

Yolo County Historical Collection
226 Buckeye Street
Woodland, CA 95695
(530) 666-8147
iulia.bodeanu@yolocounty.org

Scan for Survey



Dear Educator,

Thank you for checking out the **Victorian Dress and Etiquette Educational Kit**. We are proud to offer educators the tools to engage their students with museum and library resources in the classroom. We hope that these kits spark creatively among teachers and students.

This kit focuses on familiarizing your students with Victorian Dress and Etiquette practices as a way of understanding life in the early 1900s in California. The resources included are intended to give students background information on Yolo County pioneering families and deepen their understanding of social habits and dress as they relate to a time much different than our own, when California was a new state full of opportunity.

Each of the items included in this kit can be used in a variety of ways such as staging a Victorian play with the dress-up items or making their own fashion prints based off the Victorian Fashion handout. The calling card activity is a creative way to make your own “business” cards. The historic photographs of Yolo County men and women in Victorian dress and provides snapshot of what life might have been like for the early settlers of our region.

These kits were developed with the intention of being adaptable to various grades and reading levels and can be utilized for Kindergarten through 6th grades. We would love your feedback and ask that you complete a survey by visiting <https://forms.gle/zGW998RQ9HKyzhcS8> or scanning the QR code at the top of this page, so we can improve the experience of your students and continue to develop educational kits to meet your needs as a teacher.

If you would like to schedule a field trip to the Gibson House and Property please contact Jenna Harris, Education Manager at jharris@yoloarts.org or call (530) 309-6464. More information is available at <https://yoloarts.org/fieldtrips/> and <https://yolocountylibrary.org/research/yolo-county-historical-collection/>.

Respectfully,

Iulia Bodeanu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Iulia Bodeanu', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Museum Curator
Yolo County Historical Collection





Victorian Dress and Etiquette Recommended Book List

Meet Samantha, an American Girl by Susan S. Adler

Manners and Mischief, A Classic Featuring Samantha by Susan S. Adler and Maxine Rose Schur

Happy Birthday, Samantha! A Springtime Story by Valerie Tripp

Welcome to Samantha's World, 1904: Growing Up at the Turn of the Twentieth Century by Catherine Gourley

Tea Rex by Molly Idle

A Visual Dictionary of Victorian Life by Bobbie Kalman

Yolo County, Land of Changing Patterns: An Illustrated History by Joann L. Larkey and Shipley Walters

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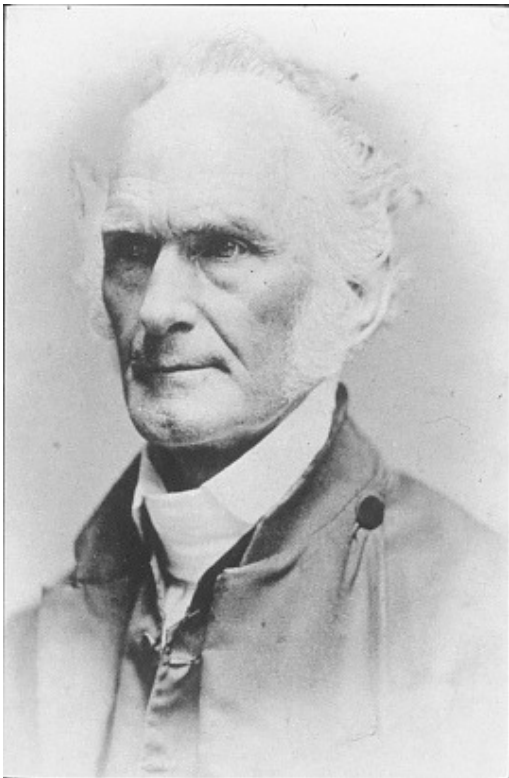
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YOLO COUNTY'S EARLY FAMILIES

Bemmerly

John Bemmerly was born in Württemberg, Germany, and came to the United States in 1847. He found work in New York as a farmhand, and then came overland to California in 1852 in a covered wagon (pictured, right). He had little success looking for gold, so began farming on land in the northwest part of Yolo County, which he later bought from the US Government.

John married Agnes Wimmer, from Baden, Germany, in 1860, and they had five children. He farmed and raised cattle near Dunnigan, but his premature death left his young wife Agnes to manage the ranch on her own for many years. Agnes Bemmerly expanded the family's holdings to 7,200 acres and operated one of the largest sheep ranches in the county.



Jerome Davis, c. 1880. Photo K09-40,
Courtesy Yolo County Archives.

Davis

Jerome Davis was born on his family's farm in Ohio in 1822. In 1845, he enlisted in John C. Fremont's first survey expedition and first arrived in California in December. After a return to St. Louis, Davis again set out for California in the spring of 1849 and briefly tried his hand at gold mining.

Settling in Sacramento he established Yolo County's first dairy and, in partnership with Joseph B Chiles, Jerome operated a rope ferry across the Sacramento River. During the Gold Rush, milk sold for an amazing \$1.00 a gallon. With that plus ferry tolls, Davis would sometimes bring in \$10,000 a month.

Jerome's father Isaac helped him expand the farm, and in 1858 he received a silver trophy of excellence from the California State Agricultural Society, and later served as its president. In November 1867, Isaac Davis mortgaged the southern part of the ranch to the California Pacific Railroad line, and the town of Davisville (now Davis) grew around the railway depot. Nearly 800 acres of the original ranch later formed the basis for the University Farm, now UC Davis.

YOLO COUNTY'S EARLY FAMILIES

Gaither

Mary Gaither was born in Booneville, Missouri to parents Willis and Marcia Brisco on May 4, 1865. After her mother's untimely death (Mary was just 10 years old), she went to care for the son of Dr. Evans. Under his supervision, Mary trained as a nurse. . Mary married Augustus Gaither who had a sister and brother-in-law, Elijah and Sarah Jennings, who lived in California. Elijah's half-brother was well-known land-owner Basil Campbell. Through these connections, Mary and Gus came to California in 1886 and began working in Hungry Hollow on Jennings' land (today known as Merritt Ranch) in Esparto.

In 1892, Mary and Gus bought two Esparto lots where they would build a large home. Mary tended to the nursing needs of many people in Capay Valley – both at her home, and by making house calls. She traveled all around the Esparto area to treat the sick, first by horse and buggy and later in a Ford Model T. Mary had 3 sons, Edward, Elmer, Leland. All three attended both grammar and high school in Yolo County. Elmer graduated in 1908 and was the first African American to graduate in Esparto. Mary Frances Gaither passed away on July 3rd, 1938.



Mary Frances Gaither, date unknown. Photo L09-25, Courtesy, Yolo County Archives.



Tafoya

Ramon Tafoya was born in Penjamo, Guanajuato, Mexico and came to the US with his father who worked on the Southern Pacific Railroad in Texas. In 1918 young Ramon moved to California, working in a variety of jobs in the sugar beet and tomato fields in Yolo County. Later he became a labor contractor, who for a set fee from the farmer would recruit, hire, transport, and pay agricultural workers for a specific job like harvesting tomatoes or beans.

