



Mrs. Abigail Casey, wife of Fort commander Col. Silas Casey, is pictured in a fashionable silk dress of the mid 1850s. Featured are pagoda sleeves with rich lace trim, a large lace collar and lace under sleeves.

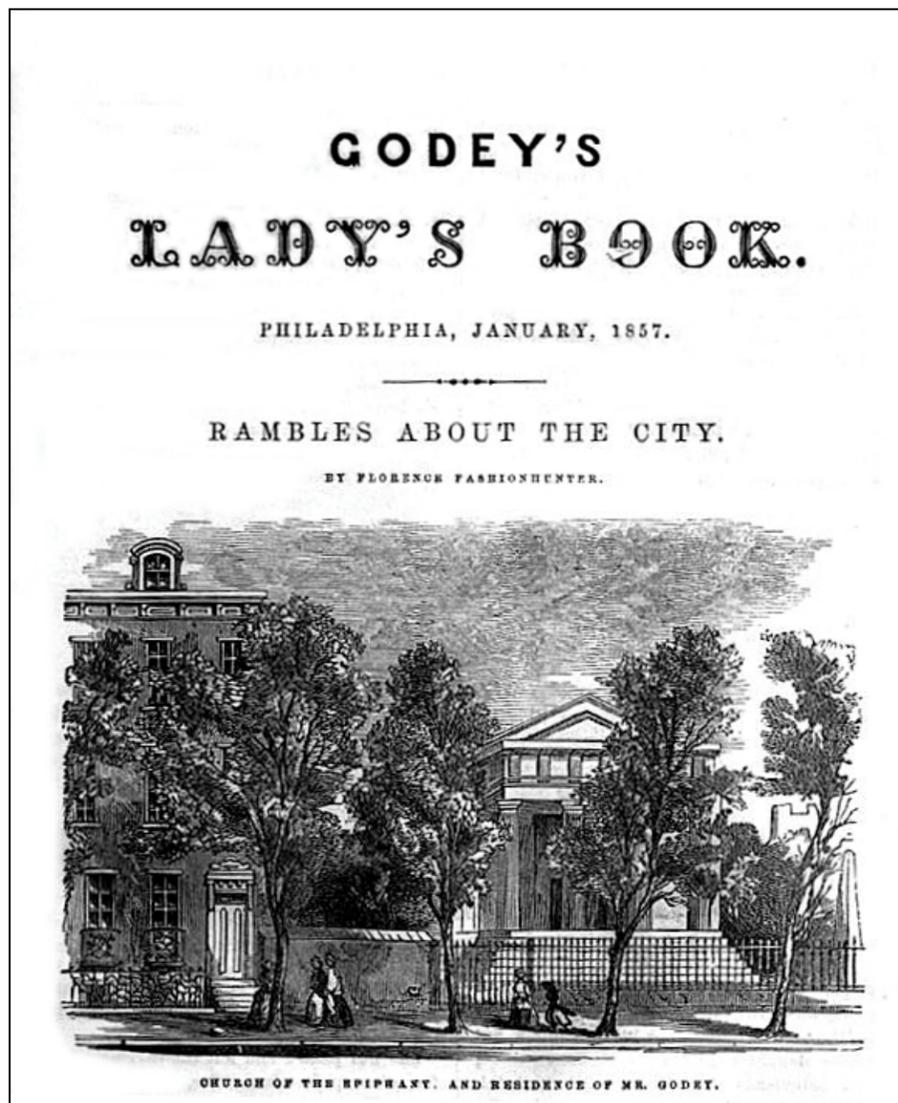
delphia at Laurel Hill Cemetery overlooking the Schuylkill River.

Of the many women who benefited from Godey's were the officer's wives of the 1850s and 60s at Fort Steilacoom. They followed the fashions, household, and other suggestions for taking care of family and social obligations.

According to diarist and quartermaster Lt. August V. Kautz, there were numerous events to sponsor and attend. Dignitaries, including "prominent men, officials of the new Territory, army and navy officers, their wives and ladies and gentlemen from Fort Nisqually were entertained at the fort." (Reese)

The July 4, 1857 diary entry mentions that "fifty or more guests from *Her Majesties Satellite* came from Olympia. We had dinner at six at which nearly fifty or sixty guests sat down." With the *Satellite* group were Hudson's Bay officials from Fort Nisqually and Fort Victoria.

