



Photo courtesy DAR Museum

"FEDERAL EAGLE QUILT"

by Dorothy Cozart

It was on February 22, 1984 while visiting the Pioneer Museum at Woodward, Oklahoma that I saw the "Federal Eagle Quilt" for the first time. It was an extraordinary quilt! I took several pictures and wrote down the information from the plaque beside it which identified the maker as "Mrs John Markey of Frederick City, Maryland." I remember thinking that it was too bad her given and maiden name were not known.

A week or so earlier our local newspaper had carried a column by Sally Steele who lives in Enid, Oklahoma. She described an "Eagle quilt" made by Anna Caterina(sic) Hummell(sic) in 1815 and there was a picture of the central medallion eagle. When I returned home from the museum, I went to my files, found the article and read it over. I thought to myself that it was strange that I had just seen a similar quilt.

My son Wayne lives in Charlottesville, Virginia and whenever he runs across articles about quilts, he sends them to me. In the fall of 1984, he sent me the "Home" section from THE WASHINGTON POST with an article by Anne Simpkinson about the DAR Museum show that was written about in our

local paper. She commented on the "Eagle Quilt" and attributed it to Catherine Hummer (sic) of Frederick, Maryland. I found it interesting that two Eagle quilts came from the same town. Jean Martin, the DAR Registrar, was mentioned in the article so I wrote to her about the Woodward quilt asking for any additional information about the maker of the DAR quilt. She wrote and included the catalog sheets, a photograph of Anna Catherine and information from the Markey Family genealogy.

Anna Catherine Hummel had been married to John Markey. Upon his death in 1820, she married Henry Garnhardt. The picture of the "Eagle" quiltmaker from the DAR matched the picture of the Woodward Museum "Eagle" quiltmaker which proved that both quilts were made by the same quiltmaker!

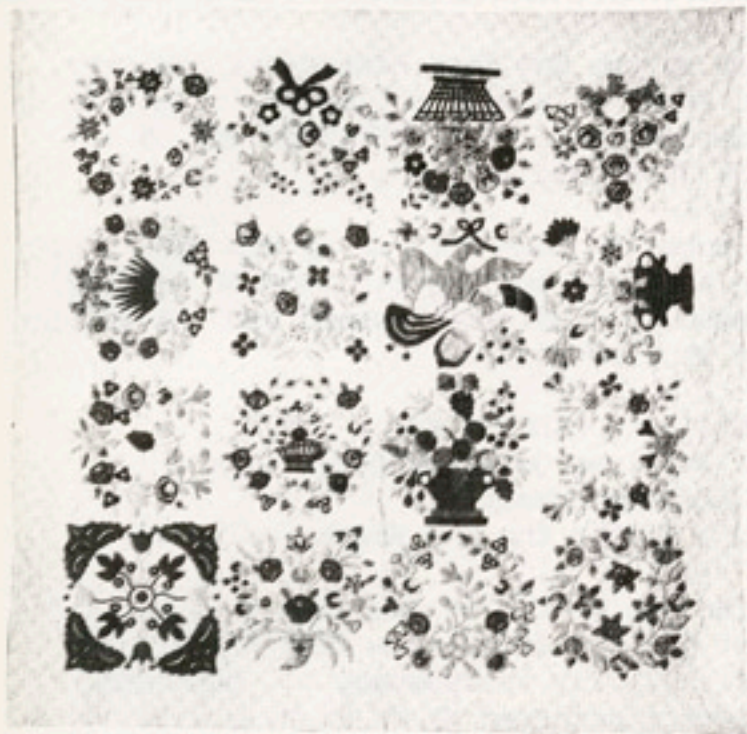
On a trip to Washington D C in Feb 1985 I saw the DAR "Eagle Quilt" and met with Gloria Allen (Director of the DAR Museum) and Jean Martin, saw the museum's "Eagle Quilt" and read the genealogy written by Frank Markey Gibson in 1917 which contained a wealth of information about Catherine. I took copies of the important pages from the genealogy and reread them when I returned home. They contained reference to a third quilt and I began to realize that it probably would not be impossible to trace it.

