

Volume 1, Issue 6

\$3.95 US
\$5.25 Canada

Lady's GALLERY

Victorian
Elegance to
20th-Century
Style

FASHION, CULTURE, ANTIQUES

LACED WITH
GLAMOUR

Brides by Donna

Historical
Bridal Elegance

Revival of the
Victorian
Wedding Cake

Trio of Lovers



Exquisite detail can be found throughout *Marcy Mansion*.



blossoms. The roses she can continue to wear but the orange blossoms are only suitable for the ceremony.”

Wedding gowns have varied over the centuries, based upon local customs, traditions and cultures. Queen Victoria established the custom of a bridal veil when she married Prince Albert on February 10, 1840 in St. James Palace. Her Majesty wore a simple wreath of orange blossoms. Her magnificent veil of Honiton lace did not cover her face and was fastened to the back of her head with a small brilliant pin. The veil itself rested on each shoulder. Her ornaments were a pair of large diamond earrings, a diamond necklace and the collar of the Order of the Garter.

Her dress was of white satin with a deep trimming of Honiton lace, in design similar to that of the veil. The body and sleeves were richly trimmed with the same material to correspond. The 18-foot train of white satin was trimmed with orange blossoms. The cost of the lace alone on the Queen's dress was £1,000, costly for the year 1840. The satin was manufactured in Spitalfields and the lace was made in a village near Honiton. More than two-hundred persons were employed to work on the lace for eight months, which had been the Queen's express order. The lace trade of Honiton had seriously declined and the townspeople would have been destitute without the labor on Victoria's lace.

The *coup d'oeil* was magnificent as floods of sunshine streamed through the windows upon the many gorgeous costumes in which the royal and distinguished persons who appeared in the processional were attired. The Queen's attendants wore gowns composed of such fabrics as swansdown, lily-white satin, white velvet as well as white and silver with blue velvet and slips of rich *gros de Naples*. Blush roses abounded.

Victorian weddings, for all their pomp and circumstance, were not without irony. Most English weddings of that era were scheduled for twelve noon in order to keep the groom sober for the nuptials. Some grooms were hesitant to commit and courtships often were prolonged for several years. A drawing from 1898 showed a couple having a discussion with the following comments. He: "I didn't know you were sarcastic when I married you." She: "Did you not? Possibly you have forgotten I said 'this is so sudden' when you proposed to me after four years of courtship."

Most brides plan excitedly for the happy event; not so in the case of the daughter of Francis I, King of France. Guests at her wedding to the Duke of Cleves witnessed indelicate forces when the bride, wearing a gold crown and covered with jewels, balked with an extreme case of cold feet. Francis ordered his constable to take her by the neck and push her up the aisle. This was accomplished and the ceremony performed. In the eyes of society at that time, the two were suitably married.



"Adorned with the tradition of centuries of marriage, somber grooms and pensive brides face their new roles as spouses.



Wedding accessories are usually based on traditional and social sanction. One excellent example is the bride's wedding gown. In ancient times, the marriage was regarded as a union of two families rather than two persons, and the bride was an important element in the marriage. The bride's virginity had to be unquestioned and guaranteed because it represented the honor and purity of her husband's family. The wedding costume symbolized the bride's fulfillment of these requirements. The white wedding dress is a relatively recent fashion, dating from Victorian times, when white symbolized the epitome of purity. Earlier brides were married in their best dresses, often with colors and decorations of local significance which varied widely. Even so, colors were not as important as the accessories of the bride's attire such as veil, brooch, crown and garland or bouquet. The veil was thought to protect the bride from malicious spirits and the stares of curious outsiders and also signified purity and a sort of newness.

July warmth cloaks two in the
passion of summer, within a
sea of grass beyond the woods.
Beneath a jeweled sky of light
two souls share a wish made
one chilly night so long ago.
A breeze tickles out a glowing
candle to leave their bodies in
the silver moon, where love
will forever be known

Love,
Oliver
July 28, 1993



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF MOREY MANSION



Morey Mansion Bed & Breakfast Inn
"America's Favorite Victorian Home"
190 Terracina Blvd. Redlands, California 92373
909-793-7970 -FAX 909-793-7870

The Morey Mansion, "America's Favorite Victorian Home" has appeared in movies and advertising campaigns for many years. It is easily distinguished by its French Mansard Roof and its sculptured "Onion" Dome, similar to the domed buildings of Eastern Europe and Russia.

