



# *The Sewing Academy Planner*

2012

*Presented by Elizabeth Stewart Clark*

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## Why Host a Sewing Academy Series?

### *Learn without leaving town.*

Flying an entire club or site staff to another state for training opportunities is usually a bit out of the budget.

The Sewing Academy comes to you with a custom-tailored weekend of lectures, visuals, interesting displays, discussion,

demonstrations, hands-on instruction, and take-home materials that will leave everyone exhausted, but exhilarated—ready (and able) to jump into accurate historic wardrobe options.

### *Learn the “Why” as well as the “How” of historic dressing.*

Our goal is to teach the “why” as well as the “how” of historic dressing. Every class has time built into the schedule for individual questions.

Rather than focusing on blanket pronouncements, we try to teach each class member to look at their impression needs specifically, and apply good research and thought to their persona and wardrobe decisions.

Attention to individual impressions and location-specific interpretive needs means your series won't churn out carbon-copy living history enthusiasts. We'll help each person refine their thinking about their impressions, and how to best present them through their wardrobe and surrounding material culture. Tapping into our shared national “family history” is where the “magic moments” of living history really happen.

### *All experience levels welcome, from Novice to Professional.*

We believe that any person with desire and determination can become a competent historic sewist—and even if they choose to have professional help with their wardrobe construction, attending a Sewing Academy series gives them the tools they need to be a truly educated customer.

We welcome all experience levels into the workshops, from the newest newbie, to old-hat professionals, and everyone in between. There's always something new to learn in an Academy workshop.

### *Let us help tame Sticky Situations.*

Our workshops provide the impartial outside voice regarding clothing standards and workable techniques. Plus, we help solve the problem of people going cross-eyed in fear of “Documentation”, with our de-mystification of solid research and application.

Helping others “Get Beyond the Gear” with appropriate application of good research to your area's unique interpretive needs is a big part of what we do. We work constantly to keep our research up to date, and present it in an encouraging, morale-building style.

### *Get hands-on help!*

Historic clothing construction and fitting can be intimidating! We teach accurate methods in a simple, easy-to-understand way, with plenty of personal attention, to help your staff and volunteers “take it up a notch” with accuracy and confidence.

Sometimes past clothing efforts aren't quite up to the current mark. We won't criticize! Instead, we'll work with everyone to chart a course of timely upgrades, and improved future efforts.

### *Enlarge your Living History circles.*

Opening the workshop series to regional living history enthusiasts, past-dressing hobbyists, and regional sister-sites pulls new people to your locations.

You'll expand your living history network, and share resources with a whole new (and very appreciative) audience!

**A Sewing Academy weekend is just what you need!**

Questions? Reach Mrs. Clark by email at: [Elizabeth@TheSewingAcademy.org](mailto:Elizabeth@TheSewingAcademy.org) or by phone at 208-523-3673

## The Money Bits

We try to keep any costs associated with hosting a *Sewing Academy* series to a minimum. Our traveling and production costs are covered by individual workshop fees; **there is no “reservation fee” or other hosting fee charged the site or organizer.**

The hosts may incur costs related to the series: classroom space and equipment, room & board for Mrs. Clark, and optional hospitality arrangements for the participants, for example. Please see the “Host Checklist” section for details.

Participants may opt for all available workshops, or may choose just those that interest them the most, or may select which workshop will fit into their schedule or budget.

Elizabeth Stewart Clark/The Sewing Academy handles all registration and fee aspects of the series.

Fees may be paid with personal checks, money orders, or by credit/debit card.

*We can also submit invoices to state and federal agencies for those who work on a purchase order system, but please allow at least six weeks before the closure of registration for this process.*

All fees must be paid in full before the closing registration date, regardless of the method used.

While fees are not refundable, registrations are fully transferable right up to the beginning of the workshop session.

A full registration for approximately 20 hours of workshops will run around \$150-\$200, including all kits and take-home materials. To bring the classes in at this cost, we’ll want to see a minimum registration level of between 20 and 30 participants; more is great!

