

SATURDAY, MAY 30TH

At

The Battle of Rivers Bridge State Historic Site

Elegance in Layers:

SECRETS OF VICTORIAN STYLE

1:00pm: Dressing the 1860's Lady



Getting dressed in the 1860's was a ritual of layers, designed to create the bell-shaped silhouette while maintaining modesty. This demonstration is the step-by-step assembly of a lady's ensemble.

2:00pm: Fabrics, Colors, & Patterns

Examine wools, cottons, & lightweight silks. Discover how the era's colors evolved as we learn about the obsession with complex patterns and how these elements were layered to signal status, mourning, and domestic virtue.

3:00pm: Dangerous Victorian Fashion

In the 19th century, beauty was literally breathtaking. Explore the dark side of the Victorian aesthetic: from gowns laced with arsenic, toxic foundations, crinoline fires, and terrible working conditions.

