

Welcome to
the Marvin J.
& Thomas Leo
Likes Lecture
June 16, 2020, 7 pm central



Hosted by the
New Philadelphia Association
Pike County, Illinois

<http://newphiladelphiaill.org>

FASHIONING ILLINOIS, 1820-1900



Fashioning Illinois, 1820-1900



~~March 21, 2020 — January 10, 2021~~
Hopefully soon - ???

FASHIONING ILLINOIS, 1820-1900

Fashioning Illinois, 1820-1900 is an exhibition of nineteenth century Illinois clothing that explores both the personal experience of wearing and caring for clothing as well as the way that fashion reflected the changing roles and attitudes about women over the first 80 years of Illinois statehood.



FASHIONING ILLINOIS, 1820-1900

- Changes in fashion, 1820-1900
- Types of garments worn for different occasions
- Undergarments
- Making cloth
- Making clothing
- Mending clothing
- Washing clothing
- Recycling clothing
- ~~Interactive room~~



FASHIONING ILLINOIS, 1820-1900

- Women's fashions, 1820-1900
- Making clothing
- Types of garments worn for different occasions
- Undergarments
- Making cloth
- Mending clothing
- Washing clothing
- Recycling clothing
- Interactive room



MAKING CLOTHING

- Throughout the 18th century (for men) and most of the 19th century (for women), all clothing was made for “somebody,” not for “anybody”



MAKING CLOTHING

- Women had two choices:
 - Make garments by hand
 - Hire dressmaker to make garments for them