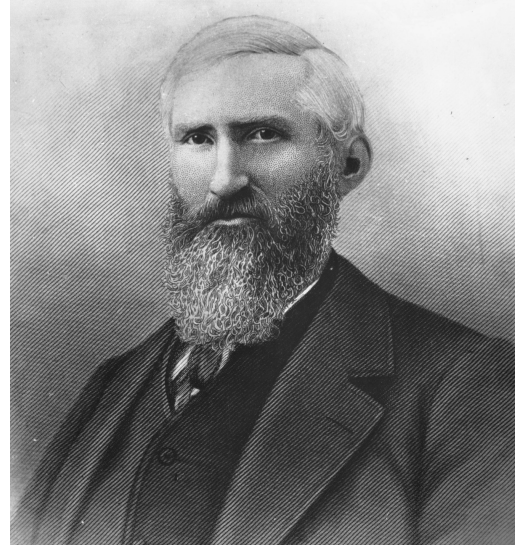
Ramon married Lupe Arellano in 1923 and they had 11 children. In 1948 Ramon bought the truck scales on East Street in Woodland, and later he built Tafoya's Market next door. He was very active in the community life of Woodland, founding the Guadalupana Society and Los Charros Caporales. He served on the board of directors of Cache Creek Bank, United Community Fund, and the Yolo County Fair.

YOLO COUNTY'S EARLY FAMILIES

Wolfskill

The first US Citizen to settle on a Mexican land grant in what is now Yolo County was John Wolfskill. He took possession of the Rancho Rio de los Puntos in 1842. He came to California from Kentucky in 1838. Putah Creek flowed through his land, south of what later became known as the town of Winters. He imported and experimented with growing many different kinds of crops. As soon as land was cleared, he planted his seeds and cuttings, carefully watering them with the fresh, clear water flowing from Putah Creek.

By 1850, thanks to John R. Wolfskill, many other Sacramento Valley farmers were also growing vines and figs, olives, walnuts, oranges, and apricots.



These brief stories are excerpted and adapted from:

History of Yolo County, California, with Biographical Sketches of the Leading Men and Women of the County

By Tom Gregory, et al.,

Historic Record Company, Los Angeles, California, 1913

Pioneers of Yolo County

Author Unknown

Booklet on file in the Yolo County Historical Collection

Woodland: City of Trees

Shipley Walters

Yolo County Historical Society, Woodland, California, 1995

Capay Valley Journal Vol. 10

Author Unknown

The Greater Capay Valley Historical Society, Esparto, California, 2012

Historic Photographs of Yolo County Residents from the Victorian Era

Guiding Questions for Educators

Take some time and look at all 5 of the reproduced photographs in this kit.
After looking at the photographs discuss:

1. What do you notice about the clothing that the individuals are wearing?
2. What activities, if any, are the individuals doing?
3. How are individuals posed?

Select two photographs and compare them:

1. What do these photographs have in common?
2. What differences do you see between the photographs?

Look at the photographs of Georgia Elsworth and Dolly Praet:

1. Name some of the objects that are visible in the room where the women are seated.
2. What can these objects tell us about the women, society, and/or the person taking the photo?

More advanced discussion topics:

How is Victorian etiquette reflected in these photographs? How is it not?

Discuss how these photographs different , and similar, to how we take photographs today.



Studio portrait of Kerb Brice, and two unknown men, at an unknown studio. c. 1890s. Photograph.
Bettencourt Photo Album, Photograph 7. Acc. #2012-02

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Studio portrait of Clive Englehart, Well Fassett, Mrs. Frank Wyatt and an unknown woman, at Thomas A. Ley's Palace Art Gallery in Woodland, CA. c. 1890s. Photograph.
Bettencourt Photo Album, Photograph 35. Acc. #2012-02



Studio portrait of Mrs. Lydia Armstrong of Davis, CA & her grandson Rupert Raentch. Nine year old Rupert is wearing a sailor suit and rolling yarn into a ball for his grandmother's knitting. c. 1900-1910s. Photograph.
Oversized Photograph D-44. Acc. #2001-26



Artist Georgia (nee Brown) Elsworth (age 18) pictured wearing a cotton dress while seated in a rocking chair in a room with patterned carpet, table, easel, and paintings. c. 1895. Photograph.

Larkey-1 LK09-14. Acc. #2002-20



Dolly Praet sitting at an upright piano. Many family photographs are displayed on the walls and piano.
c. 1890-1910s. Photograph.
N09-044. Acc. #2001-03

VICTORIAN PAPER DOLLS

YCHC
Yolo County Historical Collection

LEVEL
K-6



MATERIALS

Card Stock Paper
Printer Paper
Scissors
Tape
Markers or colored pencils
Printable Paper Doll Templates

STEP 1

Print out the Victorian character templates on heavy white paper or cardstock. Cut along the outside outer edge and the half circle of the paper doll. Cut another quarter circle and tape it to the middle of the backside of the paper doll.



STEP 2

Print out clothing templates on white printer paper. Cut along the edge, making sure to cut around the rectangle tabs. Color the clothing with markers or colored pencils.

STEP 3

Place the clothing template on the character template and fold the rectangular tabs over both to dress your character. Change the clothing as many times as you like!

OBJECTIVE

Expose students to the social and cultural implications of clothing and fashion.

