



AC: #77.43.1

Photo: Susan Leubbermann, courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Ariz.

The Arizona Crazy Quilt pictured above was acquired by the Arizona Historical Society from Marcia Spark, well-known quilt collector, broker and lecturer in 1977. Mrs. Spark attributed the quilt to the

pioneer Flood family although no documentation is available and none of the initials that appear on the quilt can be traced to the family.

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ARIZONA CRAZY QUILT - cont from pg 11

In an article in the NEWTON BEE (Newton Conn July 29, 1977) Mrs. Spark compared the quilt with hundreds of crazy quilts she had seen and said, "this quilt ... is typical of (other) Victorian crazy patch quilts ... (however) I have not seen one decorated with desert flowers" (and other motifs typical of Arizona). The Society felt there were so few quilts identified with the early Territory it was important to acquire this historically unique piece.

The Society speculates that the five sets of initials appearing in various panels may represent women who made the blocks and the dates (1885 & 1887) the start and completion of the quilt. Nogales A.T. (Ariz Territory) was a small town which received its post office name in 1883. "Viva La Independencia" (barely discernable) reflects the Mexican heritage of this border town. Unfortunately no one has been able to decipher the other symbols. If readers

have additional information or theories, the Historical Society would appreciate being contacted.

In 1940 the Arizona Pioneer's Historical Society had the Flood's daughter, Ida Flood Dodge fill out a family biographical sketch. She wrote that her father John Flood was born in Stockton, Calif in 1854 and her mother, Annie Laranja Browne was born in Stockton on Mar 22, 1955. They were married in 1876 and had six children.

The Floods moved to Arizona in 1880 and settled in Tucson in 1890 where Mr Flood was connected with the newly constructed Southern Pacific Railroad.

At John Flood's death (1925) the obituaries listed two daughters, Mrs. A L Vogel and Mrs. Guy E Dodge and two sons, J Leslie and Maynard Flood all residing in Tucson. Another son Walker E Flood resided in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico and a daughter Mrs. George Walling lived in Fresno, Calif.

Sisters cont from pg 12

in use. Many pricked fingers are the results of their labors. It is necessary to feel the needle coming through the cloth to do an excellent job of quilting. They used 100 per cent cotton for backing with no seam. The padding these days is soft and beautiful.

Another talent of these versatile craftswomen is crocheting and knitting afghans. They have made about 14 . . .

Mary and Noble also make little crocheted pin cushions, based on a mason jar lid cardboard, with a small hole in the center for the thimble. They create tiny felt bookmarkers in the shape of mittens. These cover a hair clip.

Miss Ball and Mrs. Jay are very active in the Log Cabin Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. They are also 50 year members of the Order of Eastern Star.

There is no television in the neat and wonderfully homey house of the sisters. They have not felt the need for one. They listen to the radio while they sew and enjoy reading in their spare time.

Their active minds and joyous spirits along with their talented fingers, keep them among the blessed "young at heart."

Ed note: Mrs. Jay and Miss Ball also made Grandmother's Fancy, designed by Lillian Walker and pictured in QJ Spring '81 pg 3 and owned by Lucile and Ben Taylor.

F. Noble Ball died Mar 21, 1971 at the age of 84 and her sister Mrs. Mary Jay died July 17, 1975 at the age of 90.

*Quilters, —
Miss E. Noble Ball
306 East Washington St.
Fairfield*

*Her sister who lives
with her is —
Mrs. Jay. —
Quilt miss Ball is the
'power behind the Throne.'*

*From a note sent to Harriet Berman by
Lillian Walker*