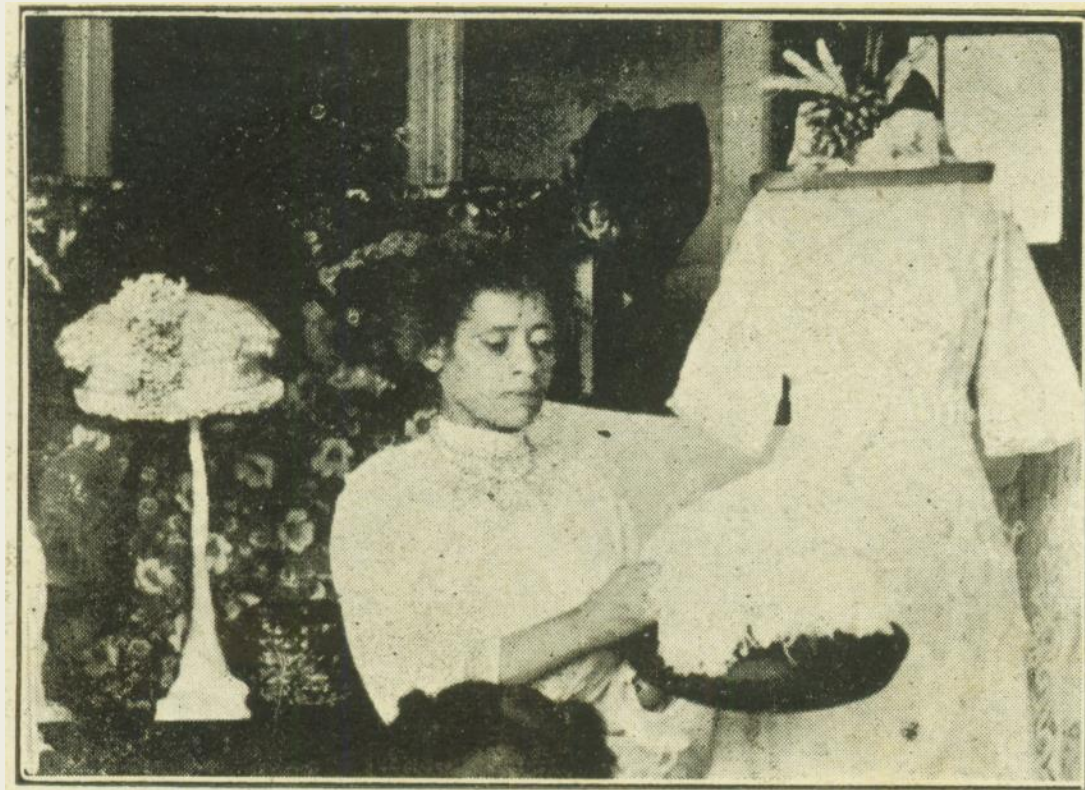
MAKING CLOTHING AT HOME

- All 19th century Illinois women knew how to sew



MAKING CLOTHING: DRESSMAKERS

- Dressmaking was a skilled profession and paid the most highly of any 19th century avenues of women's work.

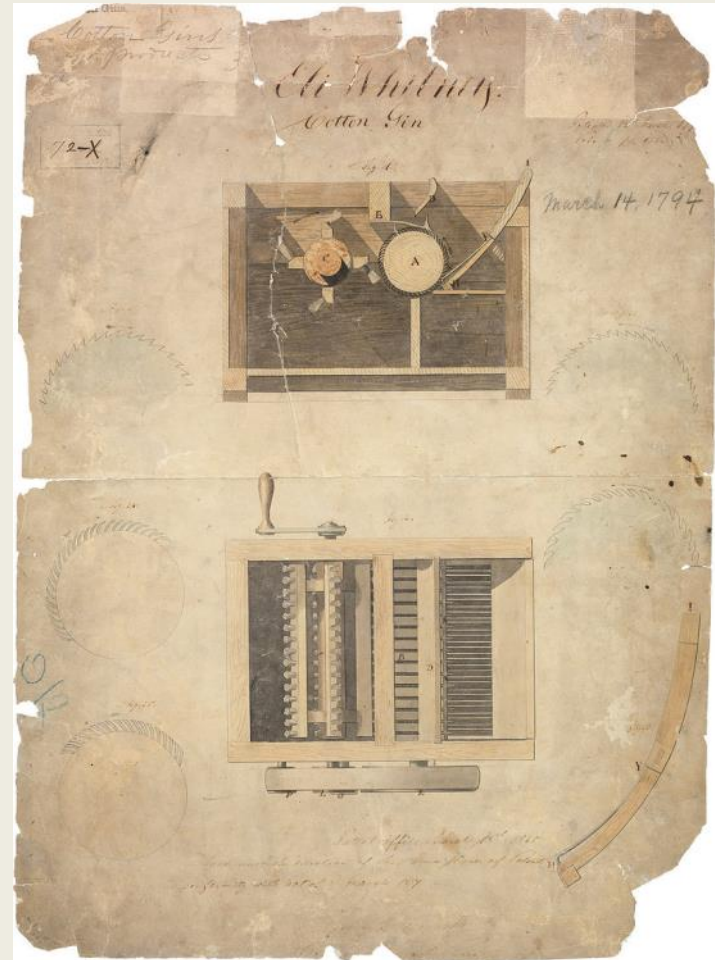


MAKING CLOTHING: READY-MADE CLOTHING

- Cotton economy led to the rise of the ready-made clothing industry

COTTON GIN INVENTED IN 1793

- Cotton gin could clean as much cotton in one day as it would take one person a year to clean by hand

