

MOM'S JOY ROOM

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CERTIFICATE OF PROVENANCE, DESCRIPTION & VALUATION

Antique Poured Wax Doll — Rooted Hair — Original Kentucky Provenance — c.1870

CLARA MATILDA

19" Antique Wax Doll — Kentucky Home, c.1870 — Written Provenance Tag — UFDC Award Winner



⌘ United Federation of Doll Clubs (UFDC) · **Blue Ribbon Award Winner**
· 1955 ⌘

MARKET VALUE

\$650–1,100

Documented Kentucky provenance, written tag, UFDC award, rooted hair intact

ESTIMATED WORTH

\$1,200–2,000

Specialty auction/collector ceiling — documented provenance + competition history is exceptional for this era



"Clara Matilda" — 19" Poured Wax Doll, c.1870
Rooted Hair — Blue Glass Eyes — Cloth Body — Original Costume
Written Provenance Tag — UFDC Blue Ribbon 1955 — Kentucky Documented

HISTORY & PROVENANCE

Clara Matilda is an antique poured wax doll of circa 1870 origin, carrying one of the most remarkable provenance records a doll of her era can possess: a **handwritten identification tag** attached to the doll herself, reading "Clara Matilda — 1870 — Kentucky Home." This tag — evidently written by a former owner or curator who knew the doll's history firsthand — establishes both her approximate date and her American home, placing her in a Kentucky household in the post-Civil War Reconstruction era.

Poured wax dolls of this period were almost exclusively produced in England, particularly by the great London wax doll-making

"Clara Matilda" — 19" antique poured wax doll
c.1870 — Kentucky provenance
Gold satin bonnet with florals
Cream lace & eyelet gown, burgundy sash
Rooted hair — blue glass eyes
Original handwritten provenance tag attached

ORIGINAL PROVENANCE TAG

"Clara Matilda
1870 — [Wax]
Kentucky Home"

(Handwritten tag attached to doll — photographed in situ)

families — the Pierorris, the Montanaris, the Meechs — who supplied fine dolls to the American market throughout the Victorian era. A poured wax doll in a Kentucky home in 1870 would have been a significant luxury import, a treasured possession of a prosperous family. The poured wax technique — in which molten wax is poured into a mold and built up in layers — produced a head of exceptional realism and translucent beauty, with a skin-like quality that composition and bisque could not approach. Clara Matilda's **rooted hair** — individual strands or small groups of hair pushed directly into the warm wax — is the hallmark of the finest English poured wax dolls; it is both technically demanding and extraordinarily lifelike.

Her history took a remarkable turn in 1955, when Clara Matilda was entered in a **United Federation of Doll Clubs (UFDC)** competition and awarded the **Blue Ribbon** — the highest recognition in the most prestigious doll collecting organization in America. The UFDC, founded in 1949, established the gold standard for antique doll judging; their Blue Ribbon is awarded by expert judges evaluating authenticity, condition, historical significance, and presentation. That Clara Matilda won this award more than eighty years after her making is a testament to her quality, condition, and the strength of her documented provenance.

She is dressed in her full original-style Victorian costume: a **gold satin poke bonnet** trimmed with silk flowers, a **cream lace and eyelet gown** with puffed sleeves, and a **burgundy ribbon sash** — a complete and coherent period presentation. Her blue glass eyes and softly modeled wax face retain the characteristic warmth and serenity of the finest Victorian poured wax work.

♦ *"A poured wax doll with rooted hair, a handwritten Kentucky provenance tag, and a UFDC Blue Ribbon — Clara Matilda carries more documented history than nearly any doll of her era is likely to possess."* ♦

NOTABLE INFORMATION

- ♦ Name: "Clara Matilda" — named on original handwritten provenance tag
- ♦ Origin: c.1870 — English poured wax, Kentucky documented American home
- ♦ Size: 19 inches
- ♦ Construction: Poured wax head, rooted hair (individual

strands set into warm wax), cloth body

- ◆ Eyes: Blue glass — fixed, period construction
- ◆ Provenance: Original handwritten tag reading "Clara Matilda / 1870 / Kentucky Home" — attached to doll
- ◆ Award: UFDC (United Federation of Doll Clubs) Blue Ribbon — 1955
- ◆ Costume: Gold satin bonnet with silk florals, cream lace/eyelet gown, burgundy sash
- ◆ Marking: Numbers + character mark on back — consistent with maker's production marks

Collector's note: The combination of factors that make Clara Matilda exceptional is rare in the extreme: (1) a poured wax doll with rooted hair — the finest and most fragile construction type; (2) a handwritten provenance tag naming her and her Kentucky home, attached to the doll; (3) documented UFDC Blue Ribbon recognition in 1955, establishing that expert judges of the era examined and judged her the finest example in her class. Poured wax dolls lose value rapidly when cracked, but retain and significantly gain value when their face is smooth and their rooted hair is intact. The Market Value reflects realistic pricing for a private shop sale; the Estimated Worth reflects what a serious Victorian doll or poured wax specialist would pay at a dedicated doll auction for a piece with this level of documented history. Very few antique dolls can claim all three of these provenance elements simultaneously.

"She came from Kentucky and won a blue ribbon — and in between, she kept her composure beautifully for a hundred and fifty years."