

Welcome to part XII of our Pattern Reviews, the final article for 2009. If you've read each of the previous eleven reviews, you probably already know the best picks, but in case you've missed an article or two, or are new to our articles here welcome to our "BEST OF THE BEST PATTERN AWARDS".

The number of patterns sewn was long, and the number of fabric in yardage was even bigger, and I'm not even counting the number of times I've stuck myself with pins! Instead of re-listing the pros and cons of each pattern we liked, I created a chart listing all our 5 STAR and 4 STAR winners. All of these patterns tested above average in our reviews. Then I took into account all our sewer comments, wear and tear testing, original pattern price, time to sew the pattern, and came up with MY TOP PICK in every category. Please note that we have omitted the category of Riding Habits as none of the patterns we tested reached 4 stars. So any of you budding pattern designers out there, please note that there are no good riding habit patterns and if you design one, you'll clean up cause we need good patterns!

And if you think this is the last pattern review article, you are WRONG! This may be the last article for this year, but rest assured I feel my job of educating new reenactors out there on the good/bad patterns is far from over. I have found new pattern lines I didn't even know existed and I am sure the big name companies will release more patterns next season. I also have received requests to tackle MENS and CHILDRENS patterns as well. (see ad below) I will be taking a brief hiatus to write an article on period jewelry reproduction, but then it will be back to the sewing machine. I have yards and yards of fabric just calling my name.....

WANTED: Experienced secret sewer who has lots of experience with men's or children's clothing! I'm not kidding. A e-mailed photo submission of clothing will be required before you can be added to our pack. Interested sewers contact me at cfry97@hotmail.com

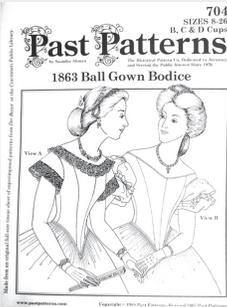
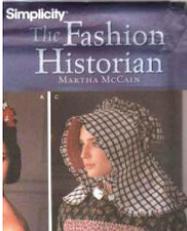
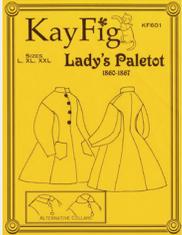
PLUS (insert fake drum roll here) in this article I am revealing some of my secret sewers! Now don't get too excited as not all of my sewers would allow me to reveal them, but I am sure that you will be surprised and excited to see the ones that have allowed me. Last article I revealed that Kay Gnagey was NOT one of my secret sewers, and I'll bet that has kept you all guessing! And next season when I start up the newest edition of pattern reviews, I will have a whole new set of sewers ready to give their 2¢s worth in reviews. Did everyone read the ad on the last page? I am not kidding! I need help with my men's and children's sections. And if you really LOVED these reviews and want to help out next year with women's patterns, email me. I'm always looking for MORE opinions!

But enough chatter, get out some paper and write these pattern numbers down, cause if you haven't bought these patterns yet, they should definitely be on your wish list!

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WHAT TO SEW continued . . .

CATEGORY	RECEIVED ★★★★★	RECEIVED ★★★★	BEST OF THE BEST WINNER
CHEMISES	<p>PAST PATTERN 707 LAUGHING MOON #100</p>	<p>GALLA ROCK 402 ELIZABETHSTEWARTCLARK.COM SIMPLICITY #2890</p>	
DRAWERS	<p>HEIDI MARSH LU-OD-1 ELIZABETHSTEWARTCLARK.COM LAUGHING MOON #100 SIMPLICITY #2890</p>	<p>GALLA ROCK 402 PAST PATTERN 706</p>	<p>HEIDI MARSH PATTERNS 5494 North Valley Rd., Greenville, GA 95947 LU-OD-1 DRAWERS FROM AN ORIGINAL SMALL--MEDIUM--LARGE X-LARGE--QUEEN</p> <p>Basic drawers pattern, make as plain or fancy as desired. 2 yd.</p> 
HOOPS/ CRINOLINE	<p>KAYFIG 7-TIER HOOP KIT</p>	<p>FIG LEAF 209 PAST PATTERN 712</p>	
APRONS		<p>SIMPLICITY 7212</p>	
WORK DRESS	<p>GALLA ROCK 212</p>	<p>HARRIETS -- ANGELA</p>	<p>6882-212 SIZE PRICE \$45.00 GALLA ROCK SHIRT & PATTERN CO.</p> <p>GATHERED FRONT WORK DRESS</p>  <p>Galla Rock Shirt & Pattern Co. P.O. Box 2012 Greenville, GA 36101 800-451-1222 www.gallarock.com</p>
WRAPPER		<p>KAY FIG WRAPPER</p>	

