

# Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

## Regency Era: Circa 1795-1825



### 'Louisa Adams' Dress

#### *History*

#### **Who is Louisa Adams?**

Louisa Adams was the wife of President John Quincy Adams, and the daughter-in-law of the president and famous statesman John Adams.

Louisa was the only First Lady to be born outside the United States. Louisa was raised in London, where she met and married John Quincy Adams in 1797. John Quincy was an ambassador of the brand-new United States, and was chosen as Secretary of State in 1817 under James Monroe. Once she had moved to Washington D.C., Louisa's home became a social center of the capital, and Louisa became renown for her gracious hospitality.

John Quincy and Louisa had four surviving children, several of whom were very influential in Washington D.C.'s politics.

#### *Fashion*

This dress was inspired by a costume seen in the film 'Sense and Sensibility' starring Emma Thompson. It is an accurate design that might have been worn during the Regency period by a wealthy lady.

#### **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.