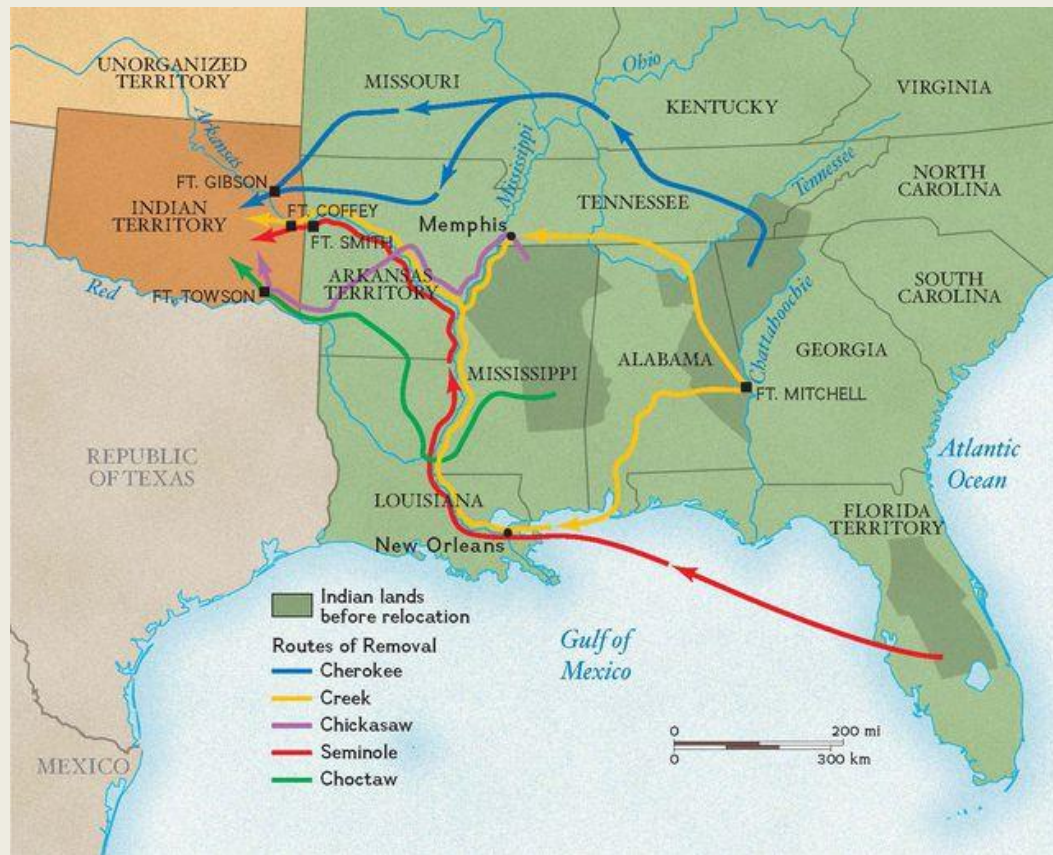


THE RISE OF KING COTTON

- The profitability of cotton as a cash crop had profound implications for the entire United States



