



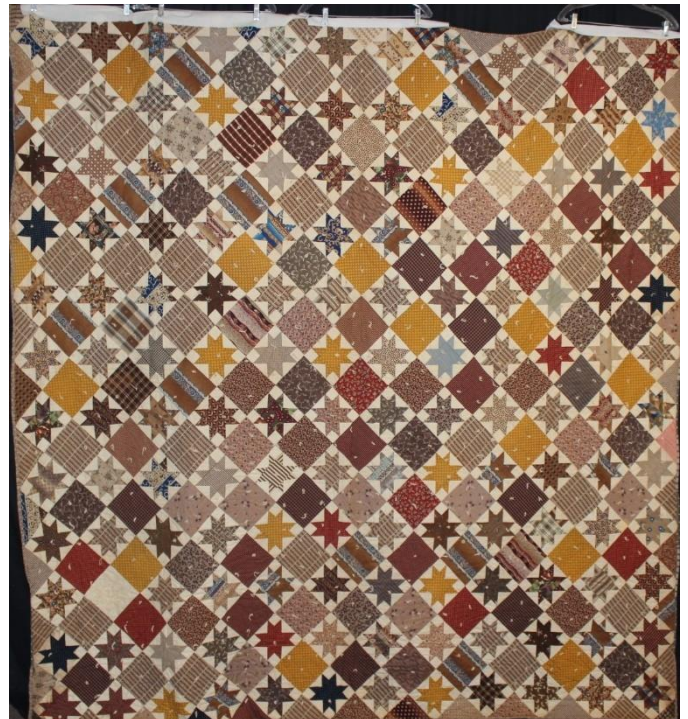
BILLINGS FARM & MUSEUM

FROM THE COLLECTION: QUILTS

Quilting is an age-old craft of stitching layers of fabric together. The top layer is typically comprised of a pattern pieced together from fabric or appliqued designs. While the back layer can be plain or pieced. Some quilts have a batting in the middle to added thickness, warmth, and/or texture.

“Quilting” refers to the stitching or tying that binds all these layers together. The stitching can be intricate and add more design to a pattern or it can be simple and purely functional. A tied quilt leans more toward function than design, while a quilting can enhance the design.

Pieced tops are usually formed by making smaller “blocks” that are then laid out into the desired formation. In a 9-Patch quilt (below left), there are nine small squares pieced together into a singular large square block. While the Variable Star below is comprised of blocks with stars and blocks of single squares of fabric.



FROM THE COLLECTION

PATTERN: LOG CABIN

Here are two examples of a Log Cabin pattern. Log cabins tend to have contrasting light and dark strips of fabric that form their blocks (right). These blocks can then be used in various layouts depending on the quilter's desired effect. While the finished products look complex and difficult, Log Cabins are simple patterns to create.

In our collection we have examples of Log Cabin patterns with "Barn Raising" layouts.



This Log Cabin quilt is also an example of tied quilting. There are tied knots in every block center and at all four corners of the blocks. This creates a secure quilting to prevent the layers from moving.

With this pattern you can count the number blocks by counting the center squares. In this quilt they are red. This quilt has 17 blocks across and 18 blocks down, equaling 306 blocks.



FROM THE COLLECTION



This Log Cabin uses an off-set Barn Raising layout. The quilting is harder to see in this quilt because it follows the lines of the outer edges of the blocks.

While both Log Cabins are similar in size, the larger blocks in this quilt reduces the number of blocks. This quilt has 7 blocks across and 8 blocks down, equaling 56 blocks. The blocks are roughly 2.25-2.5 times larger than the first example.



FROM THE COLLECTION

PATTERN: CRAZY QUILT

Despite the name, Crazy Quilts are not erratic or jumbled in design. They are one-of-a-kind every time and created with care. Each piece of fabric and stitch has meaning and intention to the quilter. The Victorian era was the Crazy Quilt heyday.

Many Crazy quilts will have embellishments from embroidery and applique.



FROM THE COLLECTION



PATTERN: TUMBLING BLOCK

Tumbling blocks are created by using three different fabrics per block cut into diamond shapes. When pieced together, they make a cube-like block. When piecing these blocks together, the pattern takes on an optical illusion.

This Tumbling Block employs a “Streak of Lightning” design. The streak of lightning is created by the zigzag of the darker pieces of fabric of the Tumbling Block.

This quilt is also identified as a “Charm Quilt” because of the multitude of fabric used.



FROM THE COLLECTION

PATTERN: 15-PATCH

Like a 9-Patch quilt, the 15-Patch is formed by using fifteen rectangular shaped pieces to form a grid-like square in a 3x5 layout. Look closely at the full quilt (below) do you see a 15-Patch block that is different from all the others?

This quilt is also identified as a “Name Quilt.” Down the center white line, 23 handwritten names are inscribed. These likely name each of those who worked as a group to create this quilt. One name, the treasurer, is marked with the date 1882.

A Name Quilt differs from an “Autograph Quilt” in that the same person wrote all the names instead of each participant signing.