Other on-post entertainment included evening visits to commander Colonel Casey's and other officers'



Through Mrs. Hale's influence, Godey's periodical matured into an important literary magazine, in addition to its fashions and other offerings.

quarters, dinners, dances, parties, theatricals and musical exhibitions.

Hope Greenberg, maintains: "With the team of Hale and Godey, *Godey's Lady's Book* was considered to be one of the best resources of life and living during the Victorian era...where romance was queen, fashion was frilly, and nonfiction pieces kept women apprised of progress in their world."

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# Fort Steilacoom

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## Godey's Lady's Book

by Carol Neufeld Stout

American women beginning in 1830 eagerly read the monthly magazine, *Godey's Lady's Book*. This publication provided them with information on fashions, etiquette, receipts (recipes), patterns, house plans, helpful hints, health advice, short stories, poetry, book notices and musical scores all designed to inform women how to be ladies. (Briczinski)

Circulation reached 63,000 by 1851 and was estimated as 150,000 at the beginning of the Civil War.

The publication featured many handsome illustrations with hand colored fashion plates that provided work for 150 female hand tinters. Black and white steel, copper engravings, and woodcuts illustrated the patterns for ladies dresses, jackets, children's clothes, bonnets, cloaks, slippers, knitted socks, crocheted booties, doilies and literary works of poems, and short stories.

Ladies also ordered items from Godey's. "The September 1858 issue contained 71...notices, a few of which are:

'Mrs. J. A. H-sent patterns June 17<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. K. L. C.-Sent infants wardrobe by Wells Fargo Express 17<sup>th</sup>. G. A. T.-Sent Douglas and Sherwood's Skirt by Adam's Express'....Twenty one of them were sent that month." (Greenberg)

Many of the articles and fashions, as was the custom of the day, were at first copied directly from other magazines such as *Grahams* and *Petersons*. In 1836 Godey decided to seek original works by American authors. He wrote in an editorial



Godey's Lady's Book, January 1856

The bride is dressed in white silk with three lace flounces, the upper one falling directly from the waist. The tulle veil is wide and full.

that "the publisher of this work, with a view of securing original contributions for its columns, will give for such articles as he may approve and publish the highest rates of remuneration offered by an periodical in this country." (Greenberg)

To reach this goal Godey acquired the *American Ladies Magazine and Literary Gazette* published since 1828 by Sarah Josepha Hale. Sarah became, in January 1837, the editor of Godey's, continuing to insist on original work and providing quality material to educate the female reader.

Mrs. Hale emphasized the importance of women. In 1846 she wrote: "We have to sow the fields. The harvest is sure. The greatest triumph of this progression is redeeming woman from her inferior position and placing her side by side with man, a help-mate for him in all his pursuits.' Her steadfast devotion and her unwavering editorial principles regarding social inequalities and the (need for) education of American women, made her one of the most important editors of her time." (Accessible Archives)

(Continued on page 3)

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 Telephone ....(253) 582-5838 or 756-3928  
 Web Site. [www.historicfortsteilacoom.com](http://www.historicfortsteilacoom.com)

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### President's Message



Hello to all our HFSA members. We ended 2009 with another great Christmas at the Fort. The year 2010 started off with Mrs. Casey's

Tea on February 20<sup>th</sup>. This year Mrs. Casey began with a fashion show followed by the tea and a silent auction. There were plenty of goodies to eat along with the tea.

Our next event will be a lecture on 1850s medicine by Michael Martin on March 21<sup>st</sup> from 2 to 4 p.m. Then on April 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. we will host our military Swap Meet and Display.

I would like to send out a special thanks to our maintenance guy, Bernie Bateman. He has been going around fixing all the little projects that keep popping up. I would also like to thank John Roten, one of our newest members. Over the past couple of months John has been working to improve the "Sutler Store" display. And "Huzzah!" to all of our other volunteers, too.

Keep checking the web site where our new 2010 schedule is posted. The schedule is also inserted in our fort brochure.

Lawrence Bateman



Cassie Young lines up the ladies for the fashion show at Mrs. Casey's Tea.

