

**BLUE SILK GOWN (1900), SIZE SMALL  
EAC-2014-7 (a, b)**



**DESCRIPTION:**

- A light blue silk blouse and skirt.
- The top has a front opening fastened with a double row of hooks and eyes.
- The front placket is covered with design worked in glass seed beads and pearls that continues in a band around the neck edge.
- The beaded area is outlined with a border of lace that goes from the waist along the placket up into a shawl-like collar and there is a lace insert inside the silk neck edge.
- The beads form a band around the edge of the  $\frac{3}{4}$  sleeves and there is a lace flounce added.

- There are blue ribbon bows at the sleeve edge, front centre waist top shoulder seams.
- There are bone (?) stays sewn into the dress lining.
- The skirt is basically A-line with a bit of gathering at the centre back (64 centimetre waist).
- Around the bottom of the lined skirt (from the inside out) is a double row of pleated muslin with lace trim (would look like a petticoat edge), a 10 centimetre band of ruched blue silk sewn to the skirt bottom, a 19.5 centimetre row of lace matching the lace on the top, and row of blue ribbon and bows to cover the lace edge.
- The dress is entirely hand sewn.

**MATERIALS:** Blue silk, cotton lining, muslin, blue satin ribbon, glass seed beads, pearls , lace , bone stays and metal hooks and eyes

**HISTORY:** A 'going away' dress for Anna Elizabeth Wetterau, who married Charles Karsner Miller, September 6, 1900 in Hazelton Pennsylvania. The couple then took the 6:08 train for New York where they stayed at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel before sailing to Charleston, South Carolina aboard the steam ship *Comanc*.

**CONDITION:** There is considerable deterioration the silk in the underarm area and there are three spots on the skirt. Some beading has come loose as well as some stitching, but considering the age it is in remarkably good condition.

**TREATMENT:** Store flat, if possible, in acid-free conditions.



*Detail of front opening.*



*Back detail.*



*Skirt detail.*