Because each workshop includes written materials and kits that must be cut and assembled, we do not accept “walk-on” registrations.

Not included in the series fees, but easily added by the host, are catered meals, on-site lodgings, and other “perks” that take a simple workshop series into a conference experience. The site or host may charge as needed for these perks.

## Host Checklist

### Select a Date

Plan for a *six-month minimum lead time* for a series. It will take a week or two to get the series planned and registration open. Registrations will close about 30 days before the series dates, which leaves just over four months of open registration time. Participants appreciate a long registration window!

Most series are given during the late winter, spring, summer, and fall, as deep winter travel can be problematic—try driving out of the Rockies in four feet of January snow!

Most series are held on weekends, with a combination of Friday, Saturday, and Sunday workshops, but mid-week series are also an option.

### Make the Wish List

You may already have a clear picture of topics of high importance for your area; that’s great! Let us know your thoughts, and we’ll work to include as much variety as possible within your chosen time frame for the series.

If you’re not quite sure what might be a good mix for the series, we can help. We have a lot of experience customizing workshops for specific audiences. Help us answer some key questions, and we’ll design a series with a precise focus on your site’s needs.

Or, if you’d like site or staff input, pass out the interest survey to a select group of local people, and see what piques general interest. Add in topics that address your site or area “trouble spots.” We’ll help you refine the Wish List and turn it into a unique set of workshops for your series.

Our workshops are fast-paced, and we give a lot of information in a short time. Most series opt for either a full or partial day of workshops Friday, with a Friday evening “kick off” lecture and social; full day workshops Saturday, and a partial day on Sunday. This usually allows at least 20 instructional hours. We can put together a schedule to suit other needs, too; just let us know.

You have choices as to the participant pool of your workshop series, with closed or open sessions. **Closed sessions** are limited to the members of a particular group or site; **open sessions** are available for all interested participants.

You may have a mix of open and closed sessions in your series, or reserved closed seats in an otherwise open session (*for instance, the site reserves and pays for 10 seats in the Bodice Engineering II workshop, with another 15 seats available through open enrollment.*)

### Consider the Details

**A classroom space:** classes can be taught virtually anywhere, with a few basic requirements for the space.

- Good lighting, good ventilation and climate control, electricity
- Tables and chairs for participants
- A table for Mrs. Clark at the front, and a table or two for displays
- A blank white wall or projections screen
- Nearby restroom facilities

## How Registration Works

When a series opens for registration, it gets a unique page on our site with all the course details and dates listed. Additional private pages may be designed for registered student access only.

To register, participants may:

- ✓ View and print a PDF-format registration form, mailing in the fee
- ✓ Register and pay on-line with our secure shopping cart.
- ✓ Register by phone.

While attending every class in the series makes for the best value, no one is obligated to do so; class registrations are individual. A participant may opt for one class, several classes, or the full series, as best fits their needs. We can guide participants in course selection to maximize their available funds as well.

At the time of registration, a \$20 holding fee is processed. This holds the student's seat in all requested classes. The fee is not refundable, and is applied to the total class fees for that individual.

The remainder of the class fee will be processed (or must be received by) 30 days before the series dates. An email reminder is sent three days before processing to allow time for any last-minute updates.

For instance, Sue signs up for 5 classes, for a total of \$100; her holding fee of \$20 is due upon registration. The \$80 balance will be processed 30 days before the series begins.

Once the final fees are processed, kit preparation begins and registration requests are not easily alterable.

Walk-on registrations are generally not possible, as each class involves handout sets and/or kits that must be cut and prepared ahead of the series. We do try to bring a few extras, but those wishing to attend should plan to register early, as entrance during the series is not guaranteed.

Sign-up for extra amenities, such as catering packages or on-site lodging, is done directly through the hosts. We will refer participants to your designated contact person.

**Student Hospitality** is always optional, but always appreciated. You may opt to provide coffee, tea, water, and other light refreshments... learning is hard work.