<p>DAY DRESS</p>	<p>GALLA ROCK 210 SIMPLICITY #2887</p>	<p>FIG LEAF 201 PEACHTREE MERCANTILE 206 LAUGHING MOON #111 PAST PATTERN 702 PAST PATTERN 800 SIMPLICITY #4551 SIMPLICITY #3727 SIMPLICITY #4400 SIMPLICITY #9761 TRULY VICTORIAN TV 440 GALLA ROCK 211</p>	 <p>TIE</p>
<p>BALL GOWN</p>	<p>TRULY VICTORIAN TV240 TRULY VICTORIAN TV442 PAST PATTERN 704 SIMPLICITY #2881</p>	<p>MCCALLS #4744 SIMPLICITY #5724</p>	
<p>BONNETS HEADWEAR</p>	<p>SIMPLICITY #5740</p>	<p>TIMELY TRESSES - ELIZA CORETTA TIMELY TRESSES - FLORA FRANCINE TIMELY TRESSES - MILDRED AUGUSTA TIMELY TRESSES - JULIANA ROSE TIMELY TRESSES - LAVINA RUTH</p>	
<p>OUTERWEAR</p>	<p>KAY FIG/KAY FIG II - PALETOT 601</p>	<p>GALLA ROCK 201 - VICTORIAN PARDESSUS HARRIET'S #59-L - FITTED COAT</p>	
<p>CORSETS</p>	<p>HOMESPUN W-008 PAST PATTERN 708 LAUGHING MOON #100 SIMPLICITY #2890</p>	<p>HOMESPUN W-008 PAST PATTERN 708 LAUGHING MOON #100 SIMPLICITY #2890</p>	 <p>TIE</p>

And Now For The Moment You'll All Been Waiting For . . . **SECRET SEWERS REVEALED!**

SECRET SEWER: MARY BOGUMILL

Mishawaka, Indiana

Proprietress Victorian Treasures By Mary

www.VictorianTreasuresByMary.com



Mary specializes in custom sewing day dresses, work dresses & wedding gowns. **Mary is my go-to-person for BONNETS!**



SECRET SEWER: BRIAN DYKSTRA

Grayslake, Illinois

Co-Owner of Kauffman's Emporium

www.KaufmannsEmporium.com

Brian specializes in custom sewing high quality gowns & dresses. He also specializes in civilian male attire.

SECRET SEWER: MARGARET ROTH

Aurora, Illinois

www.KaufmannsEmporium.com

Margaret portrays a upperclass civilian at reenactments and is a member of the Illiana Historical Society.



SECRET SEWER: Deborah Kelly

Danville, Illinois

Deborah is a member of the Illiana Historical Society and is one of the proprietress of The Ladies & Gentleman's Emporium. The sutlery is up at events in Illinois & Indiana & the surrounding area.



SECRET SEWER: Chelle Triplett

Peoria, Illinois

Chelle is a a member of the Illiana Historical Society, a dance caller, and a part-time seamstress.



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WHAT TO SEW continued . . .

SECRET SEWER: KATHY YURKONIS

Brooklyn, WI

Proprietress Morgan Aside

<http://morganaside.googlepages.com/>

Kathy sews women's riding habits, dresses, corsets, boys clothing (8 & up), girls clothing, and shirts for her husband.



SECRET SEWER: DEBORAH HYLAND

St. Louis, MO

http://www.geocities.com/djeh_b/

Deborah is one of the best dance mistresses that I know. She always takes great care in her period correct dance choices, and she is just as period correct in her portrayal of a civilian lady at events. She also lectures on CW knitting.



SECRET SEWER: PAT BAEHR

St. Louis, MO

Pat may have joined our group a little late in the season, but wasted no time in jumping right in during outerwear! At events Pat can usually be found portraying a woman of the U.S. Sanitation Commission.



**And Let's Not Forget
some of the dedicated researchers**

Sue Pfeiffer -- Fort Wayne, Indiana

Sue works at the Allen County Public Library. She has innumerable resources at her fingertips and was invaluable for research questions.

Mackenzie Anderson Schultz -- Sumpter, South Carolina

Mackenzie is a pattern drafter, but also a well researched individual and was a key player in connecting me with an expert on original aprons.

www.FigLeafPatterns.com

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I work a full time job as a graphic artist for a children's book company, but I am the proprietress of "A WORK OF ART". My company specializes in photography, graphic design, and period jewelry reproduction. I know that sounds like a lot of ground to cover, but each in it's own right is a work of art when done properly.

You can see my work on Originals-By-Kay.com

I am on the board for a local reenactment called General Grierson Days
griersonsociety.com

I am on the board for the Midwest Civil War Civilian Education
midwestcwcivilian.com

I hope you've enjoyed the reviews and secret sewer reveals, until next time



WHERE TO FIND THESE PATTERNS

Butterick, McCalls, & Simplicity can all be found in the BIG NAME STORES, but here is where you can find some of the other patterns we mention in our reviews.

Elizabeth Stewart Clark's Free Online Patterns
www.ElizabethStewartClark.com

Fig Leaf Patterns www.Originals-By-Kay.com

Galla Rock www.GallaRock.com

Harriets www.Harriets.com
www.VictorianTreasuresByMary.com

Heidi Marsh Patterns www.JamesCountry.com

HomeSpun Patterns www.JamesCountry.com

Laughing Moon Patterns www.lafnmoon.com
www.saccitydrygoods.com

Old World Patterns www.JamesCounty.com

Past Patterns www.PastPatterns.com
www.Originals-By-Kay.com

Peachtree Patterns www.Originals-By-Kay.com

Period Impressions www.abrahamslady.com
www.JamesCountry.com

Truly Victorian www.trulyvictorian.com
www.VictorianTreasuresByMary.com