VOCABULARY

Fashion | Clothing | Paper Dolls | Storytelling

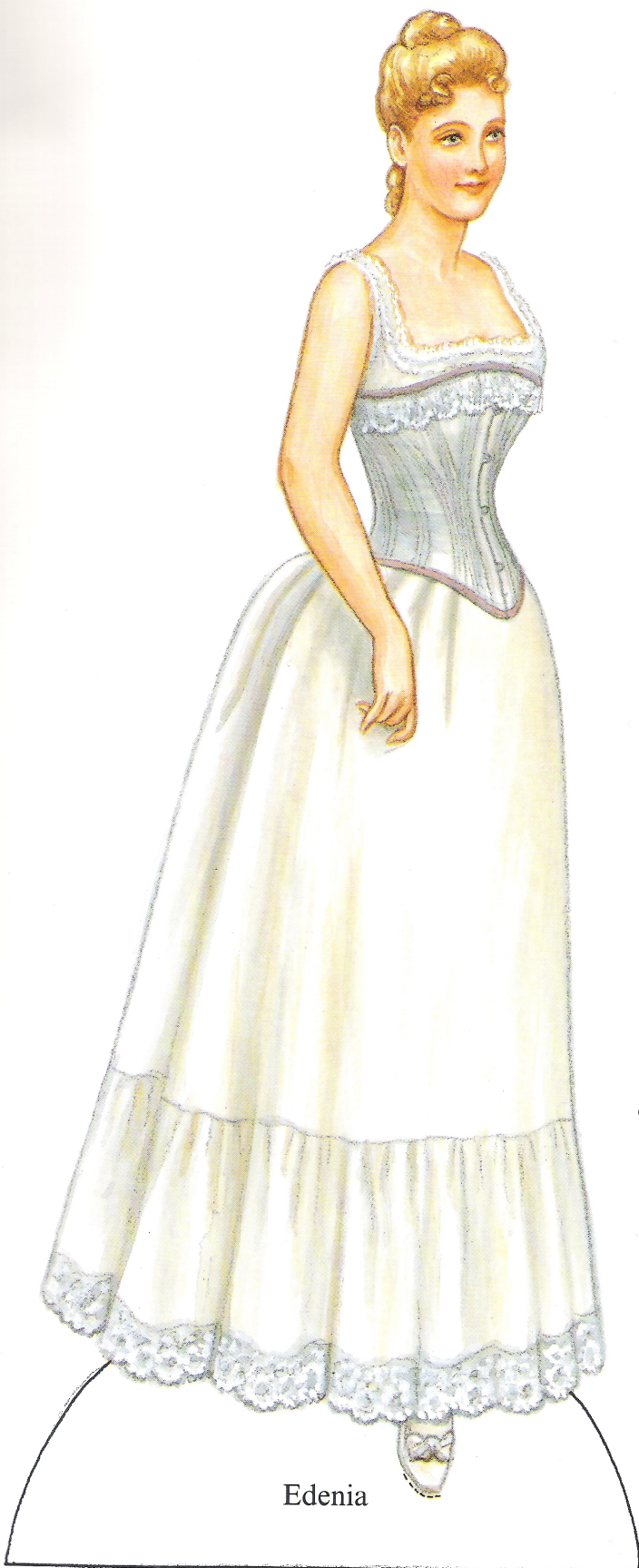
HISTORY

Paper dolls became popular in the mid 19th century. The invention of the printing press made printing words and images on paper easier and less expensive. There was an explosion of illustrated books, magazines and cards during this time. The first American paper doll was produced by a Boston-based toy manufacturer named J. Belcher in 1812. The book was called "The History and Adventures of Little Henry". The dolls were paired with a children's book so children could act out the scenes with the paper dolls.

PLAY!

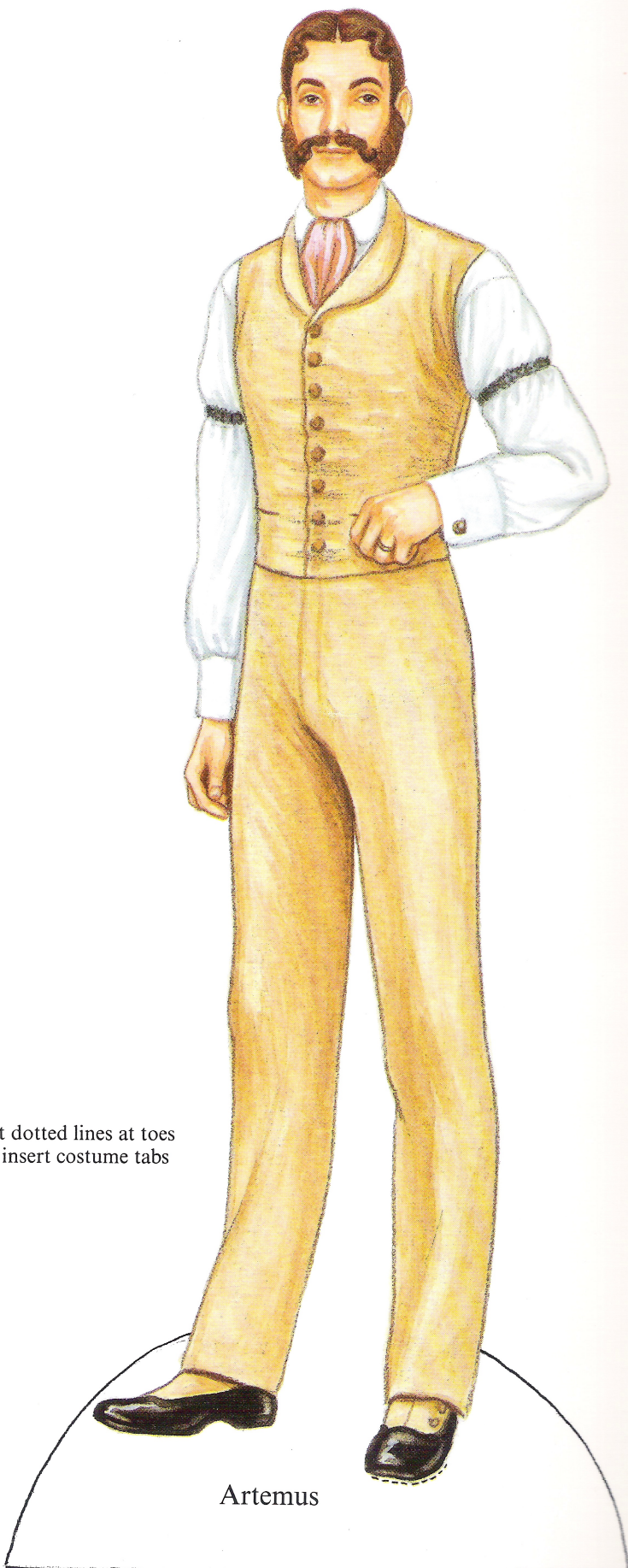
- Create a Victorian play with the characters. Script out a story and act it out.
- Create a fashion show with a runway and show off your fashion creations.
- Create a three dimensional painting or diorama from a shoe box to create a background for your paper doll characters.
- Make your own paper doll clothing by cutting around the templates and designing your own clothing to place your characters in any period of fashion.

Share your finished projects on Facebook or Instagram and be sure to tag @YoloArts!

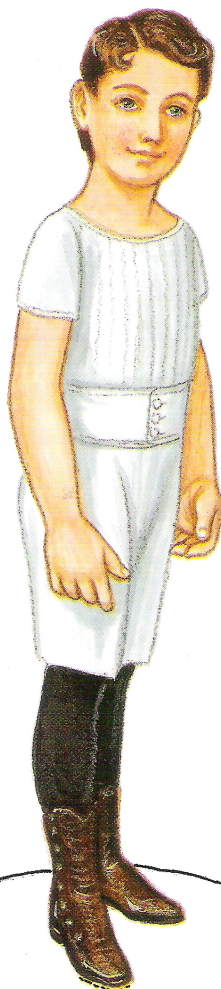
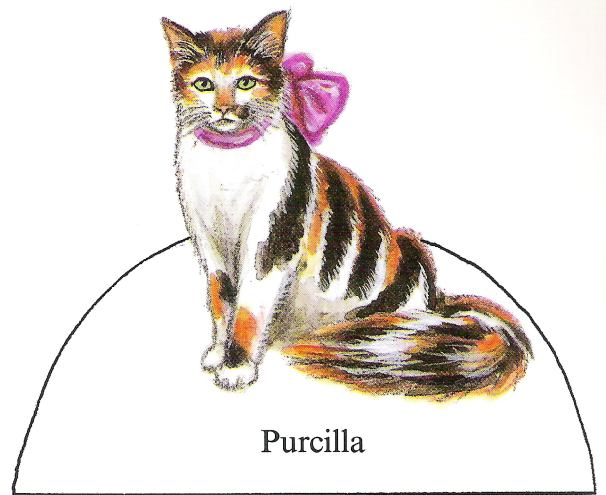
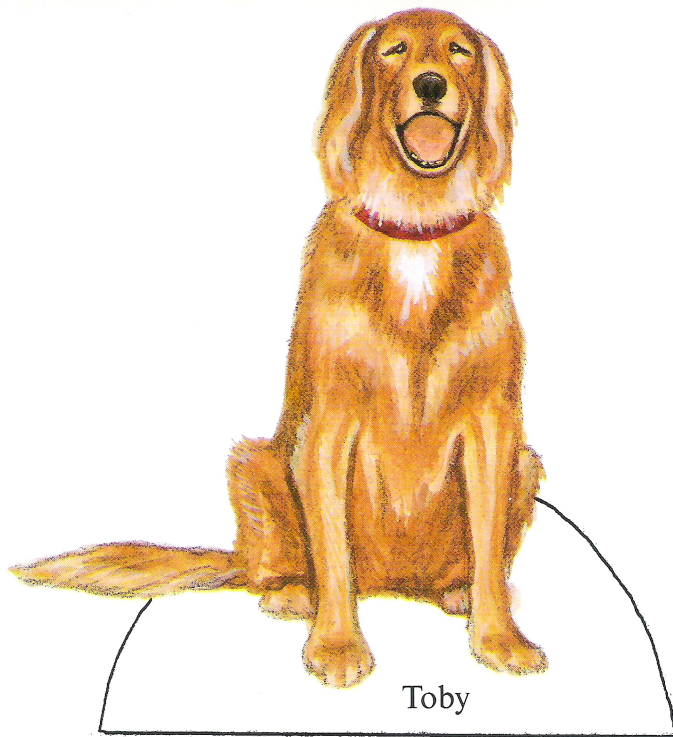


