

Fort Steele Heritage Town - NWMP Officer's Quarters

CQG#001 - Cranbrook Quilters Guild for: Superintendent Sam Steele

CQG#002 - Fernie Quilters Guild for: Dr. Powell

CQG#003 - Kimberley Quilters Guild for: Inspector Zachery Taylor Wood

CQG#004 - Moyie Quilters Guild for: Inspector Huot

CQG#005 - Creston Quilters Guild for: the cook's quarters

Judy Beaulac (# 084) was instrumental in accepting this project on behalf of the area guilds. Judy with Deryll White, the curator of Fort Steele Heritage Town and Noel Ranch, the Fort's display coordinator, came up with the idea of making quilts with the intent of adding "the trappings of civility" to the *North West Mounted Police* (NWMP) officers' quarters. An article¹ in the Kootenay Advertiser details that after two years of research and restoration it was only these trappings that were missing from the new exhibit, specifically "Superintendent Samuel Steele and his colleagues needed quilts for their beds". Five area quilt guilds participated: Cranbrook, Fernie, Kimberley, Moyie and Creston. Each guild was assigned an officer and asked to use vintage designs and fabric reproductions of the 1880s for the quilt.

CQG#001 - *Oak and Reel*

Quiltmaker: Cranbrook Quilters Guild

Owner: Fort Steele Heritage Town #999.43

The Cranbrook Guild's planning committee was Judy Beaulac, Judy Wright (#043) and Peggy McGowan. The project was close to Peggy's heart because her great-grandfather was an early member of the NWMP and probably knew Sam Steele. In total 19 members (see quilt label #001) worked on the quilt - nine made the appliquéd blocks and swag borders, and the others joined in the hand-quilting, which was done in the basement at Judy Wright's home. Peggy McGowan collected the appliquéd blocks and set and sashed them. When the hand-quilting was done, Peggy added the binding. The quilt was appliquéd, pieced, and hand-quilted in about 9 weeks - quilting was two mornings a week starting in March and it was off the frame on May 11, 1999. Three of the quilts were featured at the Cranbrook Guild's quilt show in June before being presented to Fort Steele later that month.

The oak and leaf pattern² was chosen for Superintendent Steele because it was a "masculine design - indeed the oak leaf symbolizes strength, dignity, and longevity." The guild felt that it was highly likely that "a group of quilters could have made such a quilt for Superintendent Samuel Steele, who was a bachelor to the time."

Pattern	Vintage pattern: ~ 1854 Emily's Oak Leaf and Reel (fiberart.typepad.com)
Subject	Oak leaf for strength
Date	Specific date: January - May 1999

¹ "A Stitch in Time" - Kootenay Advertiser, Monday June 21, 1999 by DaleAnn Shellborn

² see Oak Leaf and Reel quilt by Mary Rhodes of Kingston, Ontario, p 108 in Mary Conroy "300 years of Canada's Quilts" : Griffin House, Toronto: 1976

Size	L 76" x 75"
Overall style	Finished quilt Repeated Blocks Appliqué
Block	Appliqué Feature block: L 17¼" x W 17½", square Number of blocks: 9 Pattern: Oak Leaf and Reel appliqué
Border or frame	Border 1: W 1½", "Accent" border, one fabric, straight, Colour: red Border 2: W 9½", straight, appliqués, more than one fabric
Edge finishing	Binding: W ¾", straight, double fold, machine front/hand back Colour: red
Batting	Possibly wool, low loft
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Feature colours: green, red Motif: tonal, small floral/leaf Background colour: off-white
Top piecing method	Machine piecing Appliqué
Appliqué	Motif: oak leaf, reel, sway, crocus Method: turned edge
Backing	Cotton, plain weave Fabric type: muslin Feature colour: off-white Motif: plain/solid
Quilting	Traditional hand quilting, 5 stitches/inch Pattern: outline, in-the-ditch, parallel lines, echo, crosshatch
Condition	Unused, sun damage/fading red fabric on one side, stains

