



Bill Blavy's suit is as structurally sound as the 1832 built Casewell house in Troy. But back then fashions tended to be light and airy as lace became a U.S. manufacture product and sleeves puffed out to all proportions.

From whence we came...

As usual, Adam and Eve started it all, first deciding to cover up and then choosing fig leaves over maple as the cover.

Ever since, nudity has resulted in an indecent exposure rap (unless among friends) and by law, clothing is a necessity.

Too, Adam and Eve's choice of one leaf over another indicates that, even then, vanity existed.

Today, the vain and not so vain have even more clothing possibilities than Adam and Eve, and Seventh Avenue might be considered our own Garden of Eden.

But there hasn't always been splendor in paradise.

Though fashion is a continual concern, good fashion in America was neither a commodity nor original thought. Mostly, it

was the leisure class who cared about how they looked in clothes that either came or were copied from Europe. Most hard working colonists simply couldn't be bothered with style, fabric or beauty.

That colonial lifestyle, politics, the variety of ethnic groups, foreign influences and technology formed the background of American fashion.

In the early 1700's American fashion mirrored that of Britain. While the upper classes enjoyed gold threads and fine fabrics, the lower classes wore less adorned versions.

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence changed all that. No patriotic American would dare wear anything originating in Britain, and clothing underwent a certain

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Dimitri offers the well built look of the double breasted suit



These ladies weren't waiting in the Birmingham Grand Trunk Station for the fashions of the day — they were in them with head hugging cloche hats and the dresses that put Seventh Avenue on the map