While you're under no obligation to do so, you can **make the series a "conference" experience** by

- Offering pre-registered meals that keep everyone on-site and on-time. Any meal fees are paid directly to the site/coordinator, in the manner that works best for you; we'll let registered students know how to sign up, and what meal package deadline exists. (Lower-carb lunches help prevent P.M. Snooze-Factor.)
- Hosting a Saturday evening pot-luck supper or social time.
- Working with one or two local hotels to offer a group rate for the series. We'll let registrants know where to book.
- Working with area restaurants and other businesses to add special coupons, specials, or information in the series packet (which includes each participant's workshop materials, take-home resources, and a few fun gifts.)
- Adding your own publicity pieces, event schedule, or volunteer sign-up information to the series packets.

### Consider the Instructor

Hosts should plan to provide meals and lodging for Mrs. Clark during her stay. She's not terribly picky—the spare room is fine, as is any decent motel. Proximity to the teaching location is very helpful. A comfortable bed in a cool room, a shower, and flushing toilets suit her ideally. As to meals, she does not eat entrails, feet, or okra, but everything else is lovely. Having one of the host committee to meet the plane and provide a friendly lift to the classroom is lovely!

### Get the Word Out

We announce the series on our website and forums, and on multiple internet hobby forums, Facebook, and email lists. We'll do our best to have your series listed in print hobby publications (publication deadlines apply), and can provide master flyers for you to send to your patron list or regional affiliate groups or sites.

Help us get the word out by

- Listing the event in your newsletters and on your public schedules
- Promoting the series to regional and sister sites
- Arranging interviews with regional papers or radio stations
- Helping us contact sister or affiliate sites and groups who might be interested.

*Do you need a unique topic?  
Ask us about it!  
Unique requests help us add to  
our workshop variety!*

## 18 Fun Things About Liz

1. She has a hard time being solemn for any length of time
2. She types a lot older and thinner than she is in real life.
3. She'll give you an opinion on your historic clothing, but only if you ask her directly, and not during a living history event.
4. Yes, she really is that chatty all the time.
5. Yes, she really is that fond of bad puns.
6. And grammar jokes.
7. She won her home-county spelling bee four years in a row in high school.
8. Which prevented all hope of a social life.
9. Which allowed her the alone-time to keep playing dress-up until high school graduation, without anyone finding out.
10. She prepped for her first living history event in under one week.
11. She spent close to \$2000 on absolute dreck for "historic" clothing her first two seasons in living history.
12. On a credit card.
13. And then spent 5 years paying off those horrible clothing mistakes.
14. At 15% interest.
15. Which made her really cranky, and slowed the acquisition of Robert Land instep lace shoes tremendously.
16. She wore bike shorts under a mega-hoop for two years before committing to split drawers.
17. The experience that let her to commit to split drawers was really, really, really gross.
18. And yes, she'll tell it during the series.

## Meet Your Instructor

*Elizabeth Stewart Clark is an historic clothing enthusiast, designer, author, and instructor, specializing in American clothing for women and children in the mid-19th century. She and her husband David own and operate Elizabeth Stewart Clark & Company, a business dedicated to preserving the past through hands-on recreation of period life.*

*She began sewing early in life, and discovered a facility for design and construction, in addition to the ability to "translate" period instructions for modern use. This skill is put to work in every workshop and class. She is quick to reassure the beginner, and add depth to the knowledge of experienced students, and enjoys working with sewists and enthusiasts of all ages.*

*Mrs. Clark takes an "engineering" view of period clothing: it is a functional system, designed for maximum comfort and practicality; once the system is understood, it is easy to apply! She firmly believes that if a person can drive a car, they can construct and wear accurate historic clothing.*

*Mrs. Clark's fascination with history began in childhood, and led to coursework in History at Portland State University. Discovering the living history hobby clarified her focus on the mid-19th century, and she quickly incorporated a skill for design, research, sewing, and teaching in the study of women's and children's clothing and lives. "Experiential Archaeology" is now a passion and vocation... and she delights in passing her discoveries along.*

