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Dolls & Doll House

Dolls

In the 1800s, people and children had more leisure time. This meant that children had more play time and had more toys. Dolls were popular for both boys and girls and were common among all social classes. (Darbyshire, pg. 21)

“In their long history, dolls have been made of many materials and in many different styles. Wood and rag dolls are among the earliest to have been made, the materials being cheap and accessible to all. As dolls began to be made commercially, more sophisticated materials including wax and porcelain were used, and the manufacture of dolls became an important industry, notably in Germany in the 19th and 20th centuries, but also in France, Britain and, especially after WWI, in the USA.” (Darbyshire, pg. 21)

The clothes on the dolls reflect the fashions of that time period. Up until the mid-19th century, most dolls were made to represent grown-ups, and when childlike dolls first appeared it was a big shift. By the late 19th century childlike dolls overtook the market. Little girls would perfect their sewing skills by sewing a wardrobe for their dolls. (About.com, Doll Collecting II)

The dolls at FHC also have accessories such as carriages and chests.

Doll House

The interior of the doll house reflects the furnishings and customs of the 1800s to early 1900s. Some of the items are made of painted iron and tin but wood was the most common material used.

The doll house at FHC is from the 1890s and belonged to Margaret, Mary and Elinor Kennard. Inside this doll house is a reflection of the times with period furnishings of a piano and fireplace in the living room, and in the kitchen is a coal and/or wood burning stove with a coal scuttle next to the stove. Child's interest into the domestic arena.