

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Colonial Era: Circa 1750-1795



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'Martha Washington' Dress

History

Who was Martha Washington?

Martha Washington was the wife of George Washington, the first President of the United States.

Martha's first husband was Daniel Custis, a wealthy planter. After he died, she was courted by two men, but married George Washington. They raised her two children. George and Martha were known to have a solid and loving marriage. During the American Revolution, she commonly traveled with her husband. After winning the American Revolution and establishing the United States, George Washington was unanimously elected President. Martha was known to be a great lady and a genteel hostess, a perfect match for her famous husband.

Fashion

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.

This dress is very similar to a dress that a lady might have worn during the Colonial period. During the Colonial, or Georgian period, women's fashion was mostly in three different styles. The '*robe à la française*' was the French style, also known as a sacque-back. The '*robe à la anglaise*' style is the English style, which is a simpler fitted bodice. This dress is in the '*robe à la anglaise*' style.