*Mrs. Clark encourages an attitude of Progression and Accuracy regarding historic clothing and impressions. Every person has the capability to progress to a higher level of accuracy; all that is needed is good mentoring, good resource availability, and a determination to do their personal best.*

*In classes, Mrs. Clark encourages questions and participation, prefers to focus on the positive, and strives to create an enjoyable atmosphere through good humor and good research. She generally teaches while wearing period clothing, and encourages class members to wear period clothing if they desire, though it is not required. Class members are used as good examples only.*

*Mrs. Clark has a fondness for Victorian novelists and overblown Victorian poetry; she also possesses a nearly-terminal Penchant for Terrible Puns.*

# The Sewing Academy Checklist

## Planning

- ✓ What are the interpretive goals we need to accomplish? Era of focus?
- ✓ What mix of involvement can I anticipate? Will participants be more likely to be regularly involved in living history, or involved once or twice a year public events?
- ✓ Are there more beginners than veterans, or the reverse? Are overviews a primary need, or is the area/group ready for some in-depth information? (*We recommend a mix of overview and in-depth workshops for maximum appeal.*)
- ✓ What are the current challenges facing those around me? Are there particularly “sticky” topics that need to be addressed?
- ✓ What historic sewing level presently exists within the site’s staff?
- ✓ Are the needs of families with children and teens being met? (*We have special workshops geared to the needs of mothers and teens.*)
- ✓ Are there on-site meal options? Would the site like to offer a meals package?
- ✓ Are there on-site lodging options? Local lodging options? (*Some sites find local hotels are willing to offer group rates to participants, and when booking numbers reach a pre-determined level, some hotels will “comp” the instructor’s room!*)

Potential dates

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Potential classrooms (seating for 20-35, good lighting, electricity, bathrooms close)

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## Promoting

The best series happen when the site staff is excited about the opportunities. Don’t forget:

- Ask staff members about their workshop wish list.
- Promote the series with site volunteers.
- Include announcements and reminders in site newsletters or e-lists.
- Feature the series on your website and calendar (placing a link to on-line registration is a great idea!)
- Promote the series to site patrons.
- Contact regional “sister sites” that have similar interpretive focus.
- Get the word out in site-to-site newsletters and networks.
- Contact local history societies and historic reenactment clubs.
- Let local home-education associations know (many teens are involved in living history and make ideal volunteers!)
- List the series with local media community calendars (well in advance of the registration deadlines!)
- Contact local talk radio stations to see about setting up a phone interview with Mrs. Clark as a “community interest” segment, with the site coordinator in person at the studio.
- Make registration materials available to area fabric stores (they’ll be seeing business after the series!)
- Contact local or regional craft guilds (many historic crafters like to demonstrate in historic clothing!)
- Talk to local restaurants and hotels about meal and lodging arrangements, special discount packages. (*We’ll recommend these establishments to series participants.*)
- Let Elizabeth Stewart Clark & Co know what you need help with!

# The Sewing Academy “Wish List”

*These are some of the popular workshops we have prepared. If you don't see a topic your site needs to have addressed, please let me know; we increase our course options when people request new topics.*

*We offer a Family Discount on selected workshops that are designed for parent/child participation. With an adult registered at the normal fee, additional family members aged ten to twenty can enroll in that workshop for \$5 each.*

