

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, promote the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby constitute this Federal Government for the United States of America.



EDITH BOLLING GALT WILSON

First Lady (1915–1921)

Edith was born on October 15, 1872 in Wytheville, Virginia, the daughter of William Holcombe Bolling and Sally White.

Edith traced her ancestry and was a direct descendant of Pocahontas and was also related by blood or marriage to Thomas Jefferson, Martha Washington, Letitia Tyler and the Harrison family.

When she was 23 years old, she married Norman Galt on April 30, 1896. He died in 1908. They had one son who died in infancy. Upon her husband's death, she inherited Galt's, a legendary silver and jewelry store.

In February 1914, she met the widowed Woodrow Wilson and it was love at first sight. He proposed marriage to her only three months after meeting her. They were married in 1915 at her Washington, D.C. home. They had no children.

Edith was the first First Lady to travel to Europe in her official capacity. She was also the first woman to be considered as a Vice Presidential candidate, in 1928.

Edith died at age 89 at her home in Washington, D.C. on December 28, 1961.

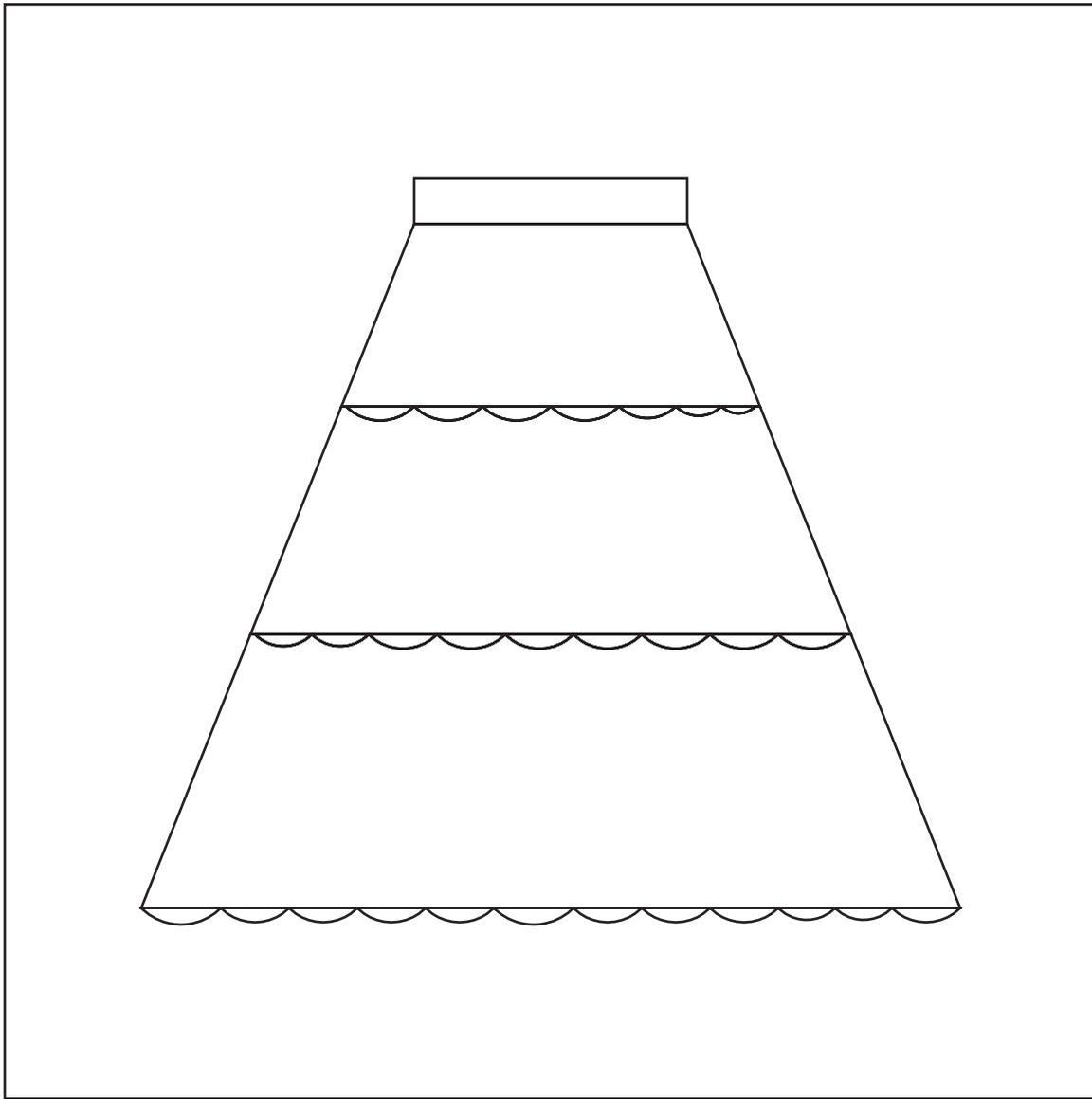
"So began my stewardship. I studied every paper, sent from the different secretaries or senators, and tried to digest and present in tabloid form the things that, despite my vigilance, had to go to the President. I myself never made a single decision regarding the disposition of public affairs. The only decision that was mine was what was important and what was not, and the very important decision of when to present matters to my husband."

~Edith Wilson



Edith's Petticoat Government

Edith's block represents the fact that while her husband was bedridden with a stroke, she began to screen his mail and visitors. This led to accusations of a "Petticoat Government"—suggesting that Edith, not Woodrow, was running the government during this time.



Edith's Petticoat Government

Making the Block

Use $\frac{1}{2}$ yard of $\frac{1}{2}$ "-wide lace. Cut a 7" x 7" background square. Cut 1 each of the following: 2" x 6", $1\frac{3}{4}$ " x 6", 1" x 6" out of the same fabric. Cut 1 piece 1" x 6" for the waistband of the petticoat. Sew lace to the top of the bottom 2 strips and to the bottom of the bottom strip. Sew the 3 strips with the lace together having the smallest strip on the top. Sew the $\frac{1}{2}$ " waistband to the top. Cut out using a 60 degree triangle. Appliqué to the background.