Label	Machine embroidery in red & green thread on muslin patch <i>Oak Leaf + Reel Quilt made for Fort Steele 1999 by:</i> <i>Beaulac, Judy Sampert, Ileana</i> <i>Boardman, Linda. Sargent, Bernice</i> <i>Bradford, Karen. Sharpe, Lisa</i> <i>Falk, Pam. Stapleton, Ellen</i> <i>Lindquist, Mary. Wales, Juananne</i> <i>Litz, Wendy. Ward, Helen</i> <i>MacDonald, Bev. Webb, Vivian</i> <i>McGowan, Peggy. Wesley, Linda</i> <i>Petruck, Sharon. Wright, Judy</i> <i>Members of the Cranbrook Quilters Guild</i>
Comments	Fort Steele Accession #999.43

CQG#002: Stars

Quiltmaker: Fernie Quilters Guild

Owner: Fort Steele Heritage Town #999.65.01

This quilt was made by members of the Fernie Guild specifically for the quarters of Inspector Zachery Taylor Wood. The pattern and colours was chosen because the Inspector was American born; the simple star motif and red-white-blue colours are symbolic of the American flag and the military, though the five-pointed star on the flag is more common for military insignia.

Pattern	Block choice and layout by Fernie Quilters Guild
Subject	Military
Date	Specific date: Oct 1, 1999
Size	L 93" x W 55"
Overall style	Finished quilt Repeated blocks, Setting Blocks
Block	Feature block: L 7¾" x W 7 ¾", square, pieced, 8-point star Number of blocks: 25 Brackman #2138c (Square and Points ~ 1933) Secondary block: L 7¾" x W 7 ¾", square, one-fabric Number of blocks: 25 Layout: block with setting blocks, side-by-side
Border or Frame	W 7 ¼", pieced piano keys, straight Colour: red, white, navy

Edge finishing	Binding ; W ½", double fold, straight, machine front/hand back, Colour: navy
Batting	Probably polyester
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Feature colour: red, white, navy Motif: paisley/vines
Top piecing method	Machine piecing
Backing	Horizontal pieced Fabric: cotton ticking, plain weave Feature colour: blue, red, white Motif: stripes
Quilting	Traditional hand-quilting, 5-7 stitches/inch Thread colour: white Patterns: outline, cables, Celtic knot
Condition	Unused, [marking lines visible]
Label	Muslin patch <i>Quilted by the Fernie Quilters Guild for Inspector Zachery Taylor Wood Fort Steele RCMP Exhibit Oct 1, 1999</i>
Comments	Exhibit was NWMP (North West Mounted Police) Fort Steele Accession #999.65.01

CQG# 003 - *Feathered Star*

Quiltmaker: Kimberley Quilters Guild

Owner: Fort Steele Heritage Town #999.44

Members of the *Kimberley Quilters Guild (North Star Quilters Society)* made this medallion quilt. Mary Frick, guild member and owner of *Sew Creative Chalet* had previously made a 12 block, sash and block quilt of this pattern. She liked the vintage block and the idea of a whole top design. She thought it was challenging enough to appeal to the guild members. She put out the challenge and 12 quilters committed to helping her create the quilt. Mary drew-up the pattern on graph paper and streamlined the directions. The fabrics are reproduction designs from *RJR Fabrics*, San Pedro, CA. In the mid 1900s, the *Smithsonian Institute* reproduced vintage fabrics to enable contemporary quilters to create versions of historical quilt designs. Later RJR Fabrics collaborated with the Smithsonian to offer a better quality cotton fabric. This is the fabric that Mary bought for this quilt. The quilt was hand-quilted on a large frame that had been made by Mary's husband, Albert.