David Morey was a retired shipbuilder and cabinet maker in his mid 60s when he and his wife Sarah came to Redlands in 1882 to start a small orange ranch. At that time orange seedlings for the 20-acre ranch cost \$1.00 each. This prompted Sarah to grow her own seedlings and she soon started a small tree nursery that grew to be one of the largest nurseries in the valley providing major planting of seedling oranges in the district which was previously planted in grapes.

Sarah Morey grew over 90,000 seedlings during her first four years in business. Thousands of mature trees, grown from Sarah's seedlings, still produce fruit.

In 1889 the Moreys sold the nursery and their small house on Brookside Avenue. With \$20,000 in profit David Morey designed and built their new home.

It is said that Mr. Morey built the home for his beloved wife and the house stand today as a tribute to that love as well as a tribute to the fine art of wood carving, a craft it is quite evident that David Morey enjoyed and performed with perfection. The home is a culmination of David Morey's life. In his travels as a shipbuilder Morey saw bits of architecture he liked in many parts of the world. Each idea in his memory later emerged on a hill overlooking the City of Redlands and is known today as The Morey Mansion.



In 1923, the Duke of York, the twenty-eight-year-old son of King George V, married Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon, now the Queen Mother. Her wedding dress by Handley-Seymour of ivory chiffon moiré suggested a medieval Italian gown with silver lamé, seed pearls, a train of tulle and Nottingham lace with a chaplet of leaves.

Their daughter, HRH Princess Elizabeth, married Lt. Philip Mountbatten, R.N. in 1947. Her bridal dress in the great tradition was of ivory satin starred with Botticelli-like delicacy and richness, with pearl and crystal roses, wheat and orange blossoms.

Here in America, our Presidents' weddings were also memorably recorded. When George Washington was smitten with the widowed Mrs. Martha Dandridge Custis, he called upon her. She greeted Col. Washington wearing her sweetest gown and her most becoming cap. During that visit he pressed his suit with such success (not the clothing he was wearing), Mrs. Custis finally agreed to become Mrs. Washington, or "Lady Washington" as some admiring Americans called her.

The wedding took place on January 6, 1759, with the belles and beaux of Williamsburg in attendance. Wealthy planters from surrounding areas with their wives and daughters were all very grand in their satins and brocades, gold lace and shining buckles. But the little bride was the most gorgeous of all. She wore a heavy white silk gown shot with silver, a pearl necklace at her throat and pearl ornaments in her hair. Her high-heeled satin slippers were clasped with diamond buckles.

During the administration of James Buchanan, our only bachelor president, his niece,

Harriet Lane, was his official hostess and thus acting First Lady. The young Miss Lane brought a charming air to the White House. When Miss Lane married Henry Eliot Johnston in 1866, she was garbed in a dress of white moiré taffeta trimmed with white satin and lace. Her bridal veil was of draped point lace.

Brides of the 1990s enjoy returning to days of the past through their own weddings. Historic homes are picturesque settings in which to create memories. One such famous home is a West Coast Queen Anne-style Victorian, the Morey Mansion in Redlands, California, an historic community with a nostalgic elegance. The Mansion was begun in 1888 and took two years to complete. Original owners/builders were Sarah and David Morey who came to California to retire but began growing orange trees from seedlings. With profits from the sale of their orange groves, their mansion was built.

Today, as a Bed and Breakfast, many romantic weddings take place in this charming historic home. In keeping with the ambiance and Victorian atmosphere of the Morey, modern brides plan vintage weddings complete with antique gowns, chamber music and horse-drawn carriages.



Gown: c. 1906, Ivory silk gown with watteau back plait, point lace over chiffon; Veil: 8-inch border handmade lace.

All these wonderful accouterments complemented the actual ceremony but in 1879, one of the requirements for a happy marriage was thought to be respect for each other. Mutual trust and confidence were other requisites for marital bliss. Attributes for the 1870s are admirable traits for conjugal happiness of newlyweds and their lives together, traits which are still good standards to hold dear in marriages today. Some things never go out of style!





Vintage Wedding Carriage outside Morey Mansion



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF BARBARA KINCAID

Barbara and David Kincaid Vintage Wedding
Renewal of Vows, August 1993

Barbara Kincaid is a fashion historian and collector, who combines her love of fine vintage fashions and accessories and their charm with her love of the ritual of afternoon tea. Through her business, THAT HAT & THOSE CLOTHES OF YESTERYEAR and VICTORIAN HILLTOP HOUSE, Barbara conducts fashion history seminars and workshops, vintage style shows and English Victorian afternoon tea, complete with her own scones. She is available as a speaker and consultant on vintage fashion and afternoon tea. Barbara is also a docent for the Morey Mansion in Redlands, California. For further information, Barbara can be reached at (619) 956-1243.