**In Every Workshop: Take-Home Information and Supplements!**

## Overview Presentations

Visuals, lecture, and discussion; allow 1 to 1.5 hours for each

Presentation	What It Covers	Notes
<b>Your Historic Wardrobe</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850 <input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860 <input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865	We'll discuss the functional historic wardrobe plan, how to assemble a wardrobe within any budget framework, and how to tailor the era's styles for a more personalized (yet wholly accurate) look. This workshop also teaches fundamental research techniques in an open, accessible format that anyone can follow easily.	<i>Excellent Friday evening introductory overview to kick off a series weekend!</i>
<b>This Old Thing</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850 <input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860 <input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865	Fashion doesn't just suddenly arrive—it evolves! A careful blend of older and newer styles gives each woman options and individuality, while remaining true to her era and impression. This workshop expands on one aspect of <i>Your Historic Wardrobe</i> , showing how fashionable styles evolve over time, and how to adapt a base wardrobe as needed. We'll discuss mending, remaking, and extending wardrobes, as well.	<i>Ideal for multiple-era impressions, and sites with a wide mix of older and younger living history presenters.</i>
<b>Your Historic Wardrobe Junior</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850 <input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860 <input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865	Designed for teens and those who dress them, or anyone needing to dress children, the Junior workshop covers clothing styles from infancy through the transitional teen years, with helps for research, peculiarities of construction, and suggestions for stretching the clothing investments. <i>Family Discount available.</i>	<i>Pair with hands-on fitting and construction workshops, as well as Firm Foundations IV.</i>
<b>Under It All</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850 <input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860 <input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865	What goes under that dress? We'll detail the layers skin out. Chemise styles, drawers, petticoats, skirt supports, and other “hidden” clothing is discussed, with details specific to economic levels, changing fashions, and regional variations when defined.	<i>Pair with hands-on construction, corset fitting.</i>
<b>Firm Foundations 1: Historic Support</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850 <input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860 <input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865	Corsets and Stays are an important part of the era's silhouette. Discuss the many style and comfort options available in the past, common construction techniques, modern supply equivalents, fitting techniques, and individual questions. Every figure can be helped by appropriate historic support!	<i>Excellent overview, particularly if there have been fears of corsetry!</i>
<b>Firm Foundations IV: Transitional Corsets</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850 <input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860 <input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865	Teens (age 12-18) have unique and ever-changing figure needs in corsets and stays. You'll learn the different stages of corsetry, age-appropriate strategies for support, and safe support use. <i>Family Discount available.</i>	<i>Very helpful if you have teenage participants.</i>

Questions? Reach Mrs. Clark by email at: [Elizabeth@TheSewingAcademy.org](mailto:Elizabeth@TheSewingAcademy.org) or by phone at 208-523-3673

## Overview Presentations

Visuals, lecture, and discussion; allow 1 to 1.5 hours for each

Presentation	What It Covers	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Textiles for Historic Clothing</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</li> </ul>	<p>The cloth for your wardrobe ranges far beyond the quilting cottons! We'll discuss the wide variety of natural fiber textiles appropriate for historic clothing, the common styles used with each, and the safety considerations that make natural fibers the best option (and include a helpful source list for fabrics!) Learn the how and why of textile selection, with climate-control tips, budget strategies, and care instructions, too.</p>	<p><i>Great general-interest, very visual.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Bodice Engineering I</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</li> </ul>	<p>Take a tour of historic bodice construction and learn the Why behind the How. Historic dressmaking includes some very practical "engineering" techniques you'll adore when you get to know them.</p>	<p><i>Pair with Bodice Engineering II, Deconstructing Fashion, or Having a Fit III</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Skirting the Issue I</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</li> </ul>	<p>Explore the practical construction of mid-century skirts and petticoats, fashionable variations and supportive underskirts (corded, tucked, flounced, caged, and hoops), for all economic classes.</p>	<p><i>Pair with Skirting the Issue II, Bodice Engineering II.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>My Work Dress</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</li> </ul>	<p>What you wear to work depends on who you are. Through vignettes, images, and question/answer dialogue, we'll explore the many options in "working clothing". It's a great spur to persona development and individual research.</p>	<p><i>Very helpful to get into the period "individual" mindset! Pair with Living Citizen History, Having a Fit I, II, III, Deconstructing Fashion..</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Deconstructing Fashion</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</li> </ul>	<p>Take a look at original photographic images, and analyze how to achieve the look and copy stylistic details in reproduction clothing. You'll learn to break complex styles into their simplest forms, and reproduce them for your wardrobe.</p>	<p><i>Ideal with Having a Fit III, Living Citizen History, My Work Dress.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Frozen Fashions</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</li> </ul>	<p>Are you weary of freezing in cold or damp settings? Learn about the historic ways of coping with inclement weather from the skin out, and how you can use them to stay comfortable, enhance your presentation, and expand your unique look.</p>	<p><i>Regional focus as well as national context; can be combined with Glistening very easily.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Glistening Like a Pig</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</li> </ul>	<p>Warm weather is wonderful, but there can easily be too much of a good thing. Learn historic ways of coping with hot weather, and use them to stay as cool and comfortable as possible at hot, muggy, and otherwise perspiration-inducing events.</p>	<p><i>Regional focus as well as national context; can be combined with Frozen very easily.</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Upgrade Clinic</b></p>	<p>A fun, fast-paced question &amp; answer session, where participants bring items, fabric, clothing, patterns, or just about any period thing for evaluation, opinion, and suggestion. We'll focus on the positive, and encourage with simple and effective upgrades that will help you reach your desired accuracy level. Learn to look like a person from the past, not like just another reenactor. <i>Sign up for one or more paid workshops, and attend the Clinic free of charge!</i></p>	

