

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Colonial Period: Circa 1750-1795



'Lucy Knox' Dress

History

Who is Lucy Knox?

Lucy Knox, maiden name Lucy Flucker, was the wife of Henry Knox, Major General of the Continental Army during the American Revolution and the first United States Secretary of War.

Lucy was born to a prominent Colonial family, her father a British government official. She fell in love with a young bookseller, Henry Knox, and married him against her family's wishes. After the battle of Lexington, Lucy's 'Tory' family left for England. Lucy and Henry escaped from Boston during the siege, and Henry joined the Continental army and became friends with George Washington. During the war, Lucy was well known among the soldiers, and she inspired them with her cheerful demeanor and fortitude.

After the Revolution, Lucy and Henry retired to a quieter life in Massachusetts, where her hospitality and lively conversational skills.

Fashion

During the Colonial period, women's undergarments, such as hoops or panniers, would have had a special skirt, called a 'petticoat' worn over them and underneath the outer dress. Many dresses had a split skirt front that showed the petticoat underneath. Petticoats could be highly decorated with ruffles and trimming. Petticoats were often quilted with beautiful designs for added warmth and stability.

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.