

# A peep into the Victorian Image Collection

## Part 7 – Dressed Alike

By Ron Cosens

The carte de visite (cdv) appeared in 1860 and the cabinet card (cab) from 1866. By 1905, portraits on postcards (pc) started to take over.

This section of the archive started off as 'Twins', quickly included triplets and soon became 'Dressed Alike'. It relates only to siblings so that uniforms and bridesmaids' dresses and theatre costumes are not included; these are all elsewhere in the collection.

One issue is that separate portraits on separate photographs can sometimes be of the same person taken at the same sitting. However, these two lassies are dressed alike and are clearly sisters.



The most definite examples of siblings are those which include them in the same photograph such as these two ladies from the famous studio of Alexander Bassano in London in 1874. Interestingly, the clever pose shows both front and side views of the outfits, thereby adding real value for all students of fashion.



Many 'Dressed Alike' images are of children and it is thought by fashion experts this may be because the clothes were home-made or custom made by a nearby seamstress.

Some families went to the same photographer over the years to record their children as they grew up. Below are several charming 'dressed alike' photographs of Ada Kennedy, with her sister Lucilla, which were taken by John Moffat in Edinburgh between 1864 and 1868.

There are more pictures and a slide show in the John Moffat biography at <https://bit.ly/36h3YA3>





**The Victorian Gallery - continued**

Enjoy the gallery below which shows 'dressed alike' siblings of all ages. All photographs are between 160 and 110 years old and have been dated from studio details; not from a knowledge of fashion.



*Early picture of a mother and her twins (cdv c1868 Hull)*



*Sisters wearing lace-trimmed pantalettes and nervously lined up for the camera (cdv c1866 Clitheroe)*



*William & Herbert Ferguson aged 4 & 2 (cdv August 1868 Llandudno)*



*Same outfits but unusual difference in ages (cdv c1900 Hounslow)*



*Fine early portrait of Irish sisters (cdv c1865 Cork)*



*Looking after her worried sister (cdv c1903 Three Bridges)*



*Mary Louisa & Isabel Beatrice Macdonald (cdv 1873 Lincoln)*



*London sisters with arms folded & unusual clothes (cdv c1906 Walthamstow)*



*Tiny triplets, not an easy portrait to pose (cab c1899 Barnsley)*



*Smiley twins, mother's delight (cab c1896 Gateshead)*

You can find more of these wonderful images on the dedicated page on the PCCGB website: [pccgb.net/a-peep-into-the-victorian-image-collection](http://pccgb.net/a-peep-into-the-victorian-image-collection)

further images and information are available from [ron.cosens@btinternet.com](mailto:ron.cosens@btinternet.com) or [www.cartedevisite.co.uk](http://www.cartedevisite.co.uk)