

PATCHWORK PRESS

H E B E R V A L L E Y Q U I L T E R S

History Lessons ~ Time Marches On

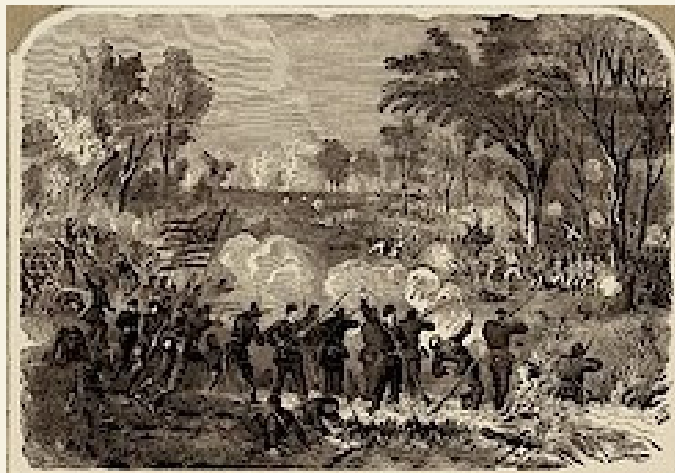
By HVQ Guild President, Company Commander Rachel Crane

The Pioneer Era years, 1840 to 1860, are rich in quilting history. Women were stronger than they ever imagined they could be with their migration trials. Many factors made women reluctant about migrating west, one of which was their close ties with women friends and family. Most likely these dear friends would never see each other again. To ease this separation friendship quilts were sometimes made for the woman leaving for westward lands. A friendship quilt served as a remembrance of dear ones left behind.

There was much preparation necessary before these families could begin their travels. Publications listed needed items including firearms, food for about 6 months and bedding including two or three blankets or comforters for each man, woman and child. It was suggested that each family should bring enough bedding to last a few years after arrival in the west; a hint that both quilting supplies and time on the part of the quilter would be scarce on the frontier.

Little quilting was done on the trail. A few women managed to piece

some quilt blocks or perhaps a whole quilt top but more often women knitted or mended clothing during the short breaks and occasional layovers. Any fine sewing would



have been impossible while traveling and difficult in the poor light of a camp fire.

Once a pioneer family reached their destination quilts and blankets were still needed for uses beyond bed coverings. Instead of keeping rain and wind out of the wagon they covered windows and doors of log cabins and dugouts. Sometimes they were used to partition off a room in an otherwise one room structure. There was a need for emotional sustenance as well. Putting a favorite quilt on the bed gave a woman a

sense of connection with her former way of life. Something of beauty was very much needed in her barren home.

One pioneer woman in Texas recalled how she was left alone in the dugout while her husband went to get firewood, a task that took a week. During his absence a major dust storm came up. For three days the wind was so bad she had to tie a rope around her waist to go to care for the cow. The sound of the wind was frightening and all she could do was worry and endure. She spent those days quilting in the dugout and related, "If I hadn't had the piecing, I don't know what I would have done."

If we didn't have our piecing what would we do? I suppose we all enjoy it for the some of the same reasons our foremothers enjoyed it. For me it brings a sense of accomplishment and joy, allows me to create, keeps my family and friends warm, provides a peaceful time when I work on a quilt, and connects me to my past.

See more at:
www.womenfolk.com/historyofquilts

A P R I L ~ F o r t i f i c a t i o n ~ P i o n e e r E r a

PIECED QUILTS: Making a pieced quilt was not common before 1840 when the manufacture of textiles moved to being factory based. Ordinary women no longer had to spend hours a day spinning. At last women could find the time to be more creative

including the sewing of quilts.

HAND PIECING: This month's guild meeting will feature a lesson in hand-piecing by Cat Beckstead. Join us as we explore this time-tested method of quilting.

See you at guild!



H V Q G u i l d Q u i l t 2 0 1 1

March Blocks of the Month use Flying Geese in the DUTCHMAN's PUZZLE and STARS & STRIPES. All patterns and information is available for guild members on the guild website www.hebervalleyquilters.com



Be sure to visit the guild blog often to see the creativity of our guild members!

<http://hebervalleyquilters.blogspot.com>

Make a comment and your name will be entered in a monthly drawing!

R E T R E A T M a y 2 0 - 2 1

Battalion Furlough Officer Tamara has been busy preparing for next month's Retreat Encampment at the Heber Valley Camp. Those attending the retreat are invited to participate in a pin cushion exchange. Tamara will issue packets of your FURLOUGH ORDERS at guild meeting.

R o u n d R o b i n G r o u p

REMINDER: Round Robin participants should bring back their Round 2 quilts to trade for the next border. Please report to Staff Sergeant Cat to receive your next assignment. You can see pictures of ROUND 1 on the guild blog. We're excited to see what Round 2 will bring!!

UTAH Quilt Guild News: *Quilt Festival*, September 24-27, 2011, Marriot Hotel, Provo, UT
Our area rep, Barb Murdock, will be bringing Quilt Fest fundraiser items for sale. IKEA bendable spotlights, \$15, and vinyl project bags, \$10. Fat quarters to benefit the Susan G. Komen breast cancer research foundation are still available for \$5 each.

For more information see www.utahquiltguild.org

C h e c k l i s t

PLEASE BRING:

- Round Robin quilt with Round 2 border attached and ready to trade*
- Finishing Bee Finished UFO or a PINK Fat Quarter*
- Sew & Tell including your HVQ Blocks of the Month*
- Quilted Nametag
- Checkbook for Quilt Fest fundraiser items

* (if participating)

U p c o m i n g E v e n t s

Now through Jan 15, 2012 M-F 9:00 am to 9:00 pm, S-S 10:00 am to 7:00 pm

Church History Museum Exhibit ~ *Pieces of Me: Quilted Expressions of Human Ties*

45 North West Temple Street, Salt Lake City, UT

www.lds.org/church/news?lang=eng

Special Event—Thursday, April 7, 2011 6:30 to 8:30 pm

Church History Museum ~ *Quilting Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*

Cody Mazuran, Carol Morgan, Carol Bitner, Beth Ann Neville

Author Carol Nielson: *The LDS 14th Ward Album Quilt*

Researcher Suzanne Hudson: *Finding My Ocie Mamma*

Saturday, April 9th, 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Seasons of Home

Amy Ellis Open House/Trunk Show ~ *Modern Basics*

6 South, 200 West, Midway, UT

www.seasonsofhome.com

April 22nd—23rd, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Dixie Quilt Guild Biennial Quilt Show ~ *Festival of Fabric Arts*

Dixie Center, St. George, UT

www.dixiequiltguild.com

May 5th—7th 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Thursday/Saturday, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm Friday

Home Machine Quilting Show ~ *It's A Holiday!*

South Towne Exposition Center, 9575 South State, Salt Lake City, UT

Quilt Shows and Displays, Entertainment, Classes, Vendors, \$27,000 in prizes

\$10 per day, \$25 for 3-day pass, FREE if attending a class. Discount Tickets available

ENTER your quilts and quilted garments

Quilt Entry Forms due (picture & description) online or postmarked by April 9th

Quilt Submissions due by April 23rd

VOLUNTEER to help with the quilt show, and attend FREE

Contact Roberta Boyce, Volunteer Coordinator: reboyce@veracitynetworks.net

TAKE A CLASS—Choose from 100 classes taught by national instructors

SHOP—More than 200 booths to see, try and buy!

www.hmqqs.org