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DR. JEANNETTE DEAN-THROCKMORTON holds her quilt *Rosebreasted Grosbeak and Iris* which is inscribed "Dr. Jeannette, 1951, Dorothy Rogers Jentz". She donated the quilt to the Art Institute of Chicago in 1963.

(Photo – 1958)



Pictured are both sides of the medal presented to Dr. Jeannette, 1944, by the American Physicians Art Association for her *Dogwood* quilt entered in the Tapestry section.

Dr. Jeannette Dean Throckmorton

THROCKMORTON, Jeannette Franc Dean, born in Derby, Iowa at 8 am Friday, Jan. 26, 1883. Died July 24, 1963 in Chariton, Iowa. Quiltmaker, collector of dolls, stamps, bird books. Married Dr. Charles Noah Dean, Keokuck, Iowa, on Mar. 1, 1928. Born third in a family of nine. Daughter of Thomas M. and Mary Ann Bentley. Attended Chariton High School, graduated 1904; Simpson College of Liberal Arts; graduated 1907 Keokuck Medical School. 1926 graduate Univ. of Chicago, 1925 graduate Columbia Univ. Held honorary degrees from Univ. of Nebraska, Drake Univ., and the State Univ. of Iowa. Listed 1938 edition of Who's Who among Physicians and Surgeons. Librarian of the medical department of the Iowa State Library.

Jeannette Franc Throckmorton was born on January 26, 1883, third in a family of nine with two older brothers and cousins of all sizes and ages. I would imagine her childhood was very typical of a mid-western small-town girl. It was probable that much of the social life of Derby, Iowa was family oriented and her family remained important to her throughout her life.

Dr. Jeannette, as she was known to her family and friends, completed the Throckmorton-Bentley genealogy book in 1941. The book included all six branches of the family and was full of drawings, photographs, newspaper clippings, letters, cards, locks of hair, snippets of wedding dresses, etc. and was at least six inches thick. She presented them as Christmas gifts to family members. In the inscription in the frontispiece, Dr. Jeannette quotes from an unknown source, 'It has been said, 'The best possessions of a family are its common memories,' and then goes on "to honor and preserve the memory of those who have passed to the Great Beyond, to foster a proper family feeling and pride, to keep for the future generations the record of their ancestry, these pages are placed in the hands of the six branches of the family and entrusted to their keeping." (signed) Jeannette Franc Throckmorton, Ph.B., A.M., M.D. Xmas 1914.

Dr. Jeannette attended public school in Chariton where she was a good student. Her sixth grade report card was typical for her, with grades from 92% - 100% in reading, spelling, arithmetic, language, geography and writing. The card also noted that she had not been absent even one day and tardy only once.

That was also the year she received 25 from her father for memorizing the Declaration of Independence. Two years later she memorized the Constitution of the United States which took her slightly over six months and she received \$2.00 for this feat. Both accomplishments were duly noted in newspaper articles pasted in the Genealogy book.

In 1900 Jeannette graduated from Chariton High School and was a speaker at the graduation services with the thesis "The Wisdom of Mother Goose."

When she wanted to attend college, her father insisted that she take up a medical career (her two brothers and her father were all doctors) and there is some indication that she had to agree to go into practice with her father and not marry.

While she attended the Simpson College of Liberal Arts, she played 2nd violin one year at the Conservatory Orchestra concert and in 1904 she played viola in another concert. She received her Ph.B. in June, 1904.

She graduated from Keokuck Medical School on May 14, 1907 having completed the four years of classes in three years.

When she took the State Board Medical Examination for a certificate to practice she received the highest grades of all 140 doctors who were examined by the board. She received a 94% average with 100% in some subjects. That was also the year she took up quilting.

Dr. Jeannette was associated with her father in his practice of medicine from 1907 until 1919 when her deafness became too much of a problem. Her next position was with the U.S. Public Health Service cooperating with the Iowa State Board of Health and for six years she lectured throughout Iowa and other states.