## Construction Workshops

**Visuals, lecture, vignettes, discussion, and hands-on samplers (kits included); allow 1 to 2 hours for each.**

Presentation	What It Covers	Notes
<p><b>Firm Foundations II: Adjusting Patterns</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Focus On</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</p>	<p>Using volunteers from the class, you'll observe the fitting process for historic support garments starting from commercially available patterns. We'll discuss your unique figure challenges, and the multiple options open to everyone.</p> <p><i>(Volunteers take their adjusted mock-up home.)</i></p>	<p><i>Ideal for those who feel nervous about from-scratch corsets. Great combined with Firm Foundation I.</i></p>
<p><b>Firm Foundations III: Draping Custom Support</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Focus On</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</p>	<p>Would you like to learn to make your own custom corset pattern? We'll discuss and demonstrate ways to create a base corset pattern, starting from scratch and using volunteers from the class. If you've struggled to resolve commercial patterns and your own body shape, this workshop can help.</p> <p><i>(Volunteers take their adjusted mock-up home.)</i></p>	<p><i>Perfect for those with challenging figures. Great combined with Firm Foundation I.</i></p>
<p><b>Having a Fit I: Adjusting Patterns</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Focus On</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</p>	<p>Learn to get a good fit with any basic bodice pattern, on any figure. Includes recommendations on high-quality patterns to start with, and which you might want to avoid. It really does make a difference! You'll observe a fitting session using class participants, with plenty of question and answer time to address your unique concerns.</p> <p><i>(Volunteers take their adjusted mock-up home.)</i></p>	<p><i>Very interactive and encouraging for those who've struggled. Combines well with Bodice Engineering I &amp; II.</i></p>
<p><b>Having a Fit II: Draping a Custom Pattern</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Focus On</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</p>	<p>Start with a piece of muslin, and watch as we build a base bodice right on someone's figure! Learn the traditional draping methods, as well as some modern tricks to produce excellent period results. With your new base, you may never need to buy another pattern—ever!</p> <p><i>(Volunteers take their adjusted mock-up home.)</i></p>	<p><i>Ideal for those with figure challenges, as well as those who help in the wardrobe department. Learn a period skill!</i></p>
<p><b>Having a Fit III: One Pattern, All Fashion</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Focus On</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</p>	<p>With your base bodice nicely fitted, you can learn to alter that base for virtually every bodice type, from everyday to evening, and copy original styles you encounter in your research. Learn methods to test your pattern ideas before you even unfold the fashion fabric, and expand your dressing options beyond any published pattern.</p> <p>Kit Included.</p>	<p><i>Fun for everyone! Very hands-on, enhances any fitting or fashion-reading workshop.</i></p>
<p><b>Bodice Engineering II: Bodices in Miniature</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Focus On</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</p>	<p>Create a sampler of sewing techniques to use in period bodice construction, including seams and seam finishes, miniscule piping, hooks &amp; eyes, and beautiful hand-worked buttonholes, with sampler bodice pieces scaled to fit our 18" china doll.</p> <p>Kit Included.</p>	<p><i>Great take-home reminder of simple historic techniques.</i></p>
<p><b>Skirting the Issue II: Skirts in Miniature</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Focus On</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</p>	<p>This sampler class teaches you to set skirts in gauging or pleating, apply flounces, work tucks, and apply hem braid—all the little tricks you need to take your skirts from "costume" to clothing, and practiced on a delightfully small scale.</p> <p>Kit Included.</p>	<p><i>Can be combined with Bodice Engineering II for a "Clothes in Miniature" workshop; allow about three hours.</i></p>

