

# Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

## American Civil War Period: Circa 1840-1870



### 'Mary Chesnut' Dress

#### *History*

#### **Who is Mary Chesnut?**

Mary Chesnut was the wife of a prominent Confederate politician. She lived in Richmond, Virginia during the American Civil War. During the war, she kept a vivid and detailed diary of the happenings and what life was like in the Confederate capital. She was also an eyewitness to many of the historic events. After the war was over, she compiled her writings into a book which was published soon afterwards. She is the most important Confederate author, and her work is quoted in many publications about the American Civil War.

#### *Fashion*

This dress design was a popular style during the 1850's and 1860's. The many-tiered skirt lends itself to the popular rounded 'bell-shaped' style. This design is also similar to what a middle-class woman would have worn as her wedding-dress. It would have been among a middle-class lady's nicer wardrobe items.

This design was inspired by a period design from the '1'Iris Magazine'. It is a 'Promenade' Gown from 1859 and would have been worn over a Crinoline or hoopskirt.