The quilt was presented at Fort Steele Heritage Town in May 1999 by Mary and Albert Frick, Tanis Rye, and June Owen. It was made specifically for Dr Powell's quarters in the North West Mounted Police barracks. The guild surmised that being a doctor, Powell would be from a wealthier family, so his was the most elaborate quilt made by the guilds.

Pattern	Vintage pattern: Barbara Brackman cites it labelled as <i>Feathered Star</i> in 1929 in Ruth Finley's book, "Old patchwork Quilts". This layout by Mary Frick of <i>Sew Creative Chalet</i> , Kimberly, BC in 1999.
Date	Specific date: May 1999
Size	L 75" x W 75"
Overall style	Finished quilt Medallion
Block	Pieced Medallion: L 28½" x W 28½", square Brackman #2248 (V) 2248 (Star of Bethlehem)
Border or Frame	Frame 1: W 4", straight, Colour: blue print Frame 2: W 2⅝", straight, Colour: light taupe Frame 3: W 5", straight, pieced, 16 blocks, Colour: light taupe, blue print. Brackman # 216.27 (Spring and Fall), Frame 4: W 2¾", straight, Colour: blue Frame 5: W 8¾", straight, Colour: blue print
Edge finishing	Binding: W ¾", straight, Colour: blue
Batting	Unknown, probably polyester
Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave Feature colour: blue Motif: flowers, birds, foliage, plain/solid, Background colour: light taupe Quilt fabric designer: RJR Vintage Fabrics
Top piecing method	Machine piecing
Backing	Cotton muslin, plain weave Feature colour: off white - Motif: plain/solid
Quilting	Traditional Hand-quilting 8-9 stitched per inch Thread: cotton, powder blue Patterns: feather wreath, outline, diagonal cross-hatch
Condition	Unused, stains, sunlight damage to outside of one border, visible quilt marking lines

Label	<p>Hand printed on muslin patch <i>"Feathered Star"</i> <i>arranged and organized by</i> <i>Mary Frick</i></p> <table> <tr> <td><i>Pieced by</i></td><td><i>Quilted by</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Lorna Wiley</i></td><td><i>Louise Blanchard</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Tanis Rye</i></td><td><i>Pam Walton</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Sharon Henry</i></td><td><i>Suzanne Nass</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Pat Clarricoats</i></td><td><i>Pat Clarricoats</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Jane McGregor</i></td><td><i>Tanis Rye</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Mary Glen</i></td><td><i>Sharon Henry</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Ruth Goodwin</i></td><td><i>Maureen Price</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>Maureen Price</i></td><td><i>Lorna Wiley</i></td></tr> <tr> <td><i>June Owen</i></td><td><i>Mary Frick</i></td></tr> </table> <p><i>Mary Frick</i> <i>These members of the Kimberley Quilters Guild</i> <i>made this quilt for Dr. Powell's room in the NWMP</i> <i>headquarters at Fort Steele Heritage Town.</i> <i>May 1999</i></p>	<i>Pieced by</i>	<i>Quilted by</i>	<i>Lorna Wiley</i>	<i>Louise Blanchard</i>	<i>Tanis Rye</i>	<i>Pam Walton</i>	<i>Sharon Henry</i>	<i>Suzanne Nass</i>	<i>Pat Clarricoats</i>	<i>Pat Clarricoats</i>	<i>Jane McGregor</i>	<i>Tanis Rye</i>	<i>Mary Glen</i>	<i>Sharon Henry</i>	<i>Ruth Goodwin</i>	<i>Maureen Price</i>	<i>Maureen Price</i>	<i>Lorna Wiley</i>	<i>June Owen</i>	<i>Mary Frick</i>
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Comments	Fort Steele Accession #999.44																				

CQG#004

Quiltmaker: Moyie Lake Quilters

Current Owner: Fort Steele Heritage Town (999.23.01)

The members of the *Moyie Lake Quilters Guild*, created this quilt for Inspector Hout of the North West Mounted Police. The feature block is a Bears Paw - selected for its masculine style and as a symbol of the rugged country the Fort occupied. The quilters choose the Fleur-de-lis hand-quilting pattern to adorn the setting blocks of this quilt as the Inspector was French Canadian.

