

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

American Civil War Period: Circa 1840-1870



'Sarah Josepha Hale' Dress

History

Who is Sarah Josepha Hale?

Sarah Josepha Hale was the editor for the influential fashion magazine 'Godey's Ladies Book' from 1837 to 1877. She was a talented authoress, speaker and influential abolitionist. Although she is most well-known for 'Godey's Ladies Book', she also wrote the famous children's poem, 'Mary had a little lamb', which was first published in a poetry book in 1830. This poem was also the first words to be recorded on Thomas Edison's 'Phonograph' in 1877. When she died in 1879 she had published over 50 books and edited countless magazines.

Fashion

This dress is inspired by an antique dress from the 1850's that is housed in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It is a good example of what a lady might choose to wear to a Ball or another grand occasion.

What is a 'Bertha'?

A 'Bertha' in the 1850's was a type of collar that stretched around a lady's shoulders. It was acceptable for a lady's shoulders to be exposed in evening dresses, and this collar was a way of accentuating that style. The style of this collar originated in the 1830's, and has been popular in various forms since.

What is a 'Cameo'?

'Cameo' is a method of carving precious stones. This method of making jewelry dates back to the ancient Greeks. A cameo is carved, usually in the likeness of a lady from ancient Rome. Cameo brooches and other jewelry were very popular during the Victorian and Edwardian period.