



ORDER NUMBER 11

by Barbara Brackman

Barbara Brackman is a quilter and quilt teacher from Lawrence, Kansas. She is a frequent contributor to QUILTER'S NEWSLETTER on old Quilt patterns and has compiled an Encyclopedia of Pieced Quilts.

A survey of quilt history reveals many patterns named after episodes in American history. Patterns like "Burgoyne Surrounded", "Whig's Defeat" or "Underground Railroad" recall long ago wars and politics better than any book of history could. One of the most intriguing of these historically named patterns is "Order Number 11", supposedly named for events in the Civil War. An examination of the story behind "Order No. 11" discloses some discrepancies as to the actual source of the pattern's unusual name.

Florence Peto in HISTORIC QUILTS (American Historical Co. Inc., NY 1939) describes the story behind the pattern name - "Somewhere near Chattanooga during Reconstruction days following the "War Between the States" quilt was resurrected. It had been buried in the ground with other treasures by a fleeing housewife when news of advancing Union soldiers spread terror through her village. When the quilt came to light its pattern exalted admiration and puzzlement for it was one not familiar to Southern quilters. It was copied and named after the Military Order for Evacuation, Order #11."

Ruby S. McKim tells another story about "Order No. 11". In her syndicated column which appeared in the KANSAS CITY STAR in 1929 she shows an applique "Order No. 11" and says that the name is a local (Kansas City) identification, attributing the pattern and name to Fannie Creeger Haller. In 101 QUILT PATTERNS (McKim Studios, Independence, Mo., 1931) McKim expands her story, "A dear little lady in her 80's, who was a little girl in Jackson County, Missouri, back in wartime had seen her mother's choice new quilt snatched from the bed by

marauders. She carried the design in her mind and years later reproduced the quilt, christening it "Order No. 11"!

McKim's anecdote seems to be historically accurate. Kansas City was placed under military order of evacuation - Order #11 - during the Civil War. Missouri was a Southern State; Kansas, its western neighbor, was sympathetic to the Union. Guerilla warfare raged between the two states with Southern zealots riding from western Missouri into Eastern Kansas to kill and burn. The Union Army posted in Kansas City attempted to solve the problem by completely evacuating the counties bordering Kansas. The entire population of the Missouri counties was required to leave within fifteen days. Homes and possessions left behind were plundered by soldiers and renegades. Kansas City's Order #11 became an issue and a long healing wound after the war. Public opinion was inflamed by books and pamphlets. George Caleb Bingham, a Missouri artist, painted two representations of innocent families forced to leave their homes. These paintings are now in the State Historical Society in Columbia.

Apparently the scars caused by Order #11 lasted until McKim's day.

No such stories of an Order #11 in Chattanooga are apparent in summaries of Civil War history. An account of an Order #11 in Memphis, Tennessee tells of General Grant's expulsion of the Jews from the state in 1862. Grant wished to eliminate illegal cotton trade. Since Jews were among the speculators, Grant reasoned that their evacuation would diminish cotton speculation and profiteering. Lincoln rescinded Grant's discriminatory Order #11 within a month, but anti semitism was to be an issue in Grant's future political campaigns. Memphis is a considerable distance from Chattanooga, but this Order #11 may be the one to which Peto is referring. Apparently the term Order #11 refers to any Military Order of Evacuation. There may be many other stories of such injustice in the Civil War.

The quilt pattern named after the military Order has other names which reflect more peaceful times. Peto says the pattern is of Dutch design from the Hudson River Valley in New York. It is most commonly known as "The Reel". The Shelburne Museum has an early 19th century version. Their catalog states that "The Reel" was named after the early line or contra dances. Ruth Finley attributed the names to "The once universal occupation of women - spinning. The reel was used to wind the threads into skeins." Safford & Bishop refer to

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the pattern as "The Reel" or "Orange Slices", both names from the earlier Shelburne catalog. Their example is an applique quilt made in 1818.

Ellen D. Wagner called the pattern "Job's Patience" in a February 1923 article in COUNTRY LIFE magazine. She mentioned that the maker had found the pattern in Cleveland. Carlie Sexton referred to it as "Orange Peel" in a 1926 COUNTRY GENTLEMAN article. Her example was made in 1824 in Virginia. "The pattern was taken from an old quilt wrapped around a trunk found off the coast of the state." The quilt was red, green and white. She repeats this story in OLD FASHIONED QUILTS and shows a nearly identical pattern which she calls "Compass".

The pattern has yet other names. An early Ladies Art Company Catalog calls it "Hickory Leaf", a name McKim repeated. This Ladies Art Pattern #70 was dropped from later catalogs. Beth Gutcheon called it "Oak Leaf" in THE PERFECT PATCHWORK PRIMER, and a Grandmother Clark pamphlet identifies it as "Irish Chain".

Of the quilts and patterns mentioned, two - Finley and the Shelburne - show a pieced pattern. The others are applique. The pattern is obviously an old one, so many of the examples are early 19th century, and it is also a popular one which traveled around the country acquiring at least nine names. But whether the name "Order No. 11" is derived from Tennessee or Missouri history, whether the name "The Reel" comes from leisure or work activities and whether the pattern is pieced or applique, it is a lovely design. The mystery and drama behind the name only add to its appeal.

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MARY SCHAFFER QUILTS ON EXHIBIT

The 4th annual Mary Schaffer Quilt Exhibit will be held at the Whaley Historical House in Flint, Michigan July 10-11-12, 17-18-19, 24-25-26. The house, located at 624 East Kearsley St., will be open between 1:00 and 5:00 pm. Admission is \$1.00. Twenty-five quilts from the Schaffer collection will be shown and the exhibit will feature five all-white quilts. A Mary Schaffer Nine-Patch quilt will be raffled with the proceeds going to the Whaley Historical House. For info: Gwen Marston, 727 Pierson St., Flint MI 48503.

A catalog of Schaffer's quilts is available. It is 8 1/2" sq. with 25 black and white photographs. All 121 of her quilts are listed with a commentary and it is very interesting to see a complete collection cataloged. It may be ordered from Gwen Marston, 928 Woodside Dr., Flint, MI 48503. Mrs. Schaffer was featured with some of her quilts in No. 21 of LADY'S CIRCLE PATCHWORK QUILTS and the Spring 1978 issue of QUILTERS' JOURNAL.



Pattern for Garden of Hearts applique available for \$6.50 including postage., as discussed in *Summer, 1980 QUILTERS' JOURNAL*. MVQA, Box 270, Mill Valley CA 94942.