

The wardrobe of the early Texan was not confined entirely to homemade clothes. Balls, parties, weddings, and other gala celebrations were always graced by the Texan attired in his best. At these gatherings "the styles were somewhat varied according to the period at which the wearer migrated,"<sup>41</sup> but the clothes were of good material. Elaborate velvet suits, with highly ornamented boots, fluffed waistcoats, flowing ties and scarves of purple silk or checked cotton were in evidence.<sup>42</sup> Lubbock describes the costumes of some of the people who attended a ball given in Houston in 1837:

He was of course the hero of the day [speaking of President Houston] and his dress on this occasion was unique and somewhat striking. His ruffled shirt, scarlet cassimere waistcoat and suit of black silk velvet, corded with gold, was admirably adapted to set off his fine, tall figure; his boots, with short red tops, were laced and folded down in such a way as to reach but little above the ankles, and were finished at the heels with silver spurs. The spurs were, of course, quite a useless adornment, but they were in those days so commonly worn as to seem almost a part of the boots...Mrs. Baker's dress of white satin, with black lace overdress, corresponded in elegance with that of her escort, [Houston] and the dresses of most of the other ladies were likewise rich and tasteful. Some wore white mull, with satin trimmings; others were dressed in white and colored satins, but naturally in so large an assembly, gathered from many different places, there was great variety in the quality of costumes.<sup>43</sup>

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41 Noah Smithwick, *Evolution of a State*, (Austin, 1900), 153.

42 C. F. Schmidt to Viktor Friederich Bracht, a Texas Pioneer, *Quarterly*, XXXV 288.

43 Lubbock, *Six Decades in Texas*, 59, cites *Ladies Messenger*.