In 1920, she was sent to Belgium as a representative of the U.S. Public Health Service and entertained by the Queen, who, herself, was an M.D. Later in the same year she was elected Vice President of the Royal Institute of Public Health in England.

On March 1, 1929 Dr. Jeannette married Dr. Charles N. Dean, a former classmate from Keokuk Medical School with whom she had remained friends since graduation. Tragically he became seriously ill several hours after the ceremony and died 10 days later. His body was returned to Sumner, Illinois. He was survived by Jeannette, a daughter of his first marriage.

On the inside cover of her copy of Marie Webster's book (1), is the inscription, "Dr. Jeannette Throckmorton-Dean, Sumner, March 11, 1928."



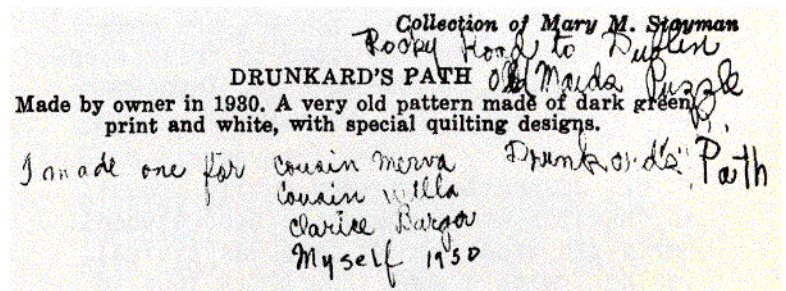
She was intensely proud of both her first and last name. Though she signed her name Throckmorton-Dean for some time after her husband's death, she eventually reversed it and used Dean-Throckmorton. She loved to have children named for her and was not above putting pressure on family members to do so.

After his death, she became Medical Librarian with the Iowa State Medical Library and continued to serve in that capacity until her death. She died holding a manuscript of one of the young students.

Dr. Jeannette entered her Dogwood quilt in the American Physicians Art Association in the tapestry division and won 1st prize (her medal is pictured on the cover). In a letter from Mildred Davison, Associate Curator in charge of Textiles at the Art Institute of Chicago, we learn that Dr. Jeannette had written to her apparently asking for advice on quilting. Mrs. Davidson wrote, "As I have done very little quilting, I do not feel qualified to give any practical advice." This is the same Mrs. Davison who became Curator of Textiles and notified Dr. Jeannette that two of her quilts had been accepted by the Board of Trustees. The letter was dated Nov. 26, 1963, four months after Dr. Jeannette's death. Two of her quilts had been previously accepted in 1958 and 1959.

In 1947, Dr. Jeannette wrote to the Curator at the University of Kansas Museum of Art, in Lawrence, Kansas - "I have recently bought the book by Ruth Finley(2) and the one by Hall and Kretsinger.(3) Back in 1925, I bought the one by Webster These are all the books I have on quilts..."

She underlined, annotated, and even drew designs in her quilt books. Beside many of the quilt names are notes about similar quilts which she made and names of the recipients. A typical example of her entries is this notation on pg. 172 of THE PATCHWORK QUILT IN AMERICA.



Her quilting companion was "Aunt" Fanny Crist. In the summer, they quilted at "Aunt" Fanny's in Chariton where they loved the garden and birds.. In the winter they quilted at Dr. Jeannette's in Des Moines, because Fanny had no electricity. Also her eyesight was failing and Jeannette thought she shouldn't be alone.

Dr. Jeannette made many pieced quilts according to her own notes but her specialty became elaborate appliqued quilts with a great deal of trapunto and stuffed work. Most of them are inscribed with a date and a signature whether in embroidery or trapunto. It would be impossible to know how many quilts she made in her life time but sixteen years before her death she estimated that she had made between 55-60 quilts. She had lost track because she had given away over three dozen.

To quote from Maxine Teele's article in NIMBLE NEEDLE TREASURES, "Long before the phrase had been coined, Jeannette Franc Dean Throckmorton was a woman's libber in the very best sense. In spite of tragedy and handicaps (deafness plagued her most of her life and eyesight was greatly impaired in later years) she faced life with zest, optimism, and a complete lack of bitterness. Her accomplishments are remarkable today. When we take into consideration the era in which she was born, they are monumental."

