

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Regency Era: Circa 1795-1825



'Rachel Jackson' Dress

History

Who is Rachel Jackson?

Rachel Jackson was the wife of President Andrew Jackson. Rachel was one of the original settlers of Tennessee. Rachel married Lewis Robards, but as he had a reputation for jealous rages, they divorced in 1790. Afterwards, Rachel met the young Andrew Jackson, a war hero from the War of 1812. They married soon afterwards, and enjoyed a loving relationship. Rachel supported Andrew during his political campaign of 1828, but after he won in a landslide, Rachel fell ill and died in December of that same year.

After Rachel died, Andrew could not be comforted. He built a tomb for her in his flower garden, and placed her portrait at the foot of his bed. He wanted her to be the first thing he saw in the morning and the last at night. He wrote in her epitaph: "To the poor she was a benefactress; to the rich she was an example; to the wretched a comforter; to the prosperous an ornament. Her pity went hand in hand with her benevolence; and she thanked her Creator for being able to do good."

Fashion

What is an 'Empire' waist?

Regency fashions were inspired by the fashions of classical Greece and Rome. Most ancient statues show women with high waistlines and sheer, flowing gowns. Post-Revolutionary France considered ancient Greece to be the ideal in philosophy, fashion, language, and government. The French copied the styles of the ancient Greeks, and that set the styles for the rest of the western world. The high waistline is named for Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of France.