Edenia

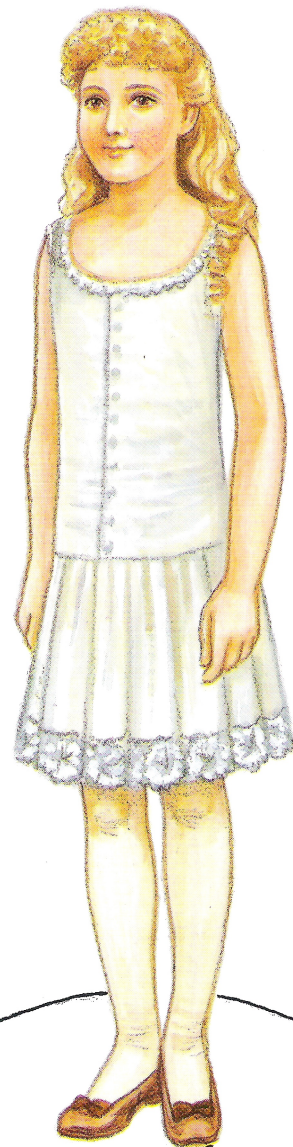
Cut dotted lines at toes
to insert costume tabs



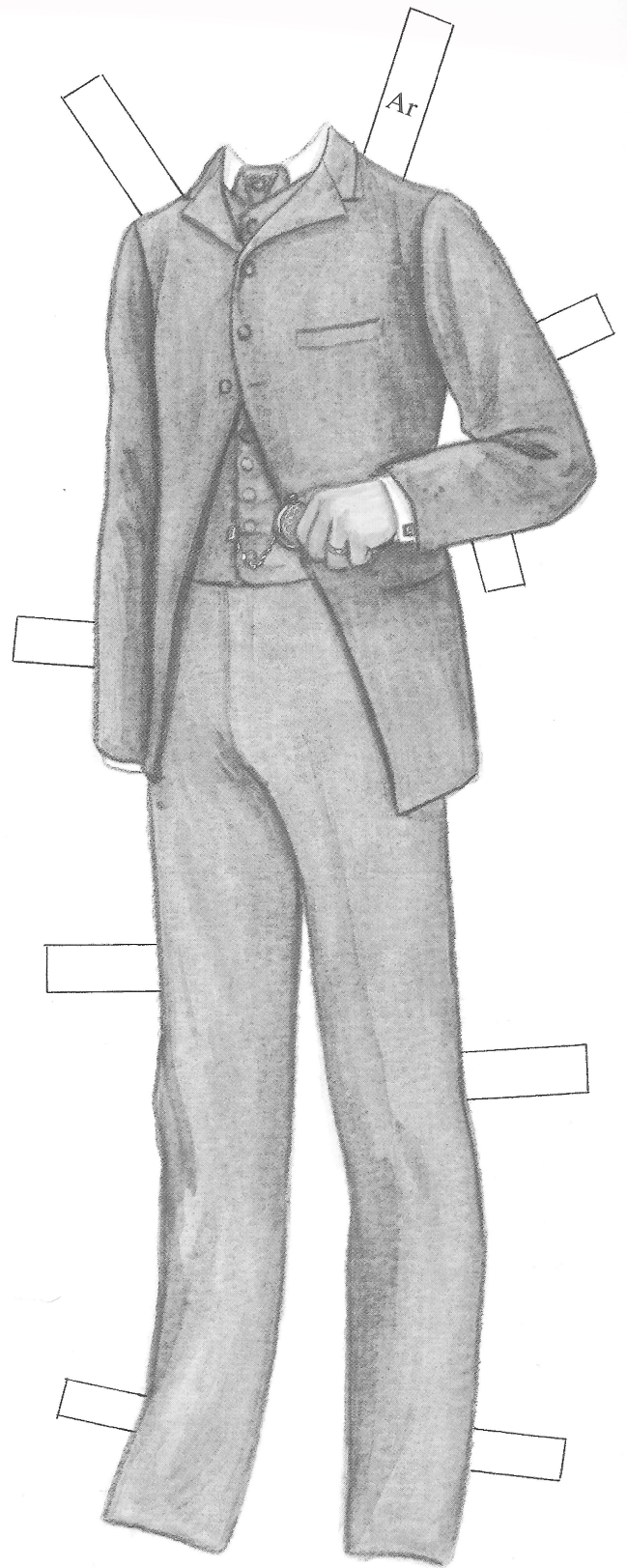
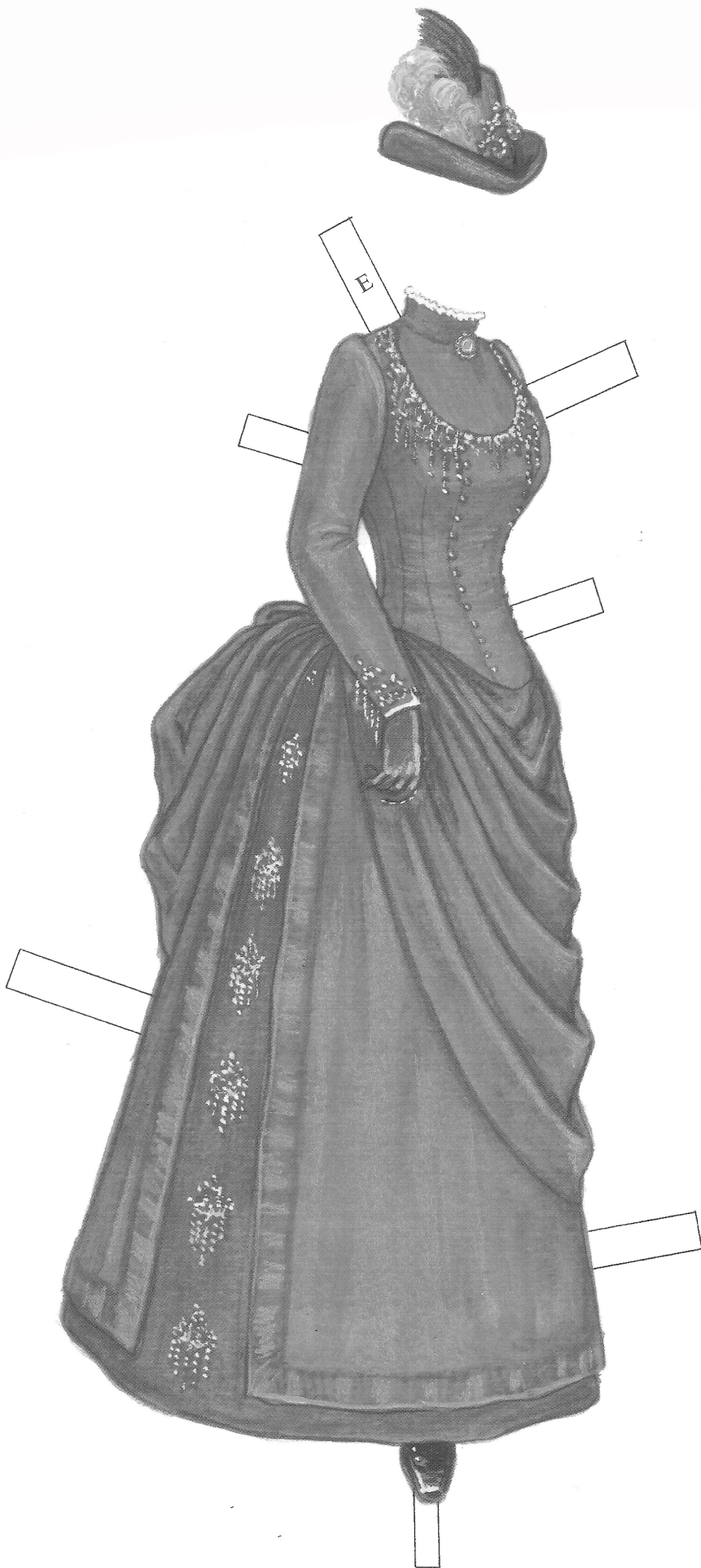
Artemus



