

# Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

## Victorian Era - Circa : 1870- 1890



### 'Lucy Webb Hayes' Dress

#### *History*

#### Who is Lucy Webb Hayes?

Lucy Hayes was the wife of President Rutherford B. Hayes. She has been nicknamed 'Lemonade Lucy' because of her strong convictions about alcohol consumption. During the 1870's, the Women's Christian Temperance Union was gaining strength. President Hayes and his wife banned alcohol from the White House during their tenure. Lucy was also a staunch opponent of the practice of slavery, and she influenced her husband's change of political parties before the Civil War.

Lucy also began the tradition of the annual Easter egg roll on the White House lawn, which is still done today. She and Rutherford celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary while in the White House. When she died, flags were lowered to half staff to honor her.

#### *Fashion*

This dress dates from the early 1870's. It is in the classic 'bustle' style, so popular at the time. Dresses like this would have been worn over a bustle, or 'tournure' and several petticoats. However, some dresses were also taped and wired with steel to give them a more prominent shape.

The Victorian sense of propriety was so high during this period that the word 'bustle' was actually thought coarse. Most Victorians preferred the word 'Tournure' which is French for the same thing.

The bustle first arrived in 1869, but was popular from 1870-1875 and from 1883-1889. The prominent, square bustle as we know it today was only popular from 1884-1886. The bustle style in the 1870's is known as the 'soft bustle' shape because was not as prominent and often had a train. The bustle style in the 1880's is called the 'hard bustle' shape because of its crisp, straight lines.