

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

American Civil War Period: Circa 1840-1870



'Clara Barton' Dress

History

Who is Clara Barton?

Clara Barton was a pioneer American teacher, nurse and humanitarian. She is most well known for organizing and founding the American Red Cross. At the age of 16 she became a teacher and eventually started the first public free school in New Jersey. During the Civil War she nursed wounded men and obtained permission to ride in army ambulances and bring her own medical supplies to the battlefields.

In 1865 Abraham Lincoln himself placed Clara in charge of the search for the missing men of the Union Army. She became known as the 'Angel of the Battlefield' and began a nation-wide campaign to identify all the missing soldiers on both sides during the Civil War. In 1873 she organized the American branch of the Red Cross and became the first president in 1881.

Fashion

This dress is very similar to what might have been worn by nurses on the Civil War battlefield. Although a 'crinoline', or 'hoopskirt' was very fashionable, they were not practical for war-time nursing. Instead, as a woman without a petticoat was considered 'loose', women wore several layers of petticoats to preserve modesty and have a more fashionable silhouette. The dress pictured is shown with two of our petticoats, which can be found in the 'Colonial', 'Pioneer', and 'Victorian' sections.

The 'Pinner Apron' included in this outfit is completely reversible. Your doll can be either a nurse on the battlefield or a housewife at work in her garden!