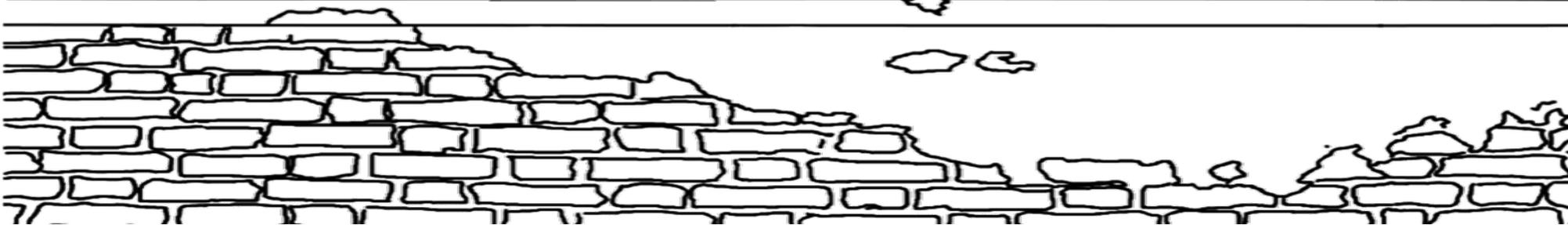


...they were laced up and pushed the bust forward, pulled in a tiny waist and threw back the hips, creating the feminine S-shape which persisted in Victorian costumes until 1907.



*Again, thanks to
AboutBritain.com for their
help... So we have completed
topic # AB023 in our series...*

*Yes, but we'll be back
with another topic
soon...*





Original Source Material for this topic:

1) <https://www.aboutbritain.com/articles/victorian-costumes.asp>



Baker Street Elementary

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY

LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE

RUSTY MASON &

STEVE MASON

