

## WAYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### Convert from Loan to Gift

C90

Item: Dress ca. 1849

Description: Copper color - drop shoulders sleeves on jacket 3/4 length - 3 pieces - hooks and eyes - bodice has low neckline with petal shaped sleeves - train on skirt - buttons copper marbling - lined bodice - fringe on jacket - bone stays.

Material: Silk satin

Condition: Good

Donor: Mrs. Sheldon W. Kennedy (CONVERTED TO GIFT 3/2021)

Comments: Belonged to Mrs. Kennedy's great grandmother - probably Gilbert family - possibly wedding gown made in England.

Letter to daughters – Deborah Coster and Melissa Fullerton requesting change from Loan to Gift.

Response from Deborah Coster acknowledging wish to convert with additional information:

"I remember the dress--as a girl I loved it for its beautiful color. It came to my mother from her great grandmother Anna Maria Hill, whose mother was Maria Gilbert (there's the Gilbert connection). Anna Maria was born in Lincolnshire, England in 1832 and married John Christopher Bett in 1853. Anna Maria and J.C. came to the United States in 1871 with their eight children and settled in Springfield, Illinois. Anna Maria died not long after they arrived (1872), and in 1875 J.C. moved the family to Kingman, Kansas, where he bought farmland and remarried. Apparently the dress made the move, too, and was passed to Anna Maria and J.C.'s eldest daughter, Maria Elizabeth Bett.

Maria Elizabeth, or Bessie as she was known, married James Charles Pierce in 1880 and had two children, a girl and a boy. The girl was Ruth Regina Pierce, our mother's mother. Mom was named for her two grandmothers, Elizabeth (that is, Maria Elizabeth) and Josephine, her father's mother. Mom grew up knowing Bessie as "Nannie," her English grandmother. Nannie lived in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where she had moved when she was married, taking the famous dress with her. When Bessie died in 1934, her daughter Ruth got the dress, and when Ruth died in 1955, Mom got it."

C94

BOX 3

Item: Dress

Description: Cream - Victorian in style - 3/4 length sleeves - square neckline - stand - up collar trimmed in lace and pearls - skirt with long train - pocket - bustle pleated tiered lace on train - pearl buttons - fully lined in cotton - velvet cut work on sleeves, front panel on skirt and bodice - machine made - stays.

Material: Silk taffeta faille

Condition: Good

Donor: Mrs. William Dewey (LOAN CONVERTED TO GIFT by children of Sally Dewey 1/19/2021)

Comments: Belonged to Mrs. Charles Armstrong (Gertrude V. Linden) m. 11-19-1885

Grandson contacted by Evelyn Wolfson. He contacted Sally Dewey's children and all agreed to convert from loan to donation to WHS