

# Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

## American Civil War Period: Circa 1840- 1860



### 'Mary Todd Lincoln' Dress

#### *History*

#### **Who is Mary Todd Lincoln?**

Mary Todd was born and raised in Kentucky as a member of a wealthy and prominent family. After her education in a finishing school, Mary spoke fluent French and was known for her witty personality. At the age of 23, she married the young Abraham Lincoln, who was ten years her senior. Mary also supported her husband, both during his political career and his leadership of a nation at war.

During the American Civil War, Mary was emotionally torn. Her husband was the President of the Union, and her family fought for the Confederacy. Once the Union won the war, she expected to live a peaceful life with her husband. However, Abraham Lincoln was infamously assassinated on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1865. After Abraham's death, Mary was devastated. She outlived her husband and three sons, and lived out her later years in poverty. She is buried with her family in Springfield, Illinois where she lived much of her married life.

#### *Fashion*

This dress is very similar to the fashions popular during the 1850's and the American Civil War. Mary Lincoln desired to be a sophisticated and genteel First Lady, and this is a dress Mary would not have been ashamed of.

Most of Mary Lincoln's White House wardrobe was designed by Elizabeth Keckley, a remarkable seamstress and entrepreneur. Having been born a slave, Elizabeth earned her way to freedom and became an important historical figure.