

# Woodstock Dress History Collection, [1917 - 2019]

Historical Society of Woodstock Archive  
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## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Augusta Louis Davis Allen (1869 - 1947)

**Title:** Woodstock Dress History Collection

**Dates:** 1917 - 2019

**Quantity:** 1 linear foot in 1 box

**Language:** Materials are in English.

**Identifier:** 2012.038

## Biographical Note

Augusta Louis Davis Allen (1869 - 1947) began making and selling Woodstock dresses in 1917 to pay for coal to heat her family's home. Already an accomplished seamstress, she designed the dress pattern and sewed it at her kitchen table.

In the early 1920's Mrs. Allen made costumes for the different balls and Maverick Festivals. She was an active member of the Guild of Craftsman and one of the first to display at the Woodstock Market Fair. Each Saturday during summer, you would find her beautiful dresses and aprons for sale. Her Tyroleon skirts, blouses, and quilted jackets with silver buttons were artistic and popular. Her dresses sold for around \$25.00 and the aprons for \$1.50.

## Scope and Content Note

Collection details the creation, history, images, originals, and dressmaking patterns for the Woodstock Dress.

## Arrangement

Collection arranged in two series with additional materials in other collections.

Series I. Photographs and documents.

Series II. Patterns and Woodstock Dress Reimagined

Dresses in Related Archival Materials noted below.

Materials have been accessioned and curated by an archivist from the Historical Society of Woodstock's collections. Additional donations by Deborah Heppner and Vicky Anderson.

## Access Points

### Subject Names

- Allen, Augusta Louis Davis (1869-1947)
- Heppner, Deborah née Allen
- Heppner, Richard
- Brown, Ruth née Allen

### Document Type

- Photographs
- Dressmakers patterns
- Dresses
- Newspaper article
- Museum programs

### Subject Topics

- Selling—Dresses
- Dressmaking
- Fashion design
- Woodstock Dress
- Maverick Festival
- Dance
- Cheats and Swings

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

Collection comes from Historical Society of Woodstock's collection and donations from Deborah Allen Heppner, granddaughter of Augusta Allen, 2011.

### Conditions Governing Access

Materials are open without restrictions.

### Conditions Governing Use

Woodstock Dress Pattern rights museum use only, other requests by HSW permission.  
Other materials are open without restrictions.

### Preferred Citation

Published citations should take the following form:

Identification of item; accession number; date; Woodstock Dress History Collection; box number; folder number; Historical Society of Woodstock Archive, Woodstock, NY.

## Processing Information

Cheats and Swings Square Dance Club collection re-accessioned by Jessica Kerr in July 2022. Woodstock Dress History Collection accessioned and Finding Aid created by Jessica Kerr in July 2022.

## Related Archival Materials

**2007.012** Cheats and Swings Square Dance Club collection

**2005.078 (.009, .010, .012)** Original dresses made by Augusta Allen donated by DJ (Diana) Stern

**2007.002.001** Copy of Woodstock Dress by Renee Brody

**2007.003.001 (.002, .003)** Original dresses donated by Jane Allen and Deborah Heppner

**2010.008.001** Original dress donated by Holly Green Emerick

**2010.054.002 (.003)** Original dresses donated by Cornelia Rosenblum

**2011.036.001 (.002, .003, .004)** Original dresses donated by Deborah Heppner

**2013.085.006** August Allen People File

**2013.085.007** Ruth Allen Brown People File

**2018.008.001 .002 [J5]** Woodstock Dress Pattern of Augusta Allen Dress (copied by Vicky Anderson: one muslin, and two paper copies),

**2022.003.001 .002 .003** Original dresses donated by the Olive Free Library

Additional dresses at Woodstock Library

## Collection Inventory

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	Museum/exhibition labels	2018
	2	Photograph	
	3	Photographs Ruth Allen Brown	
	4	Photographs Deborah Allen Heppner & Richard Heppner's wedding	1984
	5	HSW "Woodstock Dress Reimagined" program materials	2019
	6	History of the Woodstock Dress by Richard Heppner from Woodstock Times, Almanac Weekly	3/24/2016