Dear Catherine,

We hope you enjoy this, the first issue of the Vintage Victorian Newsletter. It will be published several times a year with updates on our latest research projects, publications and the Summer Victorian Ball. We'll also include listings for dance events, workshops, and exhibits of interest.

The Latest News

We want to tell you all about the Nahant Victorian Dance Weekend August 10-11; there's still time to register online! Saturday’s Ball, An Evening in Vienna, is set to be a magical evening, and Sunday we'll enjoy a concert by Spare Parts and a formal tea. Come and relive the glory days, when Nahant was a popular Summer destination for those wishing to escape the heat of the city. You can register for the entire weekend, or by event.

In other news research has started on a bustle era book, you'll get a little sneak peek here! Our newest titles, on early 20th Century fashions, have been big hits, and there are more to follow. And we haven't forgotten the gentlemen; a volume on Gent's fashions will be coming out in the near future!

Nahant Victorian Dance Weekend

Saturday's Ball

The Ball will commence on Saturday August 10 at 7:00 pm, at the Nahant Town Hall, a beautiful Turn of the Century building. The Grand March will start at 7:30 pm. This year's ball will be set in Vienna, of the second half of the 19th Century. Spectators are welcome; there's a great view from the balcony. Note: There is plenty of parking at the hall.
An Evening in Vienna
Saturday, Aug. 10, 7:30 pm
Nahant Town Hall
334 Nahant Road, Nahant, MA

**Live Concert:**
Waltzing Through Time
with Spare Parts
Sunday, Aug. 11, 1:00 pm
Nahant Community Center
41 Valley Road, Nahant, MA

Register for the Ball

You may [Register Online](#) or you may print the Ball Registration Form (pdf) and mail your payment. Payment by PayPal or check/money order (USD)

**FULL WEEKEND ADMISSION:**
Advance Registration:
$40 per person, $20 student

**BALL ONLY ADMISSION:**
Advance Registration:
$30 per person, $15 student

**CONCERT ONLY ADMISSION:**
Advance Registration:
$15 per person, $5 student

At the door registration available as space permits, a $5 per person additional fee will apply

Live music will be provided by **Spare Parts** with Ben Bishop as prompter. A few dances will be called during the Ball including the **Nahant Quadrilles** and several Contra Dances. Refresh your memory at the free 3:00 pm dance workshop, also at the Town Hall.

Formal or semi-formal attire is requested, period attire of the 1850s through 1890s is encouraged but never required (evening wear, day wear, military wear or costumes appropriate to the theme). Light refreshments will be provided at the intermission.

**Sunday's Concert & Tea**

*Spare Parts* will present a concert at 1:00 pm entitled *Waltzing Through Time*, to be followed by Victorian Tea and Dancing. The concert will be held in the lovely Serenity Room at Nahant Community Center (the former Valley Road School). Note: The hall has limited parking; arrangements will be made for additional parking nearby. On-street parking is not allowed.

The weekend's events will benefit the **Nahant Historical Society**

Bustle Era Summer Fashions

**1873 Summer Evening Wear**

...For evening wear at the watering places, black gauze and black net dresses are being prepared, puffed lengthwise upon the skirt, the bouillons widening toward the bottom. Wide sashes of thin black armure silk, embroidered in colors upon the ends, and deeply fringed, are worn with these toilettes, and the bodice and sleeves are trimmed with white Valenciennes lace, with the best effect.

*Demorest's Illustrated Monthly*, June 1873

[read more]
1925 Trousseau: Evening Dress

**It's a Smart Parisian Trousseau Any Bride-to-Be Can Make**

For her trousseau, an evening gown such as the one pictured here was wisely chosen by the bride. This comes in sizes 16 years, 36 to 40, and has the popular basque bodice and full-gathered skirt. Made of taffeta in a pastel shade, it is particularly charming with silver lace ruffles beneath the scallops and a black velvet flower with silver center placed on one shoulder.

*The Ladies' Home Journal*, September 1925

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1920s Gentlemen's Evening Wear

excerpt from: [Evening Dress of the Early Jazz Age](#)

**THE MAN AND HIS CLOTHES**

In buying evening clothes there are two main considerations to be taken into account: Quality and fit...

The full dress—swallowtail—coat should be snug around the collar and at the shoulders and there should be no padding of stiffening in that part covering the neck and shoulder muscles. The back should be drawn in, tapering down to the waist, but it should not be drawn in so much that the wearer cannot raise both arms forward simultaneously without ripping something. The best tailors have a trick of arranging a little fold of their cloth just behind and beneath the armpits so that the arms may be raised in comfort. If the coat is made too tight the whole back of it wrinkles and binds and the collar hunches up with every movement...

*The Ladies' Home Journal*, October, 1920
For more vintage dance this Summer, check out CVDs Prohibition Ball on July 27 in Chelmsford: It's the Bee's Knees!

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We hope you have enjoyed our news. Please forward this newsletter to your friends and visit our website for further information.

Email us if you have any questions or if you have suggestions for future content, book ideas, listings of dance events, museum exhibits or other events of interest.

Sincerely,

Katy Bishop

Vintage Victorian.com
katy@vintagevictorian.com