

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

American Pioneer: Circa 1840-1880



'Margaret Borland' Dress

History

Who was Margaret Borland?

Margaret Borland was a Texas pioneer woman. Originally from Ireland, Margaret was raised in Texas and survived the Spanish American War. Margaret married a cattle rancher, who died in 1867. For six years, Margaret single-handedly ran her husband's Texas ranch. In 1873 she drove a cattle herd to Kansas with ranch hands and her surviving family. However, once they reached Wichita Margaret fell ill and died there in a tavern. She was known as being honest and resourceful.

Fashion

Out on the frontier, fashion had to be practical. Clothing was made to last, so trends such as bustles and hoopskirts were not often used out on the prairie. Dresses were simple and durable. An apron prevented the front of a dress from wearing out too quickly and a bonnet protected a woman's face from the hot sun.