



Photo: Cyrus Simmons

SONG:

## SWEET ALICE BLUE GOWN

I ONCE HAD A GOWN, IT WAS ALMOST NEW  
OH, THE DAINTIEST THING,  
IT WAS SWEET ALICE BLUE  
WHEN I HAD IT ON, OH,  
I WALKED ON THE AIR!  
AND IT WORE, AND IT WORE, AND WORE,  
'TIL IT WENT, AND IT WASN'T NO MORE.

Edith Day recorded this tune from the 1919 musical “Irene.” The song itself had been dedicated to President Teddy Roosevelt’s daughter, Alice, who favored a blue color that resulted in wide adoption of the shade. “Alice Blue” appears closer to turquoise than blue.

Elizabeth McGill Henderson (1877–1981) of Pittsburgh possibly sewed for herself this silk “Alice Blue” gown, ca. 1920.

Donated by M. Frazier