

18th Century Women's Clothing

During the summer the women of the Goschenhoppen region wore a homespun linen shortgown and petticoat as her basic attire.

White Cap and Straw Hat: White caps of linen or handkerchief linen were worn during the 18th century. When the cap was in place and tied under the chin very little hair was visible. The flat hat was worn on top of the cap while working outdoors or traveling.

Shortgown: The shortgown was a long-sleeved bodice with a peplum or extension below the waist which was worn over a petticoat. The shortgown is closed with straight pins (or thorns of the prickly ash) and a drawstring at the waist in the center front. A triangular kerchief is worn over the shoulders and pinned to the shortgown in the center front.

Petticoat: In the 18th century the term *petticoat* was used to designate what we now call a skirt. The petticoats reached about the ankle.

Apron: The apron was worn either over or under the shortgown's peplum. Usually it is shorter than the petticoat and quite a bit narrower. The width of the apron did not exceed the side seams of the petticoat.

