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Olde Kentucky Quilts: Their Traditions, Their Beauty, Their Place in Present Day Homes

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Old Kentucky Quilts

Their traditions — Their beauty
Their place in present day homes

LOUISVILLE BEDDING COMPANY, Incorporated
Manufacturers, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
The romance of Quilt making

The quilt is the most interesting as well as the most effective bed covering women have ever employed. It is, indeed, one of the most romantic of all the articles that contribute to the beauty and comfort of our homes. Queens and peasants, nuns and heroes, missionaries and pirates, scholars and isolated mountaineers have had their part in the thrilling story of the designing and making and collecting of quilts.

Many charming traditions and much fascinating mystery go into this story which has its origin in antiquity. But with the Eleventh Century, the art of quilt making takes a definite place in history. We are told that some of the stitches still used were given Spanish artists by the Moors in the Thirteenth Century. And no less a person than Botticelli is said to have introduced the art in Italy in the Fifteenth Century, though the uses of patchwork were known over Europe long before that time.

Probably the most appealing of royal quilt makers was Mary, Queen of Scots. A quilt said to have been made by her may be seen in Hardwick Hall in England and there is ample evidence that she, like many women who have followed her, found comfort during the dark hours of her sad life in the beautiful occupation of quilt making.
Our Grandmothers’ Quilts

Notwithstanding its long-established and impressive position in European annals, notwithstanding the fact that quilts have been made in nearly every land on the face of the globe, the quilt is, in a sense, a product of Early America. The English and the Dutch brought the arts of patchwork and quilting to this continent but our grandmothers adapted and developed the arts in a manner which made them peculiarly their own.

Fiction and history give us many delightful pictures of the quilting bee and in Aunt Jane of Kentucky, Eliza Calvert Hall shows the power of quilts to fasten themselves upon the heart and the imagination. In days when few women traveled even to the nearest village, patterns for quilts made their way from Canada to Georgia, from the Atlantic coast to the Western frontier. A new pattern was the most exciting discovery of a month and a completed quilt the proudest achievement of a year. The humblest home, as well as the most magnificent, had its collection of beautiful quilts.

Turkey Foot Quilt on modern reproduction of a spool bed.

[ Four ]
CHAPTER TWO

The great loss and the difficult quest.

With the passing of the years, that unaccountable period came when mellow old mahogany was discarded for golden oak and lovely old quilts were replaced with uninteresting white spreads. During those years when America went blind to the beauty that characterized homes of the Colonial period and the Early Republic, many old treasures were lost and destroyed.

A few years ago when we re-discovered the beauty and simplicity of the house-furnishings of our ancestors and began searching attics and out-buildings for antiques, the quilt became the object of many eager quests. Often, however, the quest was disappointing and the woman whose grandmother had possessed dozens of exquisite quilts now counts herself fortunate if she owns a single one of them. Most women not only have not inherited one such treasure but have been unable to secure one.

Even the woman who has old quilts realizes that they are rare treasures. She hesitates to use them constantly. Yet, instinctive taste, as well as the standards of the decorator, calls for quilts as bed coverings. Heretofore it has been necessary either to subject rare old quilts to daily use or to substitute unsuitable bed coverings.

FEATHER STAR QUILT ON DOUBLE CANOPY TOP BEDSTEAD

The pieces of furniture in this room are Colonial in period. They furnish one of the bed chambers at "My Old Kentucky Home," Bardstown, Ky.
It is a recognized fact that the accessories in house-furnishings have a great deal to do with establishing the atmosphere of a room. An antique bed, inappropriately covered, loses much of its charm. On the other hand, many women who are not so fortunate as to own antique furniture have been able to introduce the Colonial feeling into their houses by the clever use of accessories copied from Early American originals—lamps, candlesticks, clocks, quilts, and so on. Faithful copies of good old models are, for practical purposes, always preferable to pieces, however old, that lack beauty.

Reluctant as some of us may be to admit it, not every product of Early America was a thing of beauty. Nor was every quilt pieced by our grandmothers beautiful in color or design. Consequently, many women who own or collect old quilts find that, for various reasons, they are not altogether satisfactory for practical daily use.

Who has not seen a bedroom delightfully furnished with antique maple or mahogany, its windows hung with a modern reproduction of an old chintz pattern, its floors covered with modern reproductions of old rugs—its only flaw the bed covering, a necessary flaw for the reason that modern reproductions of the old quilts were not available?

Olde Kentucky Quilts make that flaw no longer necessary. With the introduction of these quilts a page is turned in the romantic story of quilt making. A new chapter begins. And this new chapter bids fair to be, in many ways, the most important chapter of all. It holds interest for every woman. No matter how limited her time, her experience, or her means, the Olde Kentucky Quilts are available for her. No matter how exquisite her home, how particular her demands, how complex her decorating problems, the charm she aspires to is obtained by the use of the rare patterns and effective colors of the Olde Kentucky Quilts.

Place an Olde Kentucky Quilt in a room entirely furnished with antiques and observe that it is altogether worthy to cover the noblest bed ever slept in by Washington or Lafayette. If a room is furnished with copies of antiques, the use of an Olde
Olde Kentucky Quilts establishes and confirms the coveted influence of the Colonial spirit. Into rooms furnished with pieces of modern design, the exquisite colors and geometric designs of Olde Kentucky Quilts bring a charm that suggests the touch of the experienced decorator. These quilts are wonderfully effective in rooms where painted and enameled furniture is used. It is, indeed, interesting to choose the tones and designs for painted furniture from those seen in Olde Kentucky Quilts. In a child's room an Olde Kentucky Quilt introduces interest and color without destroying the necessary simplicity, and a combination study and bedroom finds the Crazy Quilt particularly decorative and useful for the couch-by-day and the bed-by-night.

