

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Colonial Period: Circa 1750-1795



'Phillis Wheatley' Dress

History

Who is Phillis Wheatley?

Phillis Wheatley was the first African-American poet and the first African-American woman to publish a book. She was sold into slavery at a young age, and bought by John Wheatley of Boston. The Wheatley family taught her to read and write and when they saw she had enormous talent, encouraged her poetry writing. By the age of 12 she was reading Greek and Latin classics and difficult Biblical passages. She published her first book in 1773 and met with enormous success. She made the acquaintance of such famous men as George Washington and Thomas Paine.

On the death of John Wheatley, Phillis was freed in his will. Three months later, she married John Peters, who was later imprisoned for debt. Phillis wrote a second volume of poetry, but was unable to publish it due to her poverty. Phillis died in 1784, at the age of 31. She has been honored as one of the most famous African Americans on the face of the earth, and her writing was influential in expressing the feelings of the Patriots during the American Revolution.

Fashion

What is a 'Pinner Apron'?

Aprons have been worn by women for centuries. An apron was usually made out of lower-quality fabric and worn to protect the more valuable dress. A 'Pinner Apron' had a strapless and sleeveless bodice that was fastened to the dress with small straight pins. Our version of a 'Pinner Apron' is stiffened so that no pins are required.