

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Colonial Era: Circa 1750-1795



'Dorothy Hancock' Dress

History

Who is Dorothy Hancock?

Dorothy Hancock was the wife of the first Governor of Massachusetts and the first signer of the Declaration of Independence, John Hancock. They had two children, neither of whom lived to adulthood. Dorothy had a reputation as a good hostess and an intelligent woman.

The popular phrase, 'Put your John Hancock here', which means 'sign here', comes from the signature of John Hancock. He was not only the first signer of the Declaration, but he purposefully signed his name so that King George III could read his signature without glasses.

Fashion

This outfit was inspired by an antique dress that is from around 1750-1760. The jacket was scaled from an original pattern. It is very similar to what would have been worn for 'casual' occasions, such as visits and home-wear by a well-to-do lady.

What is a 'Stomacher'?

A stomacher was a decorated, triangular piece of fabric that was separate from a dress in the Colonial period. Stomachers were often pinned onto the stays, over which the dress would be fastened. A stomacher would often be quilted or boned and was usually highly decorated.