

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Colonial Era: Circa 1750-1795



'Adrienne de Lafayette' Dress

History

Who was Adrienne de Lafayette?

Adrienne de Lafayette was the wife of the Marquis de Lafayette, the famous French general. Adrienne was born in France, and her marriage to the Marquis was arranged in 1774. Lafayette was very supportive of the American Revolution, and in 1777 he left his wife in France and sailed for America. Even though their marriage was arranged, Adrienne and the Marquis loved each other devotedly.

After the Marquis returned from the American Revolution, he played a significant part in the French Revolution. The Marquis served as a commander in the French National Guard, and was sent to Austria on a campaign. After losing, he was accused of treason and was not allowed to return to France. Meanwhile, Adrienne was placed under house arrest. During the 'Riegn of Terror', she was transferred to the dreaded La Force Prison until James Monroe granted her an American passport. Adrienne was at last able to join her husband in Austria. They eventually were restored to France under Napoleon in 1800.

Fashion

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 francaise*' 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.

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.