The wide range of colors and patterns makes it possible for every bedroom to possess its distinct individuality and, at the same time, conform to Colonial standards.

It is immediately evident that Olde Kentucky Quilts have re-captured the picturesque spirit of Early America. They have caught the glamour and romance of those far-off days. It is needless to say that they lay an irresistible spell upon rooms they adorn.

Patterns and colors of the quilts

The success of Olde Kentucky Quilts is the result of a determination to simplify the task of the woman who wishes to make her home beautiful. Long study and many experiments precede the appearance of the quilts. Scores of the most interesting old patterns were examined and the six patterns evolved for Olde Kentucky Quilts are presented with the belief that they best convey the simple beauty and distinction of the old models. Rarely indeed, except in the museums, does one see quilts that so delightfully combine beauty of design with beauty of color. The very names of the quilts have magic to flavor the atmosphere of a room—Turkey Foot, Feather Star, Pine Tree, Penny, Twinkling Star, Crazy Quilt—are these not names to conjure with! Alluring names to waken memories and to stir the imagination!

Olde Kentucky Quilts are available in six patterns, all derived from the old hand-made quilts. They are thin and light but, because of a filling of fluffy new white cotton, are soft and warm. The quilting is in zig-zag lines one inch apart. Six grades are available in both single and twin bed sizes. Strictly fast washable colors are offered, each in combination with white. In addition there is the many-colored, many-patterned Crazy Quilt which, also, is in strictly fast washable colors. Every Olde Kentucky Quilt is made under perfect sanitary conditions and is wrapped in an individual Glassene paper package.
The TURKEY FOOT Quilt

Humor and fancy are blended in the name, Turkey Foot, and this name has been given to a design which possesses unusual charm and grace. The quilts carrying this pattern are hand-piece and are made from the very best grade of sateen. The colors are Old Rose and White, Copen Blue and White, Gold and White, Helio and White, Pink and White, Light Blue and White.

The FEATHER STAR Quilt

The Feather Star was one of the most popular of the old patterns and was used in many variations and combinations. These quilts are particularly interesting because the pattern is printed and the effect achieved by the aid of the zig-zag quilting is lovely enough to excite the envy of "Aunt Jane," herself. The Feather Star is printed on very fine sateen. The colors are Copen Blue, Old Rose, Spring Green, and Helio, each combined with White.

The PINE TREE Quilt

The Pine Tree pattern was often called Tree of Life in the old days. This new version of a popular antique design is printed on fine sateen in Blue, Heliotrope, Old Rose, Spring Green, each combined with White.

The PENNYRILE Quilt

The pattern sometimes called "Star of the East" is introduced in the Pennyrile Quilt, which takes its name from a picturesque section of the Green River district of Kentucky. Printed on soft-finished cloth in a combination of rich color effects, Dark Green, Old Rose, Dark and Light Blue predominating.

The TWINKLING STAR Quilt

The delightful individuality of this pattern is due to design within design. Tiny acorn-like white figures are scattered over the ground color of the geometric Twinkling Star pattern. This pattern, also, is printed and
The CRAZY QUILT

The origin of the Crazy quilt, as we know it, does not go back as far as that of the other quilts. This fantastic pattern is said to have originated in the eighties when women led such protected, restricted, orderly lives, that they were almost forced to express their volatile moods with their needles. The Olde Kentucky Crazy Quilts are printed on good soft-finished cloth. There are, of course, many colors and patterns for each quilt. The predominating colors are Copen Blue, Old Rose, Spring Green and Helio combined with White.

Comfort and Beauty

In her valuable book on quilts, Marie D. Webster says of their useful qualities: “In summer nights they are the ideal emergency covering for the cool hour before dawn or after a rapid drop in temperature caused by a passing thunderstorm. But in the long, chill nights of winter when the snow sifts in through the partly opened window and all man-kind snuggles deeper in the bed-clothes, then all quilts may be said truly to do their duty. And right well they do it, too, as all those who love to linger within their cozy shelter on December mornings will testify.”
Olde Kentucky Pillows Suggest the Charm of Olde Kentucky Quilts

Olde Kentucky Pillows were developed primarily to illustrate the picturesque charm of Olde Kentucky Quilts, to show the quaint old patterns, the lovely colors, the materials and the workmanship that are seen in the quilts.

It is simply for the purpose of introducing these delightful quilts to you that Olde Kentucky Pillows are offered at such remarkably reasonable prices.

THE TURKEY FOOT PILLOW, $2.00
The fascinating unit of design that goes to make the Turkey Foot Quilt is wonderfully effective on this pillow. The pattern for the pillow, as for the quilt, is cut and pieced by hand. Zigzag quilting. Made of fine cotton and bound with color used in design. Tub-fast colors are Pink, Rose, Copen, Gold, Heliotrope, Light Blue. Kapok and cotton filling. Size 18x18.

THE PENNYRILE PILLOW, $1.00
The unit of design for the Pennyrile quilt is an eight-pointed, many-colored star. This design, sometimes known as Star of the East, makes the Pennyrile Pillow. The pattern on the pillow, as on the quilt, is printed on good soft-finished cloth and quilted in zigzag lines. Tub-fast colors are Dark Green, Rose, Dark and Light Blue. Kapok and cotton filling. Size 16x16.

CRAZY QUILTED PILLOW, 75c
Many shapes and many colors combine to make the charmingly fantastic crazy quilt. The pattern of the pillow, as of the quilt, is printed on a good soft-finished cloth. The quilting is in zigzag lines. Tub-fast colors are Rose, Dark Blue, Dark Green and Heliotrope. Kapok and cotton filling. Size 16x16.

Address Orders to Louisville Bedding Co., Louisville, Ky.