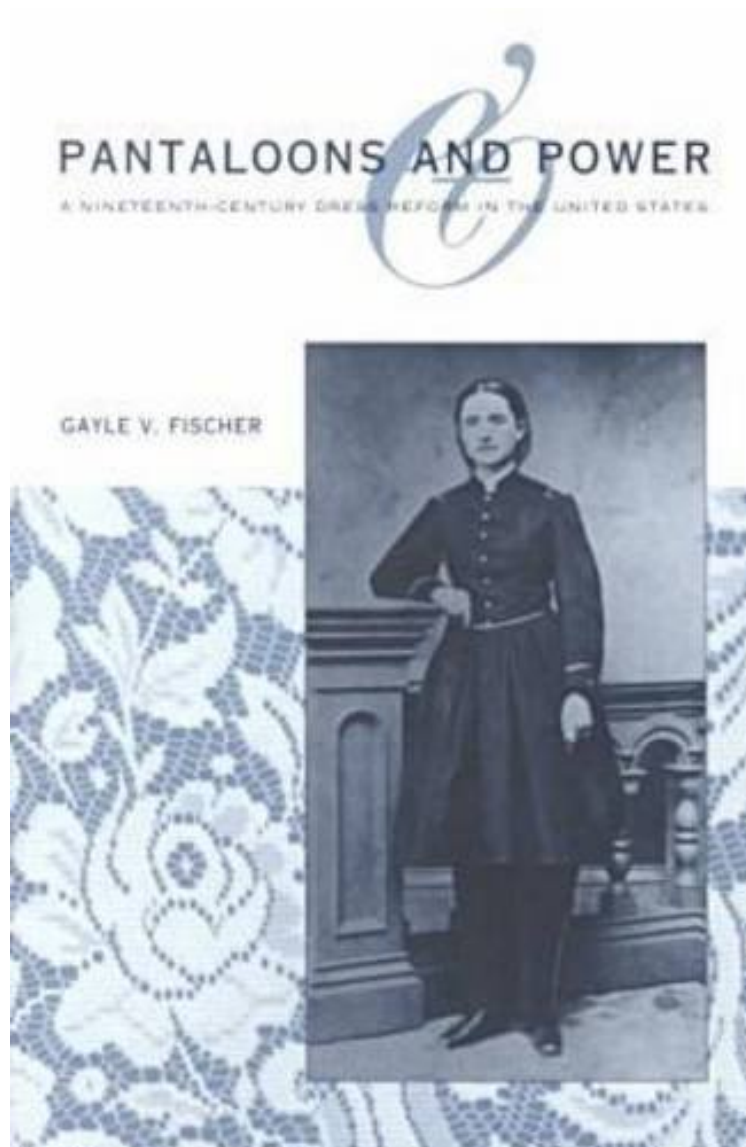


(Free pdf) Pantaloon and Power: A Nineteenth-Century Dress Reform in the United States

## Pantaloon and Power: A Nineteenth-Century Dress Reform in the United States

Gayle V Fischer

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**Gayle V Fischer : Pantaloon and Power: A Nineteenth-Century Dress Reform in the United States** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pantaloon and Power: A Nineteenth-Century Dress Reform in the United States:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. "He is doing the best that he canBy Alyson Taylor-WhiteOscar

Wilde observed a sign in a saloon as he toured the wild west. "Don't shoot the piano player," the sign admonished. "He is doing the best that he can." Well, this is a book about the same era as that piano player, and someone should have shot whoever made the design choices for how this book looks. A book about fashion does not have to be beautiful, but it should be legible. The typeface chosen for this text is annoyingly light, so light in fact that it does not appear to be 100% black. To add insult to injury, the type size is substandard. That, combined with the academic approach of the author make it sadly, a contender for "book that should have been great." This is a serious subject, with some humor thrown in around the edges, but the design of the book disables the reader from being able to truly appreciate it.

By the early nineteenth century clear definitions had developed regarding how American women and men were supposed to appear in public and how they were meant to lead their lives. As mens style of dress moved from the ornate to the moderate, womens fashions continued to be decorative and physically restrictive. In *Pantaloon and Power*, Gayle V. Fischer depicts how the reformers denouncement of conventional dress highlighted the role of clothing in the struggle of power relations between the sexes. Wearing pantaloons was considered a subversive act and was often met with social ostracism. This carefully researched interdisciplinary study successfully combines the fields of costume history, womens history, material culture, and social history to tell the story of one highly charged dress reform and its resonance in nineteenth-century society.

About the Author Before receiving her Ph.D. in U.S. history at Indiana University and M.A. in women's history at Sarah Lawrence College, Fischer worked as a professional costumer for a variety of regional theaters and costume shops. She has published extensively on American dress reform movements and is currently examining clothing regulations in the United States, including sumptuary legislation and business and school dress codes.