

Early Date-Inscribed Patchwork Quilts Attributed to America

Barbara Brackman & other Quilt Detectives 2008

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18th- Century Patchwork Quilts

15 quilts as of October 2008.

Quilt historians love to make lists. Here's one I have been compiling about American quilts with a date before 1800 actually inscribed on them. These earliest quilts show us how style and pattern evolved.

Note: I haven't included wholecloth or embroidered quilts without any patchwork design.

1769 Central Kerchief. Noah Webster Foundation, West Hartford, CT. Printed center panel dated 1769, broken dishes field. caption in Orlofsky, *Quilts in America* (Abbeville, 1992) 2nd ed., frontispiece says 1769 *stitched* on quilt (typo?)

177_ R Porter. American Museum in Bath. Shiela Betterton, *Quilts and Coverlets from the American Museum in Britain* (Bath, England: The American Museum, 1978), page 51. Block, pieced Star, applique dogtooth, swag & basket border.

1783 Deborah Wilson. Daughters of the American Revolution Museum #60.56
<http://www.quiltindex.org/basicdisplay.php?pbid=dar-a0a0g7-a> Central focus but block style with variety of pieced and appliqued stars.

1785 Anna Tuel, by her mother. Wadsworth Atheneum. Central focus with pieced wheel center, appliqued hearts, broken dishes borders. Variety of fabrics including pink glazed wool border.
<http://www.wadsworthatheneum.org/view/exhibition-specific.php?id=1818&type=Future>

1786 Elizabeth Bowman Nace, Heritage Center Museum/Lancaster Co. Block, 9 Patch, strip brder.

1787 Rachel Mackey. 1988 Sotheby Auct. Medl'n, crewel emb. center, pieced star, sawtooth brder

1789 Memphis Museum ??? This was on a list of quilts Sally Garoutte shared. I couldn't check.

1793 Mary Johnston. Winterthur Museum. Orlofsky, *Quilts in America*, in 1974 ed. Fig 34. Medallion applique tree/ life center, pieced geese, applique bow knot/swag borders.

1795 Jane Warwick Gatewood, Fawn Valentine, *West Virginia Quilts and Quiltmakers*, page 20. Medallion, cut out chintz center, diamond stars, bowknot borders.

1795 M. Campbell. Smithsonian Institution. <http://americanhistory.si.edu/collections/quilts/18th.htm>
Medallion reverse applique w/ pieced borders.

1795 Mary Jones. In *Quilt Engagement Calendar, 1988*, plate 52. Medallion with crewel embroidered center, broken dishes borders. Now in collection Art Institute of Chicago #1994.293. Quilt may be later than center. <http://www.artic.edu/aic/collections/artwork/133632>

1796 E W(ebster). Gloria Seaman Allen, "Bed Coverings: Kent County Maryland, 1710-1820," *Uncoverings 1985* (Mill Valley, CA: American Quilt Study Group, 1986) page 25. Medallion, plain fabric center, squares and rectangles in borders.

1797 Hannah John. *Ladies Circle Patchwork Quilts*. Maine issue. Medallion, applique center with stars and dogtooth borders.

1798 Ann Taylor. Gloria Seaman Allen, *First Flowerings: Early Virginia Quilts*. (Washington DC: D.A.R. Museum, 1987). Page 30. Medallion, crewel emb. center, stars & melon blocks in borders.

1798 Magdellan Howell Davis, Maumee Valley Historical Society, Maumee, Ohio. Pictured in *Quilts at Meadowbrook Hall* catalog. Medallion Star Center, pieced sawtooth and chained square borders.