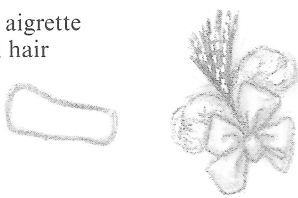
Cut dotted lines at toes
to insert costume tabs



Cut slits at shoulders to
insert costume tabs



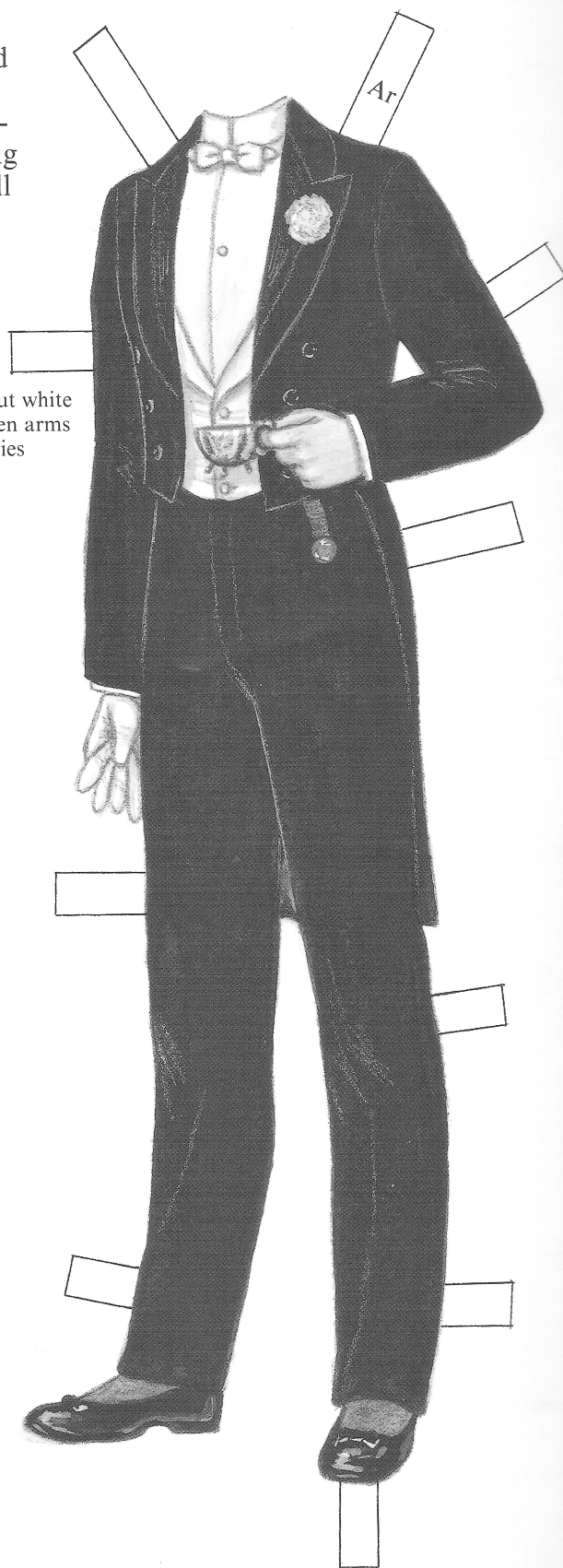
Glue to back of aigrette
and perch on hair



Edenia and
Artemus attend
the opera ball.
She has remod-
eled her wedding
dress into a ball
gown.