Joyce Gross

1. Webster, Marie D. QUILTS: THEIR STORY AND HOW TO MAKE THEM, Tudor Publishing Co, New York, 1915
2. Finley, Ruth E. OLD PATCHWORK QUILTS, Charles T. Branford Co, Newton Centre, Mass. 1929
3. Hall, Carrie A. and Kretsinger, Rose G. THE ROMANCE OF THE PATCHWORK QUILT IN AMERICA, The Caxton Printers, Ltd, Caldwell, Idaho, 1935
4. Teele, Maxine, "Dr. Jeannette - A Fine Needlewoman, 'NIMBLE NEEDLES TREASURES, Vol 7 #2, 1975

I am very grateful to Jean Martin, Dr. Throckmorton's niece for the loan of the valuable material and the time she spent with me.

The following is a list of the quilts owned and inherited by Jean Martin, Dr. Jeannette's niece.

1. Double Nine Patch crib quilt 1928. Quilted medallions "Jean Lee-Aunt Jeannette 1928"
2. Drunkard's Path in green and white. See illustration pg. 2.
3. Rose Wreath Quilt 1939. Paragon Kit #01009 copyright 1937. Inscribed "Jean Lee Throckmorton-Dr. Jeannette." Beautiful stuffed quilting.
4. Squares undated. Silks & satins.
5. Sampler Quilt 1941. Pieced blocks surrounding a quilted medallion. The name of the pattern is embroidered on each block.
6. Road to Success 1942. Geometric pieced quilt commemorated DAR award to Jean Lee.
7. Starburst 1943. Called Modernistic Star on Hall & Kretsinger. Inscribed "Jeanette Ann Crapenhof."
8. Dancing Daffodils 1943. Similar to Mt. Mist pattern #24.
9. Flower Album 1942. An adaptation of pattern by Velma Paul from COUNTRY GENTLEWOMAN. Noted on the colored picture advertisement Dr. Jeannette has noted "Ordered 1941-Rec'd Dec 5 '41."
10. Sunflowers undated. In her scrapbook of patterns and quilt items, is a colored illustration of Marie Webster's Sunflower Quilt with marking for making it in sections, a pattern for the spider web and the notation "Made one". This won 1st prize in the American Physicians Art Assn. and Iowa State Fair. Mt. Mist has a similar pattern #P.
11. Water Lilies inscribed "1946 Jean Lee." Mt. Mist pattern #47 is similar. Scattered stuffed dragonflies; a series of wavy lines of quilting suggest ripples on the pond.
12. Hibiscus quilt. Dr. Jeannette's last quilt made for Suzanne Jeannette Martin. Stuffed quilting repeats the Hibiscus design.
13. Nursery Rhyme quilt undated. Bands of bright red separating blocks with nursery rhyme characters. Made for Jeffrey Scott Martin.

Quilts in the Art Institute of Chicago AMERICAN QUILTS, 1966:

1. Blue Iris inscribed "1945 Dr. Jeannette". The center is six large blocks of blue iris with a border of iris. Stuffed iris between applique (#59.329).
2. Goldfinches and Flowers inscribed Theo Bentley Russell-Dorothy Russell Sorensen, Julia Margaret Sorensen, Jan. 26, 1947 Dr. Jeannette 1948." Elaborate appliqued flowers with stuffed medallion and borders. The scalloped border is in two shades of green (#58.514).
3. State Birds & Flowers 1950. Forty eight blocks with applique and embroidery representing the state birds and flowers. Stuffed curving feather motif between the blocks and on border. (#63.724).
4. Iris and Rose-Breasted Grosbeaks inscribed "Dorothy Rogers Jentz." A medallion of stuffed flowers and birds, surrounded by an oval ring of appliqued iris. Appliqued grosbeaks perch on a branch in the center medallion and in the corners of the borders. (#63.725).