

## CIVIL WAR SAMPLER

The Civil War Sampler Quilt was made for the 150 year anniversary of the beginning of the Civil War that will occur in 2011. The quilt is based on a pattern from *Reproduction Quilts*. The blocks are associated with quilts during the Civil War, 1861-1865. The fabrics are reproduction fabrics of the time period and are used in the sampler blocks as well as the filler blocks, sashing strips and borders. The center design of 48" x 84" is the size frequently used during the Civil War because it was practical for bed roll or on a hospital cot. Quilting was typically straight lines and the quilt is hand quilted.

### **Block Information for the Union and Border States**

**Pinwheels/Union Stars**—There are 23 pinwheel blocks to represent the 23 northern states. Initially there were 20 northern states after the south succeeded at the beginning of the war but three more states joined the Union during the war. These three pinwheel blocks are below the 20 pinwheel blocks in the top row of blocks.

**Ohio Star**—This block was done in the late 1700's and continues in quilt blocks today. It is above the strip of Underground Railroad blocks and represents Ohio's efforts in helping slaves to freedom.

**Underground Railroad**—A strip of four-patch blocks are set on point to point north to Canada and freedom.

**Nine Patch**—The Nine Patch dates to the late 1700's and continues today. It was often the first block a quilter would make when learning to sew. Many of the quilts made for the soldiers were probably of this design.

**Baltimore Album Block**—During the 1830's-50's, women in the Baltimore, Maryland area perfected applique unique to their area. Most of the quilts were made of red and green fabrics with accents of yellow, orange, pink, blue and brown.

**Album Blocks**—During the mid 1800's, album and signature quilts became popular to commemorate special occasions as gifts and for fundraising. These quilts were inked with signatures, special notes, drawing, autographs of famous people and poems.

**Square in a Square**—Block appropriate to the time period and used as filler.

**Barbara Frietchie Star**—According to a poem by John Greenleaf Whittier, Barbara Frietchie refused to remove the Union flag from her home as the Rebel troops marched through her town.

**Lincoln's Platform**—This block is in honor of President Lincoln.

**Union Square**— Concern about the possible dissolution of the Union was expressed in blocks such as this one by women who could not vote but wished to express their political views. The area below the block are half-square triangles used as filler blocks.

**Log Cabin**—This block became popular in the late 1860's and is probably a memorial to Abraham Lincoln who was born in a log cabin. This is a variation of the many log cabin quilts that quilters have developed over the years.

**Order #11**—Order #11 was issued to evacuate when the area between Kansas and Missouri became so violent during the war. Years later, the story is told that a woman made a quilt of this design in memory of a similar quilt her mother had to leave behind when the order was issued.

**Half-Square Triangles**-- Blocks appropriate to the time period and used as filler. The row of four blocks below Lincoln's Platform are filler blocks.

**Princess Feather**—A motif found in Clay County, Kentucky and made by Mahulda Mize, a slave girl of 18. It is believed she may have sewn a quilt of these blocks for her owners.

**Clay's Choice** (below the Princess Feather)—Henry Clay of Kentucky, in his opposition to slavery, was quoted as saying, "I'd rather be right than be President."

**Kentucky Star**—Later chosen as a block for a commissioned quilt for the Kentucky Historical Museum.

### **Block Information for the Confederate States**

**Robbing Peter to Pay Paul**—This block was popular for utilitarian quilts prior to as well as after the Civil War in the southern Appalachian region. In other areas of the country, it was called Orange Peel and Dolly Madison's Workbox.

**Date Block**—The Civil war began in April 1861 when the Confederates attacked Fort Sumter and ended in April 1865 with Lee's surrender—lasting through five Aprils. Over 10,000 battles were fought from New Mexico to Vermont to Florida and over 600,000 men died.

**Butterfly**—An applique' block adapted from a butterfly block in an album quilt from 1850. The wife of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, is said to have stated that the south was like a butterfly, yearning to be free.

**Sun Ray**—This star block is based on a nine-patch block and is also the center for another block, Fifty-four, Forty or Fight, a slogan used in the 1830's and 40's as America and Great Britain argued over the ownership of the area which is now known as Oregon.

**Dixie Rose**—Two pre Civil war quilts using this motif were found during the North Carolina Quilt Project.

**Flying Geese**—This pattern dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and probably the most common border in medallion quilts of this period. The flying geese point to the north leading the slaves to freedom.

**Section of Eleven, Six-Inch Blocks in Lower Left Corner:**

Monkey Wrench  
Wagon Wheel  
Bear's Paw

Drunkard's Path  
Ohio Star  
Anvil

Flying Geese  
Square in a Square  
Shoo Fly

Birds in the Air  
Basket

**Seven Sisters**—South Carolina seceded from the Union in 1860 after Abraham was elected to president. Within two months, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana and Texas followed South Carolina's lead. This block represents these seven sister states.

**Carolina Lily.** This quilt consisted of 40 blocks and made in Clark County, Kentucky circa 1865.

**Sherman's March** (under the Flying Geese section and to right of the nine-patch section)—This block is also known by many other names, including Churn Dash and Monkey Wrench. As Sherman's March, it represents General Sherman's march from Atlanta to Savannah in 1864 with his 62,000 troops in which a sixty-mile wide path of destruction destroyed the south.

**Nine Patch**—The Nine Patch Block is the most utilitarian, quick and easy to construct of quilt designs. By the middle of the war, the south was forced to return to home production of textiles when cut off from manufactured goods.

**Evening Star** (under Sherman's March block)—Star blocks were very popular in quilts throughout the 1800's.

**Confederate Stars**—The thirteen southern states of the Confederacy are represented in the lower portion of the quilt. The applique' stars are five-pointed, a design made by paper fold cutting and the technique that Betsy Ross supposedly used to cut the stars for the first American flag.