Do not cut out white
spaces between arms
and bodies

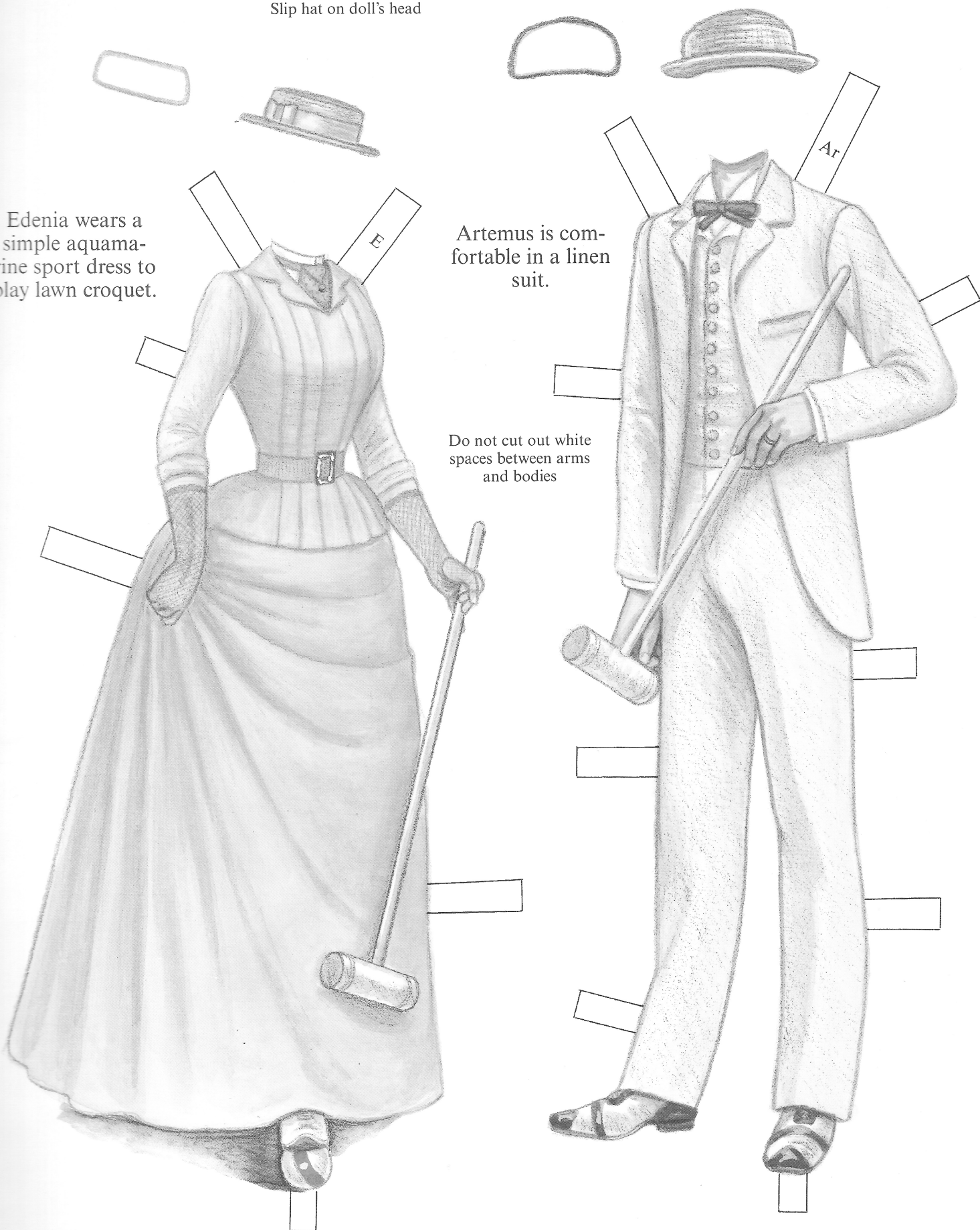


Glue top and side edges
of shape to back of hat.
Slip hat on doll's head

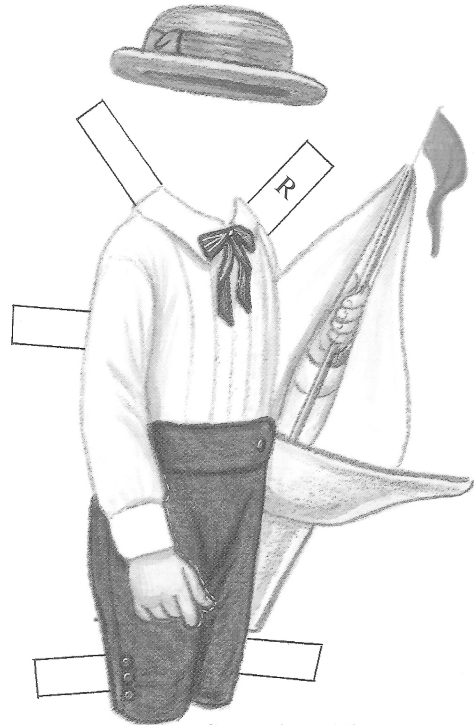
Edenia wears a
simple aquama-
rine sport dress to
play lawn croquet.

Artemus is com-
fortable in a linen
suit.

Do not cut out white
spaces between arms
and bodies

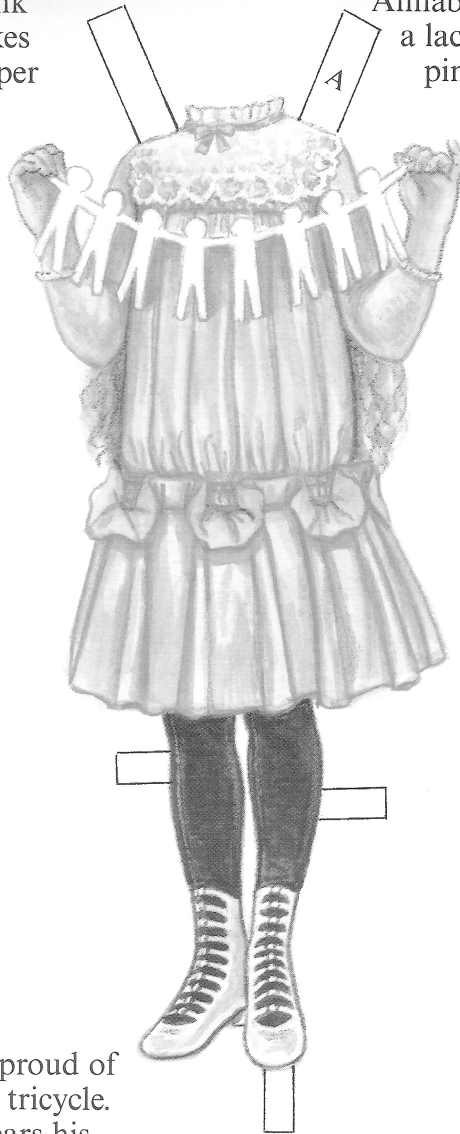


Rory sails his boat. He likes to play with his rubber ball.

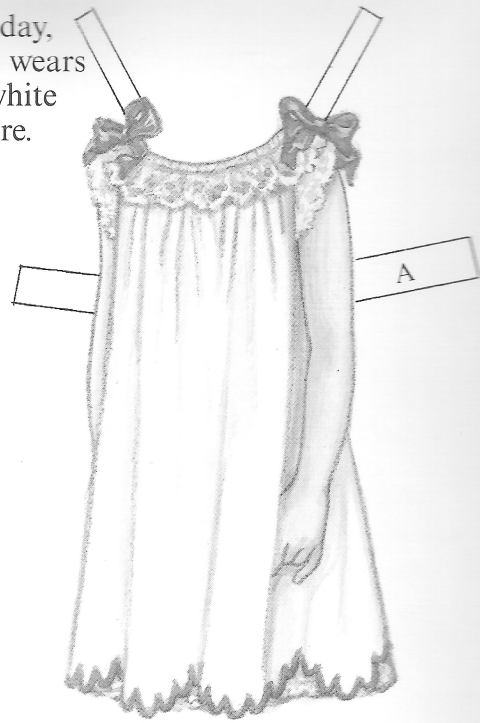


Cut at dotted line to insert ball

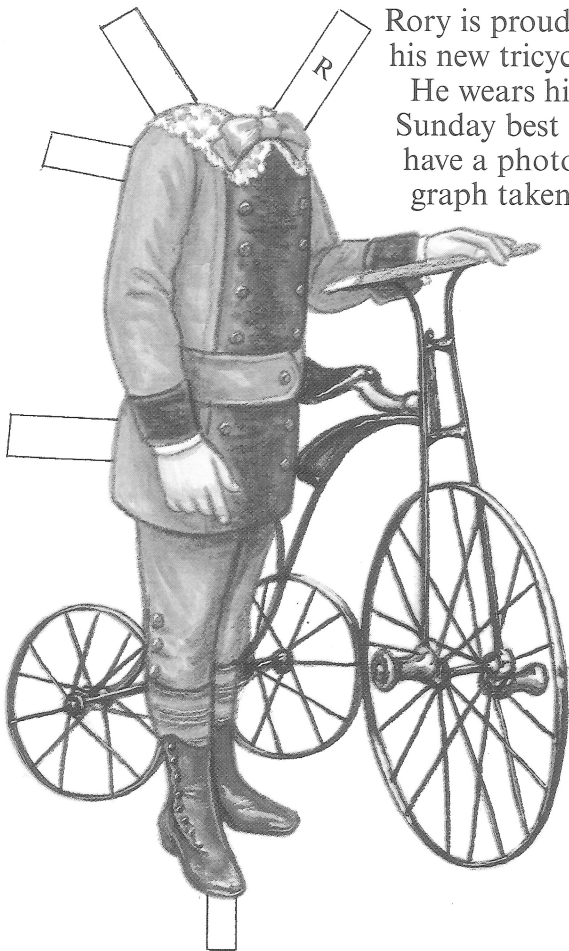
Annabella wears a favorite pink dress. She likes to cut out paper dolls.



