



MARGARET MALANYN

by Joyce Gross

We couldn't help being noseey when a check with a notation, "AAUW Grant Research" accompanied a subscription to the JOURNAL. We immediately sent a query to Ms Malanyn asking about the grant. We corresponded several times to get this story.

Margaret Malanyn is a well known artist in Dearborn, Michigan and has been an active member of the Dearborn branch of the AAUW since 1975.

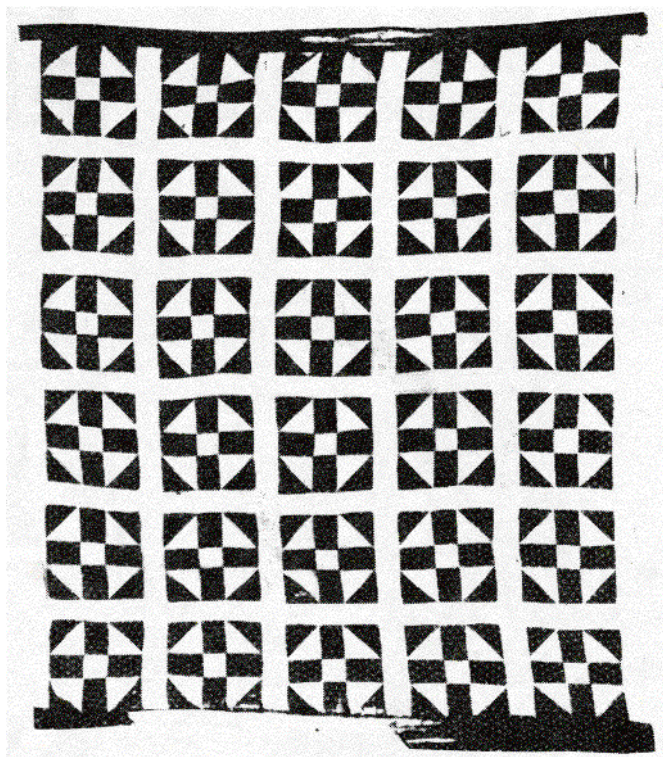
Margaret Malanyn was awarded an AAUW Individual Member grant from the Educational Foundation for a research study entitled "Dearborn's Legacy from the Quiltmakers' Hands."

The project was to research the current collection of about 80 quilts in the Dearborn Historical Museum. The grant also underwrote the film to be used by Winfield Arneson, the Museum curator to photograph the quilts in both all-over views and closeup shots. Restoration of the quilts (if possible) and proper storage and display were also part of Ms Malanyn's project.

In a letter dated Oct 30, 1980, Ms Malanyn explained, "Presently we are photographing the quilts on 35 mm color slide film with full view and close up shots of each (quilt). There are about 80 quilts in the collection. We are praying for a few more hours of warm, sunny weather before winter sets in, in order to finish photographing the 30-40 remaining quilts. After the snow flies, I'll do the hard core research. There are some excellent facilities in the area including the Tannahill Library at Greenfield Village,



Ruth Ann Hall Lapham (1833-89). Born New York State. Living in Dearborn in the 1850 census. Married Abram Lapham about 1850. (lower) Pieced Wrench. Acc # 61-63.3 Dearborn Historical Museum. Size 68" x 80" Made by Ruth Ann Lapham circa 1860. Photos courtesy Margaret Malanyn.



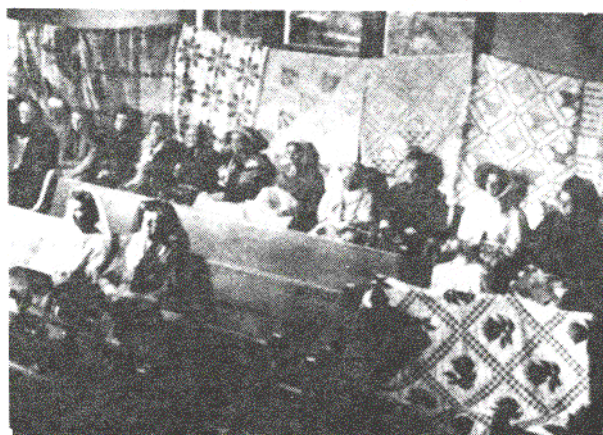


(a)

(a) Holly quilt of red and green design, owned and appliqued by Mrs. Curtis Caldwell, is used in place of bed-spread. Old quilt enhances the atmosphere of 150-year-old room

(b) Performers in costume rest between acts in rear of church surrounded by ten antiquated quilts. Oldest quilt dates back to 1825. Costumes are heirloom attic treasures

(c) Turkey Track quilt forms backdrop for buckand-wing routine performed by the 31-year old Rev. Brownlow L Thompson. Mrs. Stella Russell claps out the beat.



(b)



(c)

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the Archives of American Art at the Detroit Institute of Art, the Detroit Historical Museum, the Dossin Great Lakes Marine Museum and Ft Wayne. The latter was built in the 17th century."

Ms Malanyn told Marguerite Austin of the PRESS & GUIDE NEWSPAPERS in an article entitled "Researcher to show slides" Mar 12, 1981 that as she researched the quilts and their makers, she learned something about the time in which the people lived. "Photographs of quiltmakers in the dress of their eras in wedding portraits or with their husbands and children gave me a taste of their times and a look into their lives."

On Mar 19, 1981 after the project was over, Ms Malanyn presented a program of 140 slides of quilts to the public. One set of slides is with the Dearborn Historical Museum and arrangements may be made for them with the Museum. A duplicate set of slides and a script describing the quilts in detail and interesting and historical facts about the quiltmakers

was sent to the AAUW Headquarters.

Since Nov 1980 Ms Malanyn has been a resident of Barton City near Alpena, Michigan where her husband is Prosecuting Attorney. They live in the heart of the Huron National Forest overlooking a beautiful wooded lake. Although she is delighted with lovely setting she writes, "It is not easy to turn my former summer cottage into a permanent home here in the middle of the Huron National Forest. Distance and time are the determining factors for everything."

As we go to press, Ms Malanyn has several projects in mind. She is preparing an article for the DEARBORN HISTORIAN, the quarterly publication of the Museum and has some interesting thoughts about a calendar using some of the research. Since her time has been consumed with research, she has had little time for quilting so no doubt there is a quilt or two she has been planning.