THE RISE OF KING COTTON



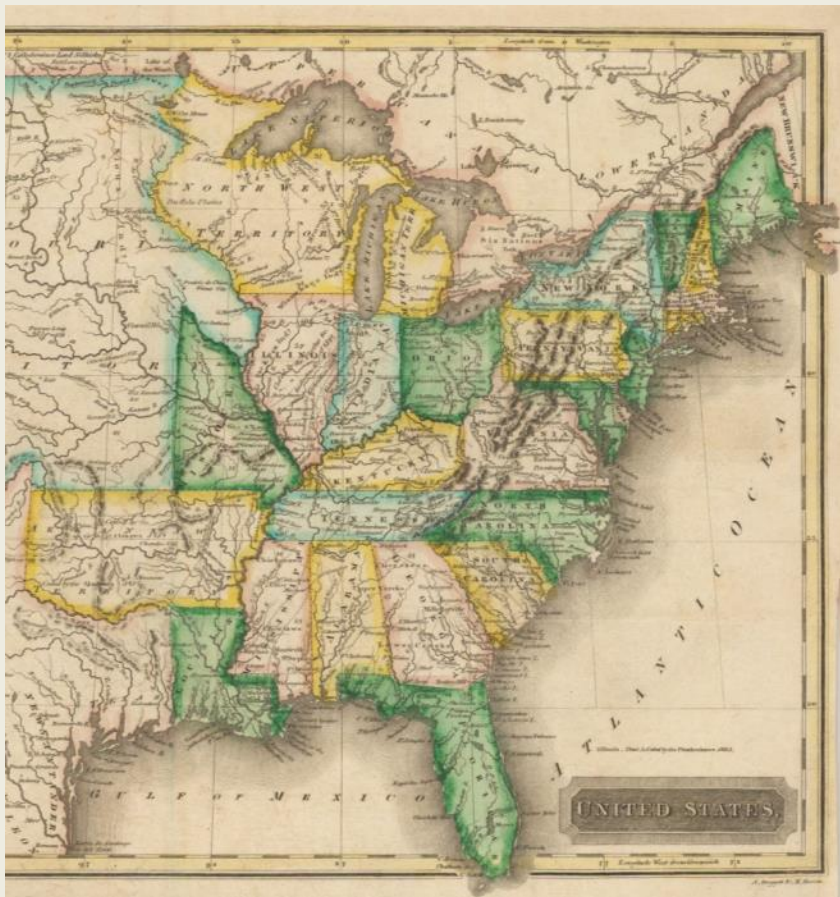
THE RISE OF KING COTTON

- The cotton economy controlled the destiny of enslaved people



THE RISE OF KING COTTON

- The entire country was entangled in the cotton economy



New England textile mills



Northern bankers & merchants



American consumers



Southern planters

COTTON ECONOMY LED TO CREATION OF GARMENT INDUSTRY

- The cotton industry (and textile industry, generally) spurred the development of the ready-made clothing industry



THE RISE OF THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

Our Stock has been Greatly Enlarged this Week
By New Arrivals Direct
from the East. So, if you
wish to get a Suit of



CLOTHING!

which will compare favorably with Merchant Tailor Goods for less than half the price you would have to pay them. Call at

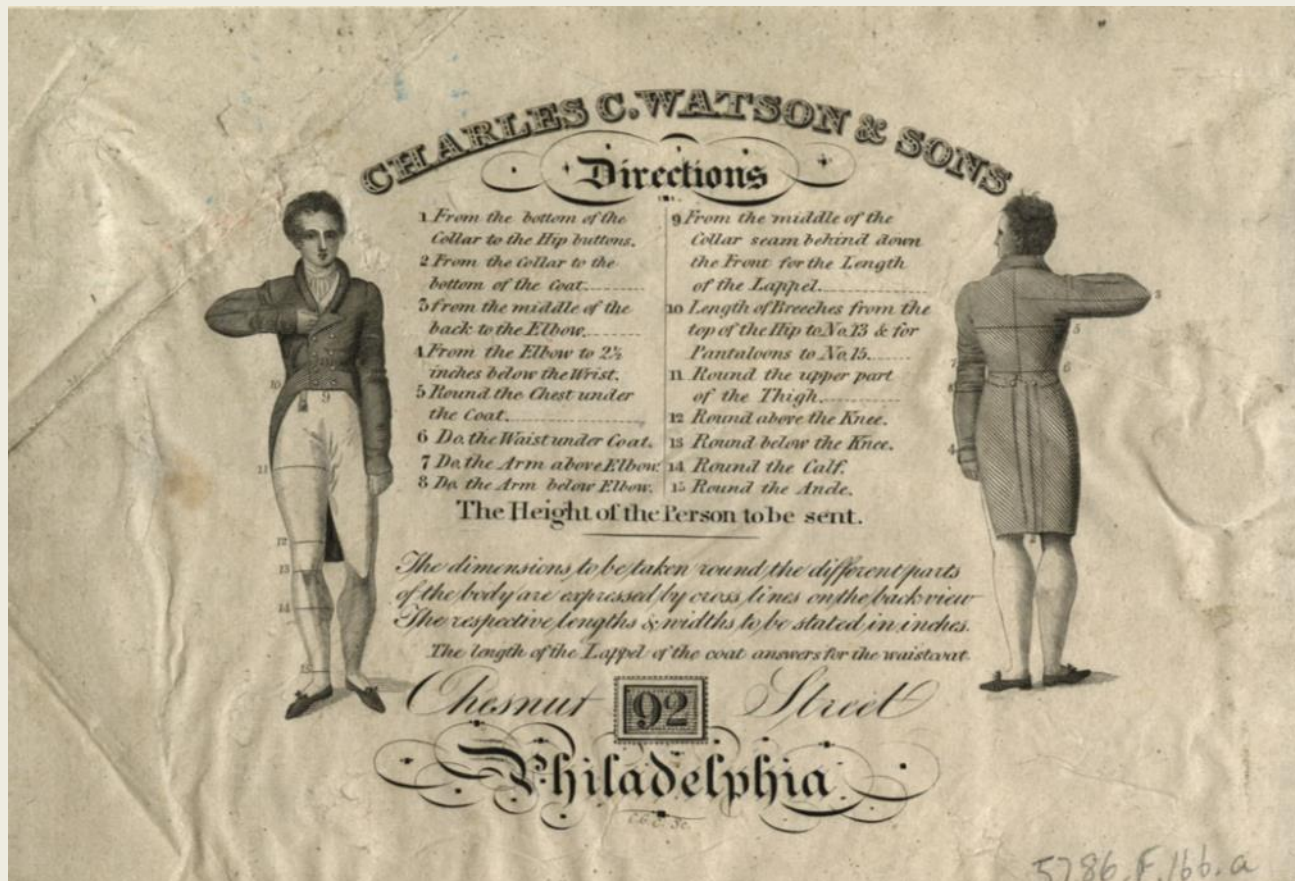
N. GREENFIELD & CO.'S,
Clothiers, Hatters and Furnishers.