On hot day, Annabella wears a lacy, white pinafore.



Rory is proud of his new tricycle. He wears his Sunday best to have a photograph taken.



Do not cut out white spaces between arms and bodies

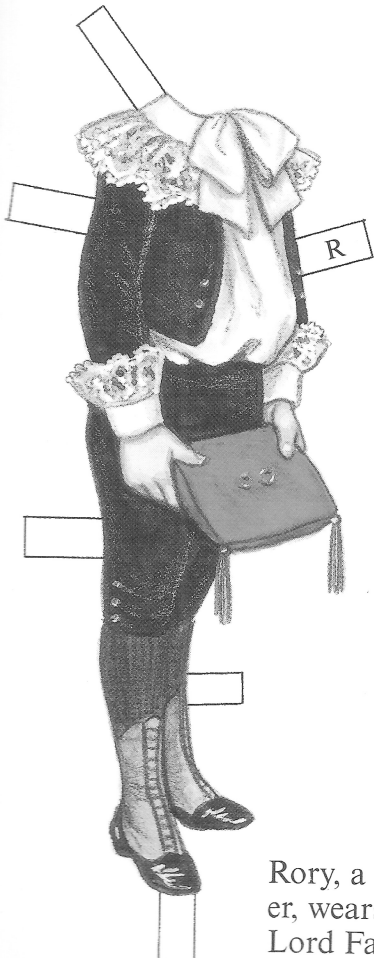
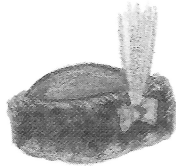
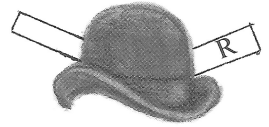


Annabella is dressed up for a stroll. She carries a parasol.

Rory takes his
"Teddy" to sleep.



Rory wears a coat
and hat exactly
like his father's.



Annabella's blue
velvet winter
ensemble with
mink trim.

Annabella, a
flower girl in
Aunt Fauna's
wedding.



Rory, a ring bear-
er, wears a "Little
Lord Fauntleroy"
suit.









VICTORIAN CALLING CARD

SOCIAL ETIQUETTE



LEVEL
3RD



MATERIALS

3.5 x 2.5" Cardstock (1 per student)
Scissors (plain and decorative edge)
Colored Pencils
Black Fine Tip Marker
Ribbon/Yarn

VOCABULARY

Etiquette | Calling | Calling Card
Card Receiver | Victorian Era

OBJECTIVE

Students will learn about Victorian society etiquette on “Calling” or “Visiting”. Students will make their own calling card to leave at the Gibson House during their Tour.

VAPA STANDARDS

3.VA:Cr1.1 | 3.VA:Cr2.1 | 3.VA:Cr2.2
3.VA:Cr3 | 3.VA:Re7.2

STEP 1

Divide students into 3 field trip groups of 8-10 students each. With students in their groups, review the Yolo County Families handout, noting names and locations of origin/destination on a map as well as any local sites of significance. Each group of students should choose a Family to join. Working together, students should learn their family history, trade, and etiquette (please see reverse side of this sheet for further information on etiquette).

STEP 2

Next have students create their own Calling Card using the materials listed. They can begin by drawing decorative patterns, borders, and narrative scenes. Encourage students to personalize their card to their Yolo County Family by incorporating details from their history. Finally, have students embellish their card with decorative edges and/or ribbon.

STEP 3

Have students write a diary entry that details a visit they made to one of Yolo Counties Early Families. What was the date of their visit? What was the purpose of their visit? What activities might they have done? What topics would have been discussed? Encourage students to include details specific to the family they visited.

STEP 4

Wrap up & Review. After the calling activity, have students reflect on the experience. Facilitate a group discussion, noting student feedback on the whiteboard. Ask students what they thought of visiting their friends that way? How has visiting changed in the last 150 years? Which way is a better way to visit friends? Why?

Share your finished projects on Facebook or Instagram and be sure to tag @YoloArtsCA!

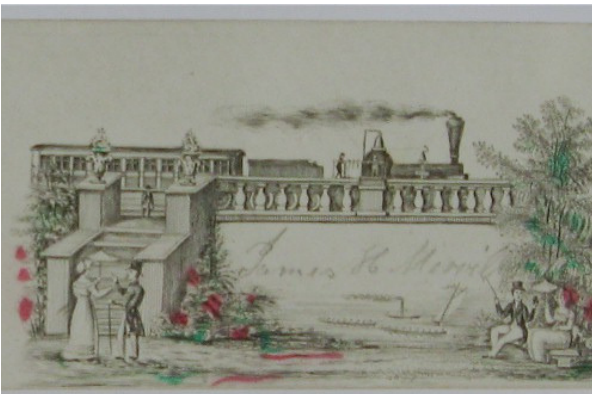
Etiquette and Customs for Calling



This card features simple nature design and includes a small bird.



These cards feature bright colors, floral patterns, and break away from the traditional rectangular shape. Note that names could be handwritten or printed.



This card features a landscape scene of people outside outside a train station.

Initialing a Calling Card

Gentleman would also inscribe initials upon the card to denote the reason for his visit. The initials stood for the following French words:

- p. f. – congratulations (pour féliciter)
- p. r. – expressing one's thanks (pour remercier)
- p. c. – mourning expression (pour condoléance)
- p. f. N. A. – Happy New Year (pour feliciter Nouvel An)
- p. p. c. – meaning to take leave (pour prendre congé)
- p. p. – if you want to be introduced to anybody, send your visiting card (pour présenter)

After introductions, visits or “calls” came next in the first round of the proper Victorian social sequence. Calling hours were limited, and most sensibly, to a restricted time in the afternoon. No one not privileged, on pressing business, or extremely intimate, would think of invading a household before three o'clock. Consequently, no one could be offended when refused at half past two on a Tuesday, when “Mondays, three to six,” is plainly engraved on a carte de visite.

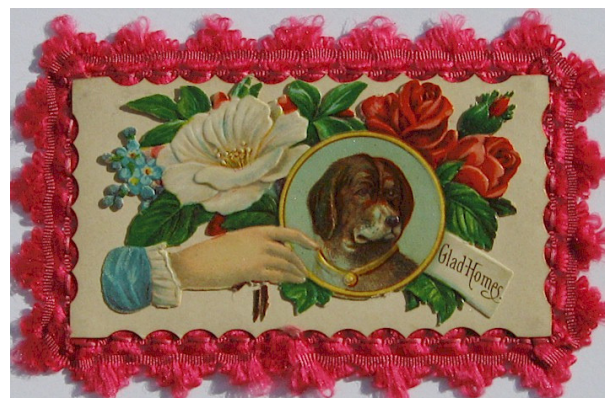
The visitor placed their card on a convenient place in the hall, or on a tray the servant held out, and then mentioned their name to the manservant if there was one. A man or maid usually took the card on a tray, and stood holding the curtains aside, for the visitor to enter, speaking their name audibly at the same time.

In dealing with the subject of visiting in general, the receiving party was always a woman. Nevertheless, gentlemen could receive visits from men at their club, or their offices, and there was a distinct etiquette for these ceremonies.

Nothing could excuse a delay in returning a first visit within a few days, excluding going out of town or an illness. As well, nothing could exempt one from a call after dinner, a luncheon, a supper, or theater party, unless, as said before, a person was ill or out of town. In these circumstances, a card would be sent with a word of regret.

