

The bodice is tailored like a jacket, with a band collar and cuffs. It falls to the hip and the sleeves are close-fitting. These style features were also popular in the 1870s.



A separate piece of decorative material was worn at the bodice's center back like a bow. When the bustle was removed for outdoor amusements it left a long train. Could the longer section of fringe have tied up the dress for walking?





1870 Outdoor Costumes

From "The Cut of Women's Clothes," Norah Waugh
(London: Faber & Faber Ltd, 1968)



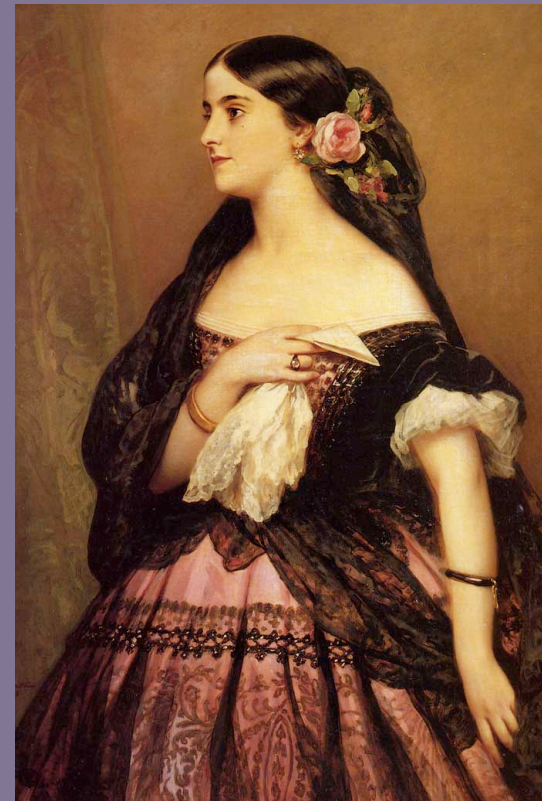
Photographed at Taylor House

The fashion plate from 1870 shows layered dresses with jacket bodices, ample use of fringe, decorative cuffs and center back bows. The olive gray wedding dress (center) is from 1883-4; its lines are similar to the green satin dress (right).

CHAPTER 4:

In which we venture to speculate on style

How did Kate Morgan make her fashion choices? One noted style-setter of the time was the coloratura soprano Adelina Patti. Patti, just four years older than Kate, was so popular that china dolls depicted her face and dress. In 1862, Adelina sang for the Lincolns, moving them to tears by her rendition of “Home, Sweet Home.” In her portrait of the following year she is wearing an off-the-shoulder evening dress.





This photograph (probably early 1870s) has Adelina in a day dress. The bodice is distinctly reminiscent of Kate's green satin dress, which most likely belongs to her early married years, 1870-1880.

What made these dresses special enough to be so carefully saved? Perhaps they always recalled the youthful magic of feeling right in style at memorable moments.

FINIS

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home, Taylor House.*

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Kate's era.*



Having no portrait of Kate Morgan, we rely on her father, Henry, to convey the Morgans' greetings of the season.