THE RISE OF THE GARMENT INDUSTRY



THE RISE OF THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

- 1. Standardizing tailoring methods of measurement and drafting



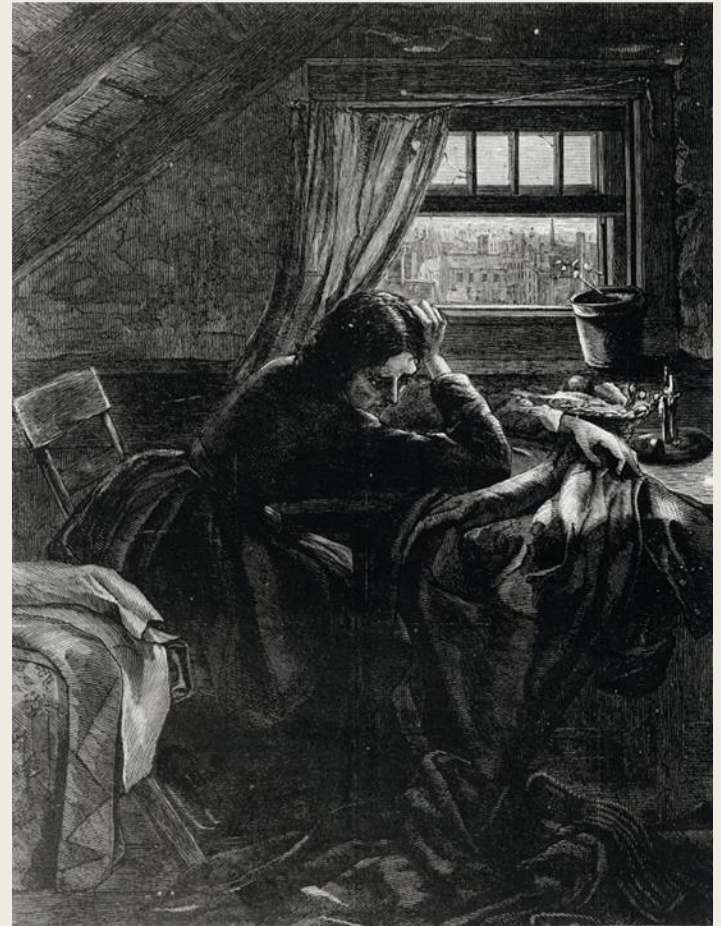
THE RISE OF THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

- 2. Replacing skilled male and female workers with unskilled labor, usually that of women and children.



