

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Edwardian Era - Circa : 1895-1910



'Mina Miller Edison' Dress

History

Who is Mina Miller Edison?

Mina Miller Edison was the second wife of Thomas Edison, the famous inventor. Despite there being 18 years difference in their ages, Thomas deeply loved his wife, whom he affectionately called 'Billie'. At the age of only 20, Mina became the stepmother to Thomas' three children.

Thomas Edison was the close friend of Mina's father, and claimed that he taught her Morse code, so that they could converse in secret while in the company of others. Edison claimed to have proposed to Mina using Morse code, and she responded in the same way.

Thomas and Mina had three children of their own, and were happily married until Thomas died in 1931. During her life she supported her husband in his inventions, including the battery, lightbulb, phonograph, and the first motion picture.

Fashion

This dress is inspired by an original 1907 pattern. It was published in the July edition of the 'American Modiste', a popular fashion magazine. At the turn of the century, store-bought clothing was not only expensive to buy, but was also considered frumpy and cheap. The best clothing was tailor-made by a seamstress. In fact, the very best clothing was sewn completely by hand without a sewing machine.

This dress was called a 'street suit'. During the Edwardian period, there were different dresses for different occasions. This dress would have been worn during an outing or to church.