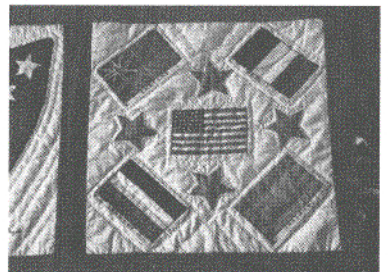
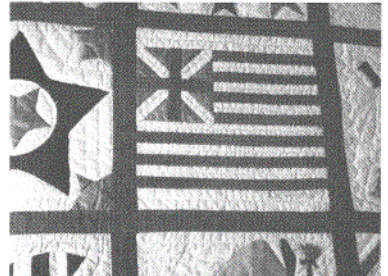
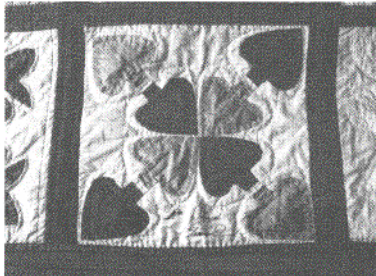
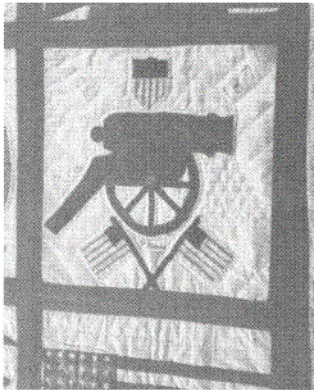
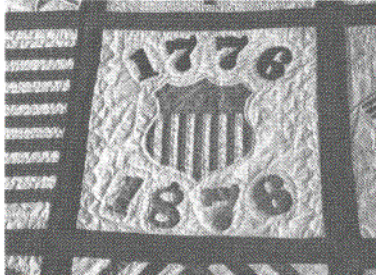
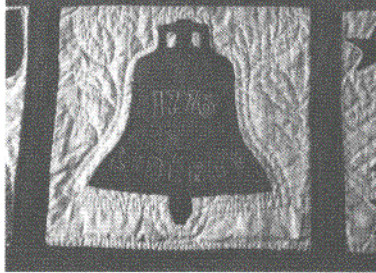
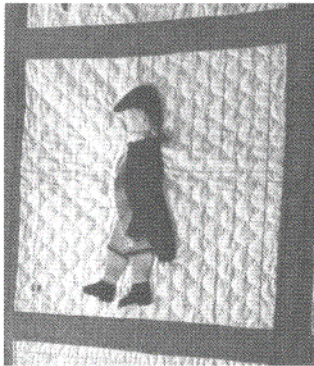
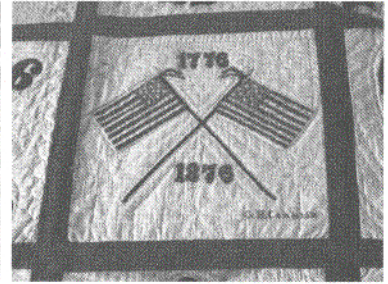




*Our thanks to "Skip" Frazer, formerly Janet Sinclair (see article) who is shown with her quilt for sharing it with us. Photos by jg*



## GREENPOINT CENTENNIAL QUILT

by Florence Peto

Reprinted from *New York Sun*, July 3, 1942

### PATCHWORK (BY MEN) PATRIOTIC

Greenpoint Citizens Express Sentiments of Centennial With No Little Skill

Philadelphia's Centennial exposition in 1876 was the first of a series of world's fairs which made the people of the United States aware of their industrial growth. This national consciousness was expressed in ebullient patriotic symbols.

To celebrate the Declaration of Independence, in honor of which the Centennial was held, women of America seized on various mediums of art, including patchwork. Ironically even this field was not left exclusively to them. The pictured quilt made in 1876 was assembled in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. Each block of the forty-two comprising it was designed and made by a man and bears his signature.

