

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Colonial Period: Circa 1750-1795



'Julia Stockton Rush' Dress

History

Who is Julia Stockton Rush?

Julia Stockton was the daughter of Richard Stockton, a New Jersey man and a signer of the Declaration of Independence. She was raised in New Jersey, and at the age of 17 married Dr. Benjamin Rush of Philadelphia. Dr. Rush was also a signer of the Declaration, a prominent physician in the new United States of America, and involved in the Abolitionist movement.

There is not much known about many wives of the Colonial period, however, Dr. Rush wrote of his wife: "Let me here bear testimony to the worth of this excellent woman. She fulfilled every duty as a wife, mother, and mistress with fidelity and integrity. To me she was always a sincere and honest friend; had I yielded to her advice upon many occasions, I should have known less distress from various causes in my journey through life.... May God reward and bless her with an easy and peaceful old age if she should survive me, and after death confer upon her immediate and eternal happiness!"

Fashion

This dress was inspired by a dress made in the 1780's. It is in the '*robe à la polonaise*' style. This style was inspired by the clothing of the Polish, and features a skirt that is looped and swagged over a petticoat. This style was popular from the 1770's through the later 1780's.

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. The '*robe à la polonaise*' style is the Polish style described above.

This dress was inspired by a costume seen in the 2000 Mel Gibson film, 'The Patriot'.

