



Gloves and gloving

Gloves have been made in Yeovil since the 14th Century and the trade boomed after the import of French gloves was banned in 1766. By the 1930s, there were 44 glove-making factories in the area, producing up to 50% of the nation's entire output. The town's football team are still known as the Glovers.

We have an extensive collection of items chronicling the town's historic gloving industry. It features over 500 pairs of gloves dating back to the 17th Century - from long evening gloves of white kid to sheepskin mitts and golfing gloves - produced by firms such as Clothier and Giles and Ricketts as well as Southcombes in Stoke sub Hamdon.

We also have many of the actual tools of the trade, as well as a number of design drawings.

Loan boxes

We can also supply specially prepared loan boxes that tell the intriguing story of the glove making industry in south Somerset, which are available for interested schools and organisations. Please contact us for more details.



Care of the collection

All items in the collection are stored in our Environmentally Controlled Store. Some are wrapped in acid-free tissue paper and then placed in acid-free cardboard boxes, while larger items are hung on padded hangers with unbleached calico or Tyvec covers. Visitors are very welcome, so please contact us for help if you wish to view items from the collection.

Donations

The South Somerset Heritage Collection is happy to accept donations. However, it is our policy only to accept items that have a connection to Yeovil and South Somerset.

Visit Us

01935 462855

This guide was produced by staff and volunteers at the South Somerset Heritage Collection (SSDC Lufton Depot, 7 Artillery Road, Yeovil, BA22 8RP). All pictures and objects featured in this leaflet are part of our extensive collection of over 30,000 artefacts and 5,000 images covering all aspects of south Somerset's history and heritage.

To view the collection (which is only open to the public by prior appointment) contact us by phone or email:

heritage.services@southsomerset.gov.uk
For more details check out our website:
southsomerset.gov.uk



The South Somerset Heritage Collection

Costume and Textiles



From Queen Victoria's hat to Mary Quant's shoe

Our Costume and Textile collection contains thousands of fascinating items, dating back to the 18th Century and right up to the present day.

The collection is divided into nine main categories:

Women's clothing

Day and evening wear. Including a collection of wedding dresses - such as this blue striped garment **2** from 1861.

Men's wear

Both military and civilian. Including (cover picture detail) a green wedding coat from 1760 belonging to Swayne Harbin, a scion of 18th Century Yeovil society and **8** an 18th Century style buckled shoe.

Infant clothes

Including some elaborate christening gowns from the period between 1850 to 1908.

Accessories

Including a major collection of gloves plus hats (such as one worn by Queen Victoria **1**), parasols, purses and fans. Our shoe collection includes 1960s red ankle boots by Mary Quant. **7**

Underwear and foundation garments

Including one of Queen Victoria's monogrammed stockings. **2**

Dolls

Including some fascinating Dickens characters.

Lace items and samples

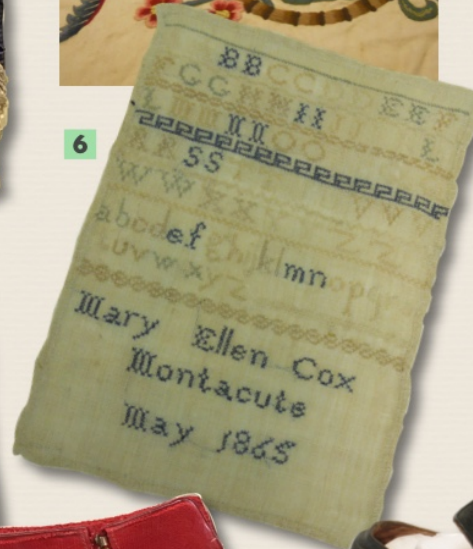
Including a varied collection of headdresses, stoles, veils and scarves.

Embroidered samplers

Including interesting collection of Victoriana. **6**

Banners and quilts

Celebrating the villages of south Somerset. **4**



3 Details from our embroidery collection including an apron thought to have been made by the Duchess of Marlborough (top), a silk Jacobean apron (centre) and a bedspread (bottom) in Jacobean style, designed by Isabel Jones of the Royal School of Needlework



5 A jacket from a Royal Horse Artillery uniform from the mid-20th Century with elaborately braided shoulders. It is thought to have been owned by Captain Bernard Pinney, of Chetnole, who was killed in North Africa in 1941