

## Upper Gallery (Mezzanine) Costume Case



### **Iridescent Purple Two-piece Wedding Dress with belt**

Made and worn by Margaret French (1839 – 1916).

Margaret French, a 24 year old dress-maker, married Alexander Tylor, a 27 year old Baker, on 4th February 1864 at 16 Batchen Street, Elgin.

The dress was donated to Elgin Museum by the great grandson of Margaret & Alexander Taylor, along with the long case clock to your right which stood at one time in Margaret's home in later life at Dykeside.

To modern tastes, purple may seem an unusual colour for a wedding dress however it was common for brides to wear coloured dresses up until the mid-19th Century. The first wearer of a white wedding dress in the UK is said to have been Mary, Queen of Scots in 1558, but it was Queen Victoria, ever the trend-setter, who made the white wedding dress a "must-have" after choosing a white wedding dress for her marriage in 1840 to Prince Albert.

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