

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

Edwardian Era - Circa: 1900-1910



'Millicent Fawcett' Dress

History

Who is Millicent Fawcett?

Millicent Fawcett is primarily remembered for her work as a peaceful suffragist in early 20th-century London. Millicent was an intelligent woman, and during visits to her sister in London, Millicent was introduced to Henry Fawcett, a prominent Member of Parliament. Although both were considered to be very modern members of society, they were faithful and enjoyed a loving marriage.

In 1868, Millicent joined the London Suffrage Committee and became known as a gifted orator. After her husband's death in 1884, Millicent temporarily withdrew from public life. However, she soon gave herself to her political work. She believed that the violent and risqué behavior of other suffragists was harming and not helping the cause of women's voting rights.

Millicent is remembered to be influential in gaining the vote for millions of British women in 1918. A memorial to her husband credited her with 'winning citizenship for women'.

Fashion

This dress is inspired by a 1903 pattern from the American Delineator, a popular and successful women's magazine until the 1930's. With the popularity of the home sewing machine, many women were either making their own clothing or that of others. Magazines such as the American Delineator gave inspiration to these women who made clothing, and a patented measuring system made fitting simple.

This dress is described as being a 'Visiting Costume', and is what a lady in the Edwardian period would have worn to church, afternoon tea, or another social function that took place early in the day. The Edwardian fashions took elaborate patterns to a whole new level – never before or since have women worn so much lace, ruffles, and ribbons. A fashionable lady would even have many rows of delicate lace on her undergarments!