

# Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

## American Pioneer: Circa 1840-1880

### 'Laura Ingalls' Dress

#### *History*

#### Who is Laura Ingalls?

Laura Ingalls Wilder and her family are the most famous 'Pioneers'. Their story was made popular through a series of books written in the 1930's by Laura. The 'Little House' books put the Ingalls family story into a novel form. The original series chronicle the happenings from when Laura was very young, up until she married Almanzo Wilder in 1885.

Laura only had one surviving child, Rose Wilder Lane, who was also a celebrated authoress. Laura had not thought of writing until her mother, Caroline Ingalls, and sister Mary died. Her desire to preserve their legacy, combined with financial hardship due to the Great Depression, prompted her to write what is now known as the 'Little House' books.



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#### *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.

#### What is an 'Apron'?

An apron is a piece of fabric used to keep clothing clean while working. Aprons have been used for many hundreds of years, and their exact origin is unknown. During the Colonial and Victorian times, aprons were worn by upper-class as well as working lower-class women. For the upper-class woman, an apron was a symbol of domesticity and womanhood. These aprons were not used to protect clothing from dirt, but instead the aprons were often heavily embroidered and decorated.