THE RISE OF THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

- Unlike dressmakers, “seamstresses” were considered unskilled labor and paid accordingly
- To make a shirt in the 1820s:
 - A woman sewed up to 20,000 stitches
 - Working 12-14 hours/day
 - Six days a week
 - Got paid ~12.5 cents per shirt
 - Could make 6-9 shirts per week
 - = earned \$.75 - \$1.12 per week



THE RISE OF THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

- The “putting out” system



THE RISE OF THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

- The sewing machine transforms the industry



THE RISE OF THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

- The sewing machine and the “inside” system



THE RISE OF THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

- The sewing machine and the “putting out” system:
 - Contractors required seamstresses to use sewing machines at home to create a more standardized product
 - Seamstresses had to buy or rent machines
 - Sewing machine operators did not have to have hand sewing skills
 - Sewing machines eventually displaced hand sewers



THE RISE OF THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

- The sewing machine and the sweatshop:
 - Sweatshops involved a middleman who picked up fabric from contractor and distributed them to sewers in small workshops
 - Large firms used centralized shops for a few production processes (cutting, inspecting) and sweatshops for sewing & finishing



THE RISE OF THE GARMENT INDUSTRY

- Conditions of labor, low piece rates, exploitation of workers in an effort to keep costs down changed little during the evolution of the garment industry in the 19th century



DRESSES IN THE SHOW

BALL GOWN



WEDDING DRESSES



WORK DRESSES



MATERNITY DRESSES



INFANT & TODDLER DRESSES



LITTLE GIRL'S DRESS & LITTLE BOY'S SUIT



GIRL'S DRESS



OLDER & YOUNGER WOMEN'S DRESSES



MOURNING DRESS



BURIAL DRESS



LUCY MCWORTER DRESS





Child's shift c. 1750-1800
Courtesy of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston



Near Fredericksburg, Virginia, ca. 1798. Watercolor by Benjamin Henry Latrobe.
Courtesy of The Maryland Historical Society

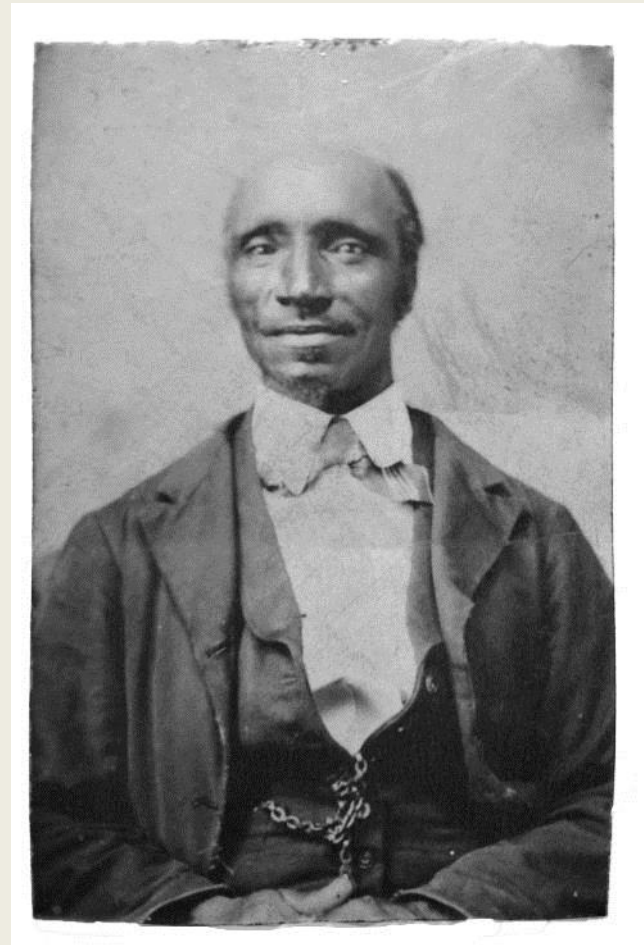
LUCY MCWORTER DRESS



FASHIONING ILLINOIS, 1820-1900

Come see the show...soon!

Q & A





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