Pattern	Bears Paw block with Fleur-de-lis embossed through hand-quilting on plain blocks
Date	1976-1999 Specific date:1999
Size	L 79" x W 78"
Overall style	Finished bed size quilt Layout - straight set blocks with border Repeated blocks Alternating blocks (setting squares)
Blocks	L 11 ½" x W 11 ½" Feature block: Brackman #1879 (Bears Foot~1897) Secondary block: setting square 25 blocks (13 Bears foot, 12 setting squares)

Border or Frame	1. W 2 ½" (one fabric, white) 2. W 3 ½" (one fabric, blue) 3. W 4" (one fabric, red)
Edge finishing	Binding: W ½", straight, machine front/hand back, double fold, one fabric (red), mitred
Batting	Unknown, possible polyester
Top fabric	Cotton: Smithsonian reproduction fabric, plain weave Feature Colours: blue, red, white Background colour: white
Top - piecing method	Machine
Backing	One-piece Muslin, plain weave Colour: white
Quilting	Traditional Hand: 6 stitches-per-inch Thread colour: blue Patterns: in-the-ditch, parallel lines, cables, fleur-de-lis, interlocking twists/scallops
Condition	Unused Sun faded
Label	Muslin patch, hand printed <i>Moyie Lake Quilters 1999</i>
Comment	Fort Steele Accession #999.23.01

CQG#005 Utility Quilt

Quiltmaker: Ella Prins (nee Willhelmina)

Restorer: Creston Valley Quilt Guild

Current owner: Fort Steele Heritage Town (#999.45)

The Creston Guild, after researching what style of a quilt would be on a cooks cot, decided to restore a vintage quilt owned by one of its members. It was specifically "for the kitchen area of Kootenay Post; a cozy spot for the cook's cot". The label holds the information about the quilt: *This utility quilt was made by Ella Prins, nee Willhelmina in Killaloe, ON in 1936.*

The quilt was passed down to her eldest daughter Norma Houston, nee Prins, of Creston, BC.

Norma donated the quilt to the Creston Valley Quilters who restored the quilt and then presented it to Fort Steele in May 1999.

This was a common style of a home use quilt in the 30s and later - likely made from scraps taken from clothing that would go to the rag-bag or sometimes scraps were purchased from garment making companies to make quilts - men's suits or work clothes.

Pattern	Utility quilt
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Date	1930-1949 Specific date: 1936 Restored date: 1999
Size	L 74" x W 52¾"
Overall style	Finished quilt One-patch (rectangles) Block
Blocks	Block: L 5½" to ¾" x W 4" Number: 169 rectangles (13 x 13) Brackman #131a (Hit and Miss - Finley 1929) Layout: side-by-side
Edge finishing	Binding: ⅝", straight, single-fold, machine front/ hand back, mitred Possibly added later
Batting	None
Top fabric	Twill, wool, unknown Motif: Yard-dyed, plain/solid Featured colours: brown, blue, red Weave: novelty, plain, twill
Top piecing	Machine
Backing	One piece: wool blanket Weave: plain Feature colour: grey, mottled
Quilting	Big-stitch hand: 2 stitches-per-inch Visible knots Thread: red, possibly perle cotton Patterns: parallel lines, outline
Condition	Well used Tears/holes Sun damage Repairs
Label	Machine embroidered, muslin patch <i>This utility quilt was made by Ella Prins, nee Willhelmina in Killaloe, ON in 1936. The quilt was passed down to her eldest daughter Norma Houston, nee Prins, of Creston, BC. Norma donated the quilt to the Creston Valley Quilters who restored the quilt and then presented it to Fort Steele in May 1999.</i>
Comment	Fort Steele Accession #999.45