

# Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

## American Civil War Period: Circa 1840-1870



### 'Southern Belle' Dress

#### *History*

#### What was a 'Southern Belle'?

A 'Southern Belle' was a high class lady usually born the daughter of a plantation owner. Southern belles have had the reputation of being self-serving and flirtatious. In reality, they were known to be gracious, kind and educated ladies. Many Southern ladies did not support the treatment of slaves on plantations. There are many instances where a lady educated the slaves of her family in secret, and there are other accounts of how a 'Southern Belle' smuggled a slave into the hands of the abolitionists who got them to safety and freedom.

#### *Fashion*

This dress is a good example of what a woman in the 1850's would have worn to a ball or other grand occasion.