

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

Two types of quilts were made for the war effort during the American Civil War. The first type of quilt was used to raise funds for the war. The Northern ladies held wonderful and large bazaars where gorgeous quilts were made and auctioned off to the highest bidder. The Southern ladies worked on what were called 'gunboat quilts'. They are the same amazing quality as those made in the North, but the auctioned funds went directly to build more gunboats for the Confederacy's Navy.

The second type of quilt made for the war effort was quilts to be shipped directly to hospitals or to the soldiers in the field. During the first part of the war, many ladies cut up their own large family quilts into 3 pieces to make cot sized quilts, but as the war went on, both ladies in the North and the South made quilts and 'comforts' specifically for the soldiers that measured somewhere around seven feet long and four

and half feet wide. This size allowed soldiers in the field to roll them up in their bedrolls and pack them on their backs, and they also fit a hospital cot or bed.



Very few of these cot sized quilts are around today. They were used until they wore out and then used again, or soldiers were often buried in their quilts and blankets. Even though there are not many surviving cot sized quilts, they were very important to the soldiers and their morale. There is a story that one soldier was injured and was in a field hospital not doing very well. His symptoms were not

that bad, but he was not responding and was intent on passing away. His buddies came to see him and started talking about the writing on the quilt that covered him. They read a few

phrases that the ladies who had made the quilt had written and signed, and then they read a message followed by his wife's signature. This was a very common practice among ladies' sewing groups during the war; those that worked on the quilts would write a message of hope and home, and then sign their

names and their city. The soldier immediately recovered.

Many quilts were made during the civil war years of 1861-1865 that have survived, and one of the most celebrated is that made by Jane Blakely Stickle in 1863. It contains 169 beautiful square sampler quilt blocks and 52 pieced triangle quilt blocks in its border. It was immaculately made and resides in a museum for all to see

J U L Y ~ L e t t e r s f r o m H o m e

and enjoy. Jane named her quilt *In War Time*, but we commonly refer to it today as 'The Dear Jane Quilt.'

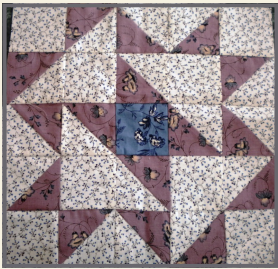
There were many reasons ladies made quilts during a turbulent time in our nation's history surrounding the American Civil War, and there are many reasons we make quilts today. We are lucky we have such a wonderful interest that can tie us together in time. So whether you make a gorgeous fundraising quilt, a simple soldier's cot quilt, an amazing Dear Jane quilt, a

150th anniversary commemorative quilt, or just wish you had time to, you can honor history and the ladies that were a part of our nation's wonderful history.

**Sheets and Quilts are now very much wanted. The latter should be seven feet long, four and a half feet wide and may be made of old calico or delaine, with cotton quilted firmly between, so that it will not lose its place on being washed.* Soldiers' Aid Society in Northern Ohio, 1863*

J U L Y ~ L e t t e r s f r o m H o m e

July's Guild meeting will feature a lesson by Rachel Crane on the modern phenomenon of "Dear Jane" quilts.



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

Block Patterns 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!

F i n i s h i n g B e e

For those participating, remember to bring your finished UFOs for June, or a BLACK Fat Quarter to add to the pool.

March—PINK, April—YELLOW, May—PURPLE, June—BLACK, July—WHITE.

U t a h Q u i l t G u i l d

Quilt Festival, September 24-27, 2011
Marriot Hotel, Provo, UT

For more information, talk to Barb 654-0656
or visit their website: www.utahquiltguild.org

C h e c k l i s t

PLEASE BRING: *Sew & Tell Projects, *Quilted Nametag

See you Thursday!!