## Mrs. Casey's Tea and Fashion Review

by Nancy Covert

The scene before me could best be described as "organized chaos." Piles of corsets, hoop skirts, bodices, shoes and more filled the small upstairs room at Historic Ft. Steilacoom on a Saturday afternoon. The setting looked like backstage at a period drama production.

A group of young re-enactors: Cassie Young, Esther Pollock, Leanne Bryan, Rachel Young, and Monica Rowan, quickly bustled about inside that chilly upstairs room at the fort, trading 21<sup>st</sup> century clothing for authentic period outfits.

The women, ranging in age from 12-21, prepared for the feature attraction—a fashion show that was part of the February 20 afternoon "Mrs. Casey's Tea and Fashion Review." The yearly soiree, designed to provide a glimpse into mid-19<sup>th</sup> century social life at the first American military post in the Puget Sound region, included a corps of costumed women from the Territory in the 1850s. This year they were joined by the Tacoma-area women from Ft. Nisqually.

For most of the young ladies, Cassie explained, taking part in re-

enactments, particularly "immersion events," provides a way for them to better understand history. The women are part of a group of accomplished living history historians, who are members of Ft. Nisqually's docent-in-training program. The orientation



Rachel Young helps Leanne Bryan with her dress before the show.

is designed for area youths and adults interested in learning local history and volunteering as guides at the facility.

"Almost all of the girls involved in Saturday's event," explained Nancy Keller-Scholz, aka Mrs. Casey, "have been researching and learning the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century history for several years in their roles as living historian re-enactors." All of the clothing worn by the modeling ladies and children "was correct for the time period," she added.

Before the 2 p.m. "show-time" Mrs. Casey reminds the servants about the proper way to serve the guests—"yes, ma'am, no ma'am," etc. "History is very important to me," Cassie Young adds, as she prepares for her role in the afternoon's time-travel drama. "It's one way for me to understand who I am." Her assessment of 19<sup>th</sup> century manners and etiquette is that she believes we all could learn from those customs. "People were much nicer to one another than they are today." Young, like the other re-enactors that afternoon, is home-schooled. She is currently enrolled in on-line history classes through Thomas Jefferson College in New Jersey. In her role as Abby Casey, one of Col. Casey's two daughters, Cassie served as commentator for the Tea's style show. Besides her stylish woolen "riding habit" Cassie has a wardrobe of eight costumes. Her enthusiasm for historic research has evolved into a growing business that can be viewed at [www.miladysmodiste.etsy.com](http://www.miladysmodiste.etsy.com).

### Godey's Book (from page 1)

Gradually, with the influence of Mrs. Hale, the periodical matured into an important literary magazine containing book reviews and works by Harriet Beecher Stowe, Edgar Allen Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and many other celebrated 19<sup>th</sup> century authors. (Accessible Archives)

The writing of Sarah Hale, author of poems, short stories and books, was also featured. Godey's Editor's



Daniel and Hannah Pollock model children's clothes during Mrs. Casey's Tea and Fashion Review.



Victoria Pann models her dress as Mrs. Hepsibah Dow Crocker Gove.

Table of 1856, transcribed by Hope Greenberg, lists twelve works for

sale by Mrs. Hale. A few are: "Sketches of American Characters," \$1.00; "Northwood," or "Life North and South," \$1.00; "The Bible Reading Book," \$0.75; "The Ladies new Household Receipt Book," \$1.00; "The complete set of 12," \$19.75. Sarah also wrote the "Mary's Lamb" poem.

Godey remained as editor of Ladies Fashions, adding more colored style plates to the magazine. Sarah Hale publicly stated that she thought there should be less emphasis on the fashions.

"In every issue he gently reminded readers that Mrs. Hale was not the Fashion Editor. In September 1858 his patience was apparently wearing a little thin as indicated by his statement that 'Mrs. Hale is not the fashion editor. How often will it be necessary for us to repeat this? Address Fashion Editor, care of L. A. Godey.'" (Greenberg)

When Godey sold the magazine in 1877, he and Hale retired. They had worked together for forty years. Louis Godey died on November 29, 1878; Sarah Hale followed on April 30, 1879. They are both buried in Phila-