

Welcome to your Midweek Moments. In this week's issue we have an interesting class starting next week, here's a clue - EQ6, we have new fabric that has arrived instore and we take a look at the crucial role quilting played in the four bloody years of the American Civil War, and why so few of these quilts survive today. And last but not least we also speak to Karlene Dillon about the quilt she has made to be raffled off for Mothers Day, tickets of which are already available at Blueberries.

Stitches Through Time - Part 6



An example of a Civil War quilt showing early colonial motifs.

While the tradition of quilting in Colonial America was something still associated with the more gentle side of life, when the Civil War broke out in 1861, it quickly became part of the war effort for both the North and the South.

For the industrialised, anti-slavery North, large fundraising fairs and craft bazaars became popular and most of the items that were on sale were sewing-related, especially quilts. These donated items became more and more elaborate, utilising the most expensive fabrics and finest silks.

There were many popular styles on offer but, not surprisingly, Flag Quilts were the order of the day, with the Stars and Stripes appearing on many of them. Other popular styles were Log Cabin quilts and Album quilts. Collectively these quilts raised thousands of dollars for the war effort. Quilts were also made specifically for

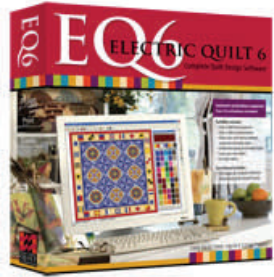
soldiers to use for warmth and as bedding, something that the military requested, even specifying the exact measurements (seven feet by four feet, which was the right size for a military cot).

The more agricultural, pro-slavery South also appropriated quilts for their own war efforts, although these women were at a disadvantage to their northern sisters as traditionally their quilts had been sewn by the slaves themselves, leaving the women with almost no experience or traditions in quilting. The South also had problems getting goods in through their ports and without a strong manufacturing base, the fabrics and materials they needed for the quilts started to quickly disappear. As the war ground on, the increasingly desperate Southerners were forced to make homespun fabric, often tearing apart mattresses and upholstery for the necessary fibre.

Although steeped in a particularly bloody period of American history, very few of these Civil War quilts have survived to the present day. Often, soldiers were actually buried in them, while many other quilts were too bloodstained and soiled to be kept or otherwise simply wore out.

continues next page...

Introduction to EQ6 with Anne Sommerlad



If you own a copy or thinking about purchasing a copy of EQ6 (Electric Quilt 6), then you should not miss this one day class with Anne, where you will get an overview of the programme and basic functions.

Class details: Click [here](#) to find out more about this class.

Date: Friday 5 March 2010

Cost: \$45.

What is EQ6?

It is a computer software program designed with beginners as well as advanced designers in mind. Use it to design quilts, draw blocks, scan in fabrics or select from over 20,000 blocks, fabrics, colours, embroidery, photos, threads, quilt layouts and borders. Or use EQ6 simply to try out colours, or print patterns in any size.

Click [here](#) to purchase EQ6 software.

New Fabric

We have had some new fabrics arrive instore, we hope you enjoy the selection.



[Bella Solids](#)



[Blush](#)

Click [here](#) for your free pattern using the Blush fabrics



[Park Avenue](#)

[More Pink Chocolate](#)

[American Vintage](#)

[Cottage Chic](#)

Show and Tell

Show us the item and tell us the story

Karlene Dillon on UFO patrol

What was your inspiration for this quilt?

It's called 'Gidget' and it's one of Monica Poole's patterns. I decided to give it a go because it involved free-form flowers, which was a method I hadn't tried before.

Did you make it for someone or something in particular?

Yes, I made it as a Mothers Day raffle prize for the NSW Police Wives and Friends Support Group, of which I'm a member. This is a group that does a lot of behind-the-scenes support work for police officers and their families, in day to day situations as well as more serious and tragic instances when officers get hurt or killed while on the job.

continues next page...



How long did it take you to complete this quilt?

Well, as many other quilters will understand, due to time constraints and working full-time, it became a UFO (unfinished object). I came down to the Sit and Sew classes at Blueberries and got most of the unfinished part of it completed there, with Susan Carr's assistance. That took me about three months to complete.

Have you been quilting for long?

Yes, I've been making quilts for about 18 years. I'm planning on finishing another UFO for my next project.



Raffle tickets for the Mothers day quilt are \$2.00 each and are currently on sale at Blueberries. All proceeds go to the NSW Police Wives and Friends Support Group.

Til next week!
The Blueberries Team.