

# Clara's 1860 Party Dress

In 1856, the crinoline became popular as a fashion design. Wide skirts were worn over layers of petticoats and metal hoops which provided the underlying structure for the dresses. Some crinolines reached fantastically wide proportions. As a young girl, Clara would not wear a floor-length gown, but instead would wear this mid-calf crinoline.

Clara's fashionable outfit this week is from 1860. This is a party dress, perhaps worn for a fancy dinner and dance, or maybe even a wedding. The layers of silk ruffles add a quite a bit of flair to the dress. Clara also has a rose wreath for her head, and some matching roses on her long, square-toe dancing slippers.

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