Questions? Reach Mrs. Clark by email at: [Elizabeth@TheSewingAcademy.org](mailto:Elizabeth@TheSewingAcademy.org) or by phone at 208-523-3673



## Construction Workshops

**Visuals, lecture, vignettes, discussion, and hands-on samplers (kits included); allow 1 to 2 hours for each.**

Presentation	What It Covers
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Practical Frippery</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</li> </ul>	<p>Explore the styles and functions of white accessories, learn how to draft your own without a purchased pattern, the techniques and materials you'll want to use to reproduce accessories well, including plain and fancy edge finishes, and how to use your accessories to best advantage.</p> <p>Kit Included.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Handkerchief Sampler</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</li> </ul>	<p>Learn a sampler of basic stitches (plain &amp; whipped hem, cordonnet, eyelet, chain stitch, and satin work) as you create a monogram on a white handkerchief, suitable for use or gift-giving.</p> <p>Kit Included.</p>

### For Historic Site Staff

**Open to site and sister-site staff and volunteers, and may be added before or after the regular open-enrollment workshops for your series. Each includes take-home materials.**

Presentation	What It Covers
<b>Defining Costuming Strategies</b>	How do your site's interpretive goals affect the wardrobe closet? In this workshop, you'll learn about the different levels of historic costume you might pursue, and the most effective ways to share the vision. Full of specifics for clothing techs.
<b>The Functional Closet</b>	Practical strategies for managing the site's wardrobe inventory, with organization, upkeep, repair, and research ideas that every stressed clothing administrator can use! Get a hands-on evaluation and suggestions for improving the level of accuracy, using what you already have in stock, with minimal budget requirements.
<b>Docent's Workshop</b>	Get your volunteers and staff involved in the goal of excellent interpretation! This fast-paced workshop gives an overview of the mid-19th century, with specific suggestions for multi-era clothing for men and women, as well as hints on avoiding the top "impression breakers", coping with modern medical needs, and supporting the interpretive goals of each site.

### Topical Presentations

**Visuals, lecture, and discussion; allow 1 hour for each. Request one or more for your existing living history conference or training event, or draw new patrons to your site by hosting a public evening!**

Presentation	What It Covers	Notes
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Sharing the Frontier</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</li> </ul>	The reality of western expansion includes thousands of stories; we'll explore several, and see how our national "family history" is formed of everyday lives. No need to turn to fiction! Reality is so very fascinating. You'll be surprised by how many common themes and connections you find in the real lives of our historic counterparts.	<i>Great for public presentation, or in conjunction with Living Citizen History.</i>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Living Citizen History</b></p> <input type="checkbox"/> Span the Era (1840-1865) <input type="checkbox"/> Focus On <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1840-1850</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1850-1860</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 1860-1865</li> </ul>	There are so many interpretive techniques we can use to engage the public, and enhance the way we share history with others. This fast-paced, fun workshop explores interpretation with a focus on how we can use our individual strengths and passions to communicate effectively with others. You'll be inspired by examples of current living history enthusiasts who are "doing it right"!	<i>Great for bringing all the concepts of a weekend together, this works for kick-off or wind-up.</i>

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