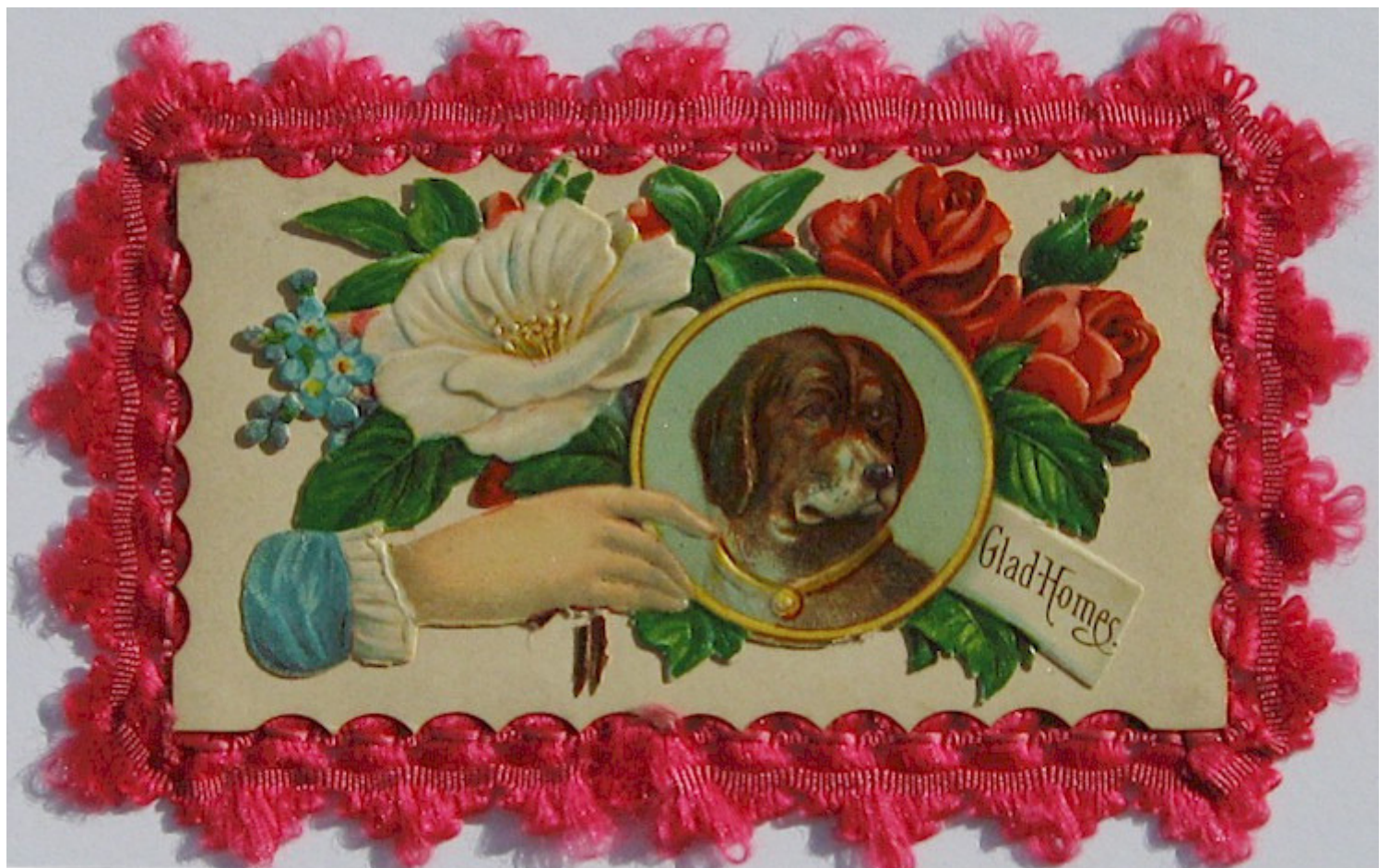
The Victorian system of calling appeared to be one that wasted much time, and was rather senseless, but as a code of signals it had its uses. Without it, it was difficult to see how social lists could be recruited for invitations, or any entertaining done in proper order.

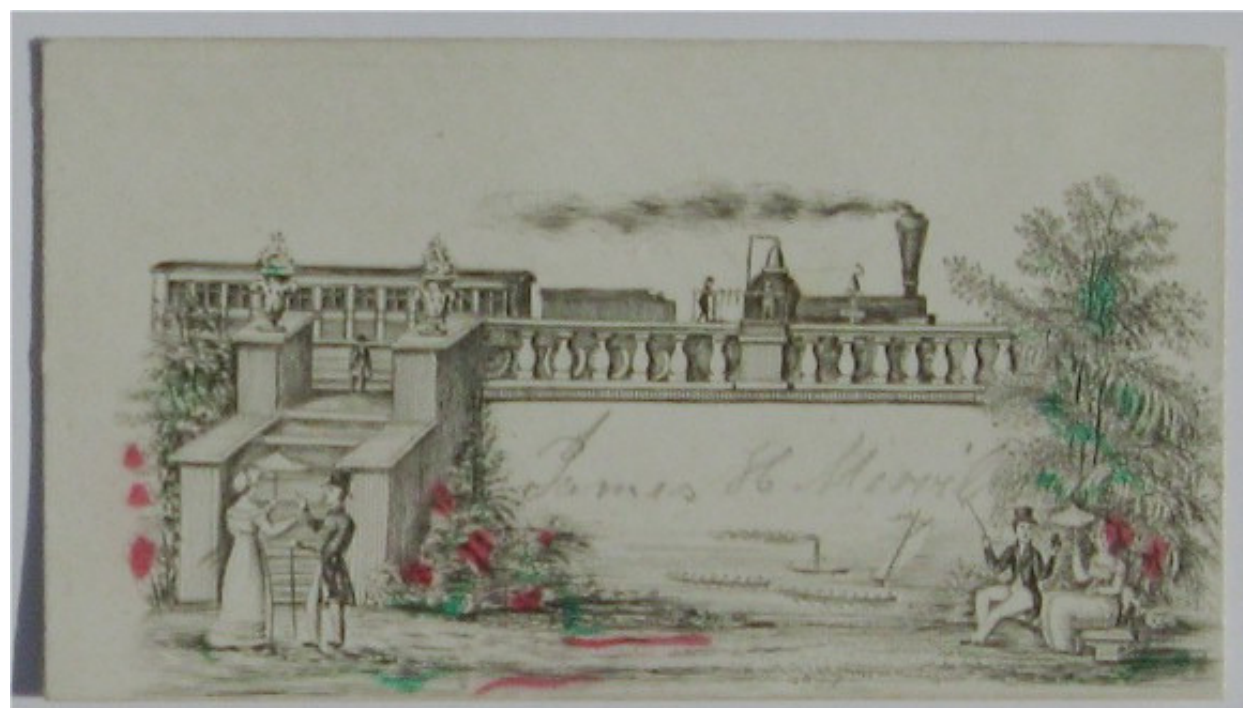
Edited from: Etiquette for Americans by a Woman of Fashion, 1898



This card is very ornate with bric-a-brac trim, brightly colored flowers, and a portrait of the card-owners dog.







Today I learned about

the Gibson House



Come see their virtual field trip
come to life and complete your
child's learning experience!

**Open Thursdays for
Self-Guided Tours:**

2:30-5:00pm

512 Gibson Rd. Woodland, CA
www.yoloarts.org/visit

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