The DAR had been given a photograph of the "Woodward Eagle Quilt" when they received their "Eagle quilt" and the genealogy stated that Susan Gibson Newell had moved to Orlando, Florida after her marriage. The quilt had been in her possession at the time the genealogy had been written. The names of her two sons were also listed.

I started with a letter to the quilt guild in Orlando hoping that perhaps the quilt might have been given to a local museum. There was no answer. Then a friend of mine visited Orlando and she checked all the Newells in the telephone book but this was also a dead end.

Then I found the Orange County Historical Society (county where Orlando is located). I wrote to them, joined the Society and hit the jackpot! I received the name and address of Eleanor Hope Maynard of Cary, North Carolina who is the only surviving granddaughter of Susan Gibson Newell.

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which were being made by professional needleworkers in fashionable Baltimore in the 1840s and 50s. Perhaps when visiting the city, Carmelia purchased templates or paper patterns for her quilt designs as well as a selection of imported French and English fabrics (see Fig 7). Carmelia completed the appliquing of the eagle and other motifs on her album quilt shortly before her marriage on June 14, 1859 to the Reverend Henry Wissler. However, she did not use her quilt after her marriage because it was unfinished. The quilt remained unquilted for almost 50 years. In 1907 Carmelia, at age 71, finally added the decorative stitching to bind the layers of her quilt together. Little is known about the Reverend Henry Wissler or his parish, but the quilt, which Carmelia Wissler

worked on as both a young and an elderly woman, remains to remind us of her accomplished interpretation of the Baltimore album quilt.

These six quilts, which have been briefly described represent only a fraction of the collection of over two hundred American quilts located in the DAR Museum. Many have fascinating stories to tell and many remain as tangible reminders of their makers or recipients. All have been generously given to the Museum. Some, like the ones made by Anna Catherine (Hummel) Garnhart, Mary Ann (Barringer) Harris, Emma Maria (Fish) Chambers and Carmelia (Everhart) Wissler, have been treasured as family heirlooms and handed down from generation to generation before coming to the Museum. Others, like the one made for Mary Mannakee, were purchased and enjoyed for their aesthetic value before they were given to the Museum.

The Museum collection of 18th and 19th century American quilts continues to grow through generous gifts ... Quilts given to the Museum are thoroughly researched and catalogued so that they can be displayed and made available for study by interested groups and individuals. When not on view the quilts are stored in a climate controlled environment. Through preservation, research and exhibitions, the quilts are enjoyed by many. The women who worked so ardously to make them and the women who received them as tokens of friendship are forever remembered.

If you own a quilt you would like to have considered for donation to the DAR Museum, please send a photograph of the quilt and any available family history to the Curator, Gloria Allen, DAR Museum, 1776 D Street NW, Washington, DC 20006.

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I wrote to her. Several weeks of anxious waiting passed before I heard from her but she assured me she had the quilt and a "cradle quilt" that she "had always assumed was made by Mrs Garnhart". She also has the Washington pitcher which family tradition says Catherine used in designing the eagle. She has promised she will send me photos of the two quilts and the pitcher.

The "Federal Eagle" quilt, belonging to the Pioneer Museum and Art Center, Plains Indians & Pioneers Historical Foundation in Woodward, Oklahoma was included in the Woodward Quilt Show held April 18-21, 1985. The catalog states, "The highlight of the

Woodward Quilt Show is the 'Eagle Quilt'. Its maker, technique and workmanship make it unique, not only in the museum's collection of quilts, but from quilts found throughout the nation."

Turn to "Mary Remember Me" by Gloria Seaman Allen on pg 6 for photos of Anna Catherine and the DAR "Eagle Quilt". A picture of the quiltmaker and three of her quilts are included in the DAR catalog *OLD LINE TRADITIONS: Maryland Women & Their Quilts* which accompanied the exhibit of the same name. Copies may be obtained by sending \$8.00 (incl postage) to *QUILTERS' JOURNAL*, Box 5427, Mill Valley, CA 94942.