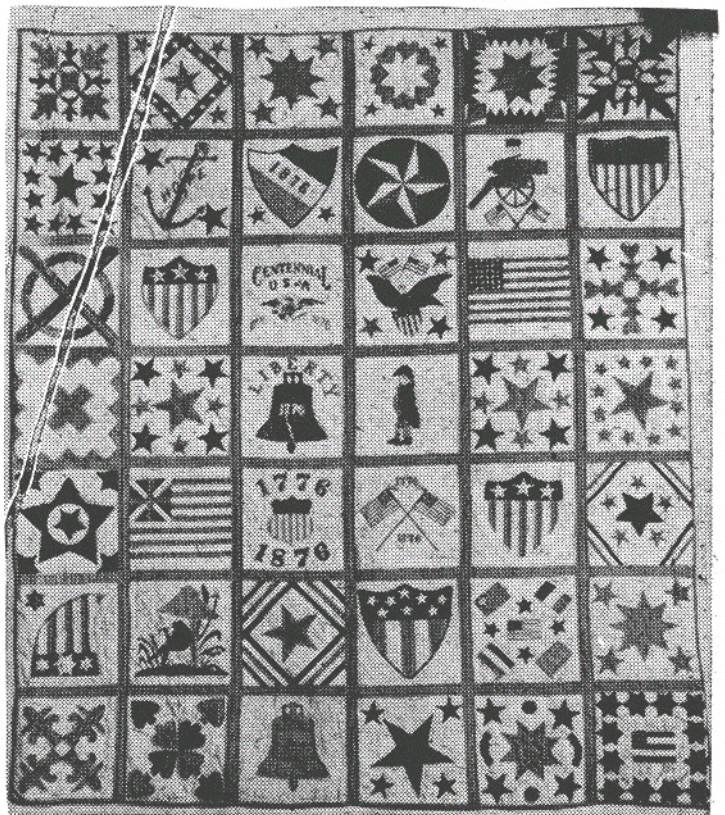
This is a typical Centennial quilt. All of them flourish the Liberty Bell, flags, shields, eagles, stars and dates (1776-1876). Workmanship varied - depending on individual skill. The appearance of the sewing machine in about every household sounded the death knell of beautiful hand stitchery. Added to this was the trend in the decorative arts toward realistic effects, often to the point of absurdity. Artistically, the result on quilts was pretty bad.

Signatures in ink on the Brooklyn-made piece are those of descendants of long established local families and they supply regional interest. One of the shields signed "A.W. Bergen to R.S. Bergen" suggests that the latter was the man responsible for the project. Another shield is signed "A. Meserole." Some of the signatures are illegible. The mounted gun is marked "W. Hands". The Liberty Cap bears "W.H.M."; the crossed American flags, "G.G. Conklin." Stars in hearts, "W.M.M."; nine stars, "Geo. P. Boyce." Other subscribers to star arrangements are: "E.E. Griffiths," "P.M. Payntar," "J.E. Sr.," "J.E. Jr." and "William Boyd, Greenpoint."

One block depicts the Stars & Stripes encircled by English, Irish, German and French flags. An eagle made of gray mohair, worked in gay colored worsteds, is unsigned but to the left of him another eagle, equally bright with worsted work, was made by "Frankie Cornell." Most ambitious of all is the figure in profile of Washington cut from card board, resplendent in purple vel-

vet coat with tiny gilt buttons, real lace ruffles, angel-hair wig, and beaded shoe buckles! This block is modestly signed "L. F." The significance of the contemplative frog smoking a long pipe under a toadstool is elusive - perhaps some reader can explain his philosophic presence in this galaxy of fervid devices?

There is renewed interest and activity in quilting. These are stirring times. Will the present day needlewoman translate something of the current drama to her patchwork as her grandmother (or grandfather!) did? This Centennial Quilt is owned and shown by courtesy of Miss Janet Howland Sinclair.



*Patriotism in patchwork expressed by the men of Greenpoint, Brooklyn, who were inspired by the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876 to enter the women's field of quilting.*

#### QUILT EXHIBIT AT THE SPENCER MUSEUM

*"Geometric Patchwork Quilts from the Collection" is an exhibit at the Spencer Museum of Art, Lawrence, KS July 1 - Sept 23, 1984*