



TRACING THE THREADS:
**ANN LOWE AND THE ART
OF COUTURE AND
COMMERCE**

ELEANOR BRINEN

WHO WAS ANN LOWE?





ANN LOWE: SOCIETY'S BEST-KEPT SECRET

By Thomas B. Congdon Jr.

RICH WOMEN PASS HER NAME AMONG THEMSELVES—SOME HAVE EVEN CHEATED HER. BUT FEW OUTSIDERS HAVE HEARD OF ANN LOWE, THE ONLY NEGRO TO BECOME A LEADING AMERICAN DRESS DESIGNER.

Ann Lowe arranges a strand of her hand-made ruffles on the 1937 dress that she designed for Bob Hope's daughter, the actress Jeanette Wood. Daughter of J. M. Wood, president of the Thomas Watson Co.

**WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES
BETWEEN A...**

Seamstress?

Dressmaker?

Designer?

Couturier?



Ann Lowe's Matrilineal History and Origins





ELIZABETH KECKLEY



MADAME C.J. WALKER



**LOWE'S CAREER IN
THE EARLY 20TH
CENTURY**



**GASPARILLA COURT
GOWN CIRCA 1926**



**PRINTED SILK DRESS
AND BELT CIRCA 1935-8**



**WEDDING DRESS CIRCA
1941**



**LOWE'S CAREER INTO
THE '50S AND '60S**



**DRESS WORN BY
MARJORIE
MERRIWEATHER POST
CIRCA 1954-1956**



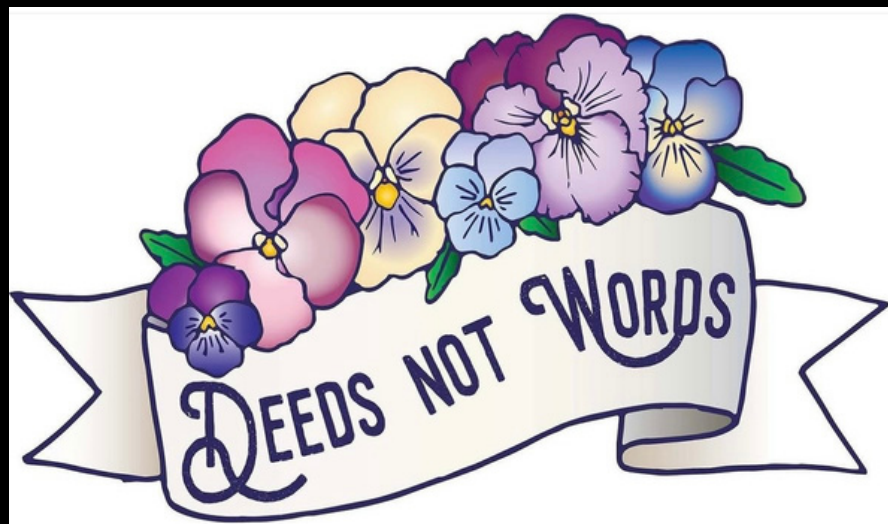
**SILK APPLIQUE DRESS
CIRCA 1958**



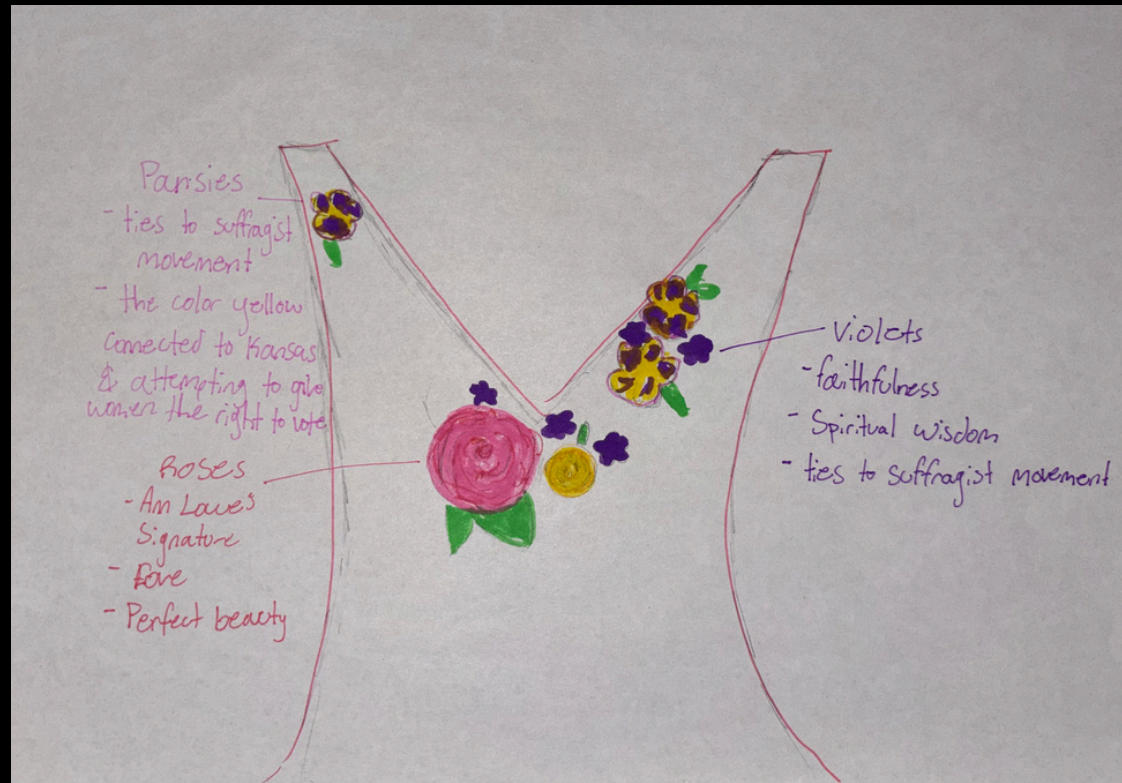
**“THE AMERICAN
BEAUTY” DRESS
CIRCA 1966-7**



**PERSONAL MATRILINEAL
HISTORY AND
CONNECTIONS TO SEWING**



2019





**THE POWER OF SELF
EXPRESSION THROUGH
FASHION AND MATRILINEAL
HERITAGE**