

# QUILTER'S JOURNAL

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Photograph courtesy George Dixon

Lenice Ingram Bacon  
author of "American Patchwork Quilts"  
pictured by the quilt appliqued from her family pattern



LENICE INGRAM BACON

From: "Who's Who of America"  
Vol. 2, '61-62

BACON, Mrs. Frederick Sayford (Lenice Ingram Bacon), civic worker; b. Jan 28, 1895, Rockwood, Tenn.; d. Elisha Turner and Hula (Hinds) Ingram; student Ward-Belmont Coll., Nashville, 1911-13, Curry Sch. Expression, 19114-15; m. Frederick Sayford Bacon, Jure 2, 1921; children Bessie Rills, (Mrs. Douglas Duncanh Mime, Jr.), William Elisha, Mem. ednl. com. Boston br. League Nations, 1939-41; pres. Woman's Assn., Eliot Ch., Newton, Mass., 1939-41; mem. adv. bd. Women's Symphony Soc. Boston, 1940-42; mem. bd. dirs. All-Newton Music Sch., 19141-46, Boston Center Adult Edn., 1953-56, 59--; chrnn. women's adv. corn. Newton Waltham Bank and Trust Co., 1955-57; dir. N.E. Farm and Garden Assn., 1956-59; mem. music adv. corn. Castle Hill Found., 1958--. Mem. nat. adv. com. Citizens for Eisenhower, 1956. Trustee Curry Sch. Expression, Boston, 1934-43, Curry Coll., 194353. Speech award established at Ward Belmont Coll, in her name, 1944. Mem. Nat. Soc. Colonial Dames Am. Republican. Conglist. Clubs: Cape Ann Garden (mem. bd. dirs. 1958--), Women's City (mem. exec. corn. 1948-51, pres. 1951-53), Social Science (pres. 1943-45). Folklorist, lectr. Address: 42 Hyde Ave., Newton 58, Mass.

I first met Lenice Ingram Bacon at the San Francisco International Airport in the fall of 1973. She had arrived from Boston in her lovely tweed traveling suit, a hat, and white gloves and was followed by a skycap carrying her two suitcases (large) and her two quilt-filled duffle bags (larger). She would be my houseguest for three weeks while she did a series of lectures in California on "Quilts in America".

All quilt-lovers are instant "friends" and we talked easily during the trip to Mill Valley. She had a lecture that night in Woodland (near Sacramento) and a group of her hostesses had arranged a dinner party at The Nut Tree (a delightful restaurant nearby) so we only had time for a little unpacking and a short rest before we had to leave with a van full of friends.

At dinner she charmed the 10 of us with her quilt anecdotes, delivered in her unique way and all the time her eyes twinkled and her lovely face was full of smiles.

There was only a small audience in Woodland, but they loved her! That day she had traveled 3,500 miles by air, directed the unpacking and hanging of some of her quilts to form an artistic background for her lecture, lectured for 1'-hours, and was still bright eyed and full of conversation on her way home at midnight. The little lady of 80 years was younger than the rest of use

Her next lecture was in Carpenteria in Southern California where there was an active quilt group and since this was her first visit "Out West", we drove so she could see the state. I would love a picture of us driving down the freeway in the big van with me as the chauffeur and she stretched out on the back seat. I never figured out what she did with her legs, because, tiny as she is, she just couldn't fit.



## LENICE INGRAM BACON

She was a delightful traveling companion and we had many good laughs. Always the lady, I was never sure how she would react to our easy going relaxed informality, but she took it in stride and seemed to enjoy herself.

Everywhere she queried people about their families. "You say your name is Russell? Are you by any chance related to the Russells of Virginia?" She was mighty pleased when she met Charlotte Tufts and asked her if by any chance she was related to the Tufts of Massachusetts. Charlotte answered, "My husband Nate is", and they were off in a cloud of remembering cousins, second cousins, and maybe second cousins once removed.

Her last lecture was in Mill Valley and they were spellbound for the whole lecture. She related my favorite story about the little boy who had been sent to church. Upon his return he was queried by his parents as to the text. "The minister told me I didn't have to be afraid, I'd get a quilt," was his reply. It took them a few minutes to discover that the text was "Fear not, for the Lord will bring you a Comforter".

Everywhere she went she charmed audiences and they were always eager to get home and read or reread her book, for the quilts she had brought with her and the stories she told about them were many times repeated in the book. Though she hasn't returned to California, I have been a guest in her home numerous times and we keep in touch. It was a memorable three weeks!

---Joyce Gross---

## ROSE WILDER LANE

One of our correspondents, Charlotte Tufts, was checking for information on Rose Wilder Lane in connection with the article on page 8, "Here and There". She checked The Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, Humanities Index, Current Biography, New York Times Index, and finally found the following information in the latest issue of Who Was Who in the United States:

LANE, ROSE WILDER, author; b. DeSmet. Dak. Py. (now S.D.) Dec. 5 1887, d. Almanzo James and Laura Elizabeth (Ingalls) Wilder; grad. Crowley (La.) High Sch., 1904; m. Gillette Lane, Mar. 24, 1909 (divorced 1918) Translator: The Dancer of Shamahka, 1923; Bastiat's The Law, 1947. Author: Henry Ford's Own Story, 1917; Diverging Roads, 1919; (with Frederick O'Brien) White Shadows in the South Seas, 1919; The Making of Herbert Hoover, 1920; The Peaks of Shala, 1923; He Was a Man, 1925; Hill-Billy (novel) 1926; Cindy, 1928; Let the Hurricane Roar, 1933; Old Home Town, 1935; Give Me Liberty, 1936; Free Land, 1938; The Discovery of Freedom, 1943. Editor: Nat. Econ. Council's Review of Books. Contbr. to leading mags. Home: Danbury CT also Harlingen, TX. Died Oct. 1968.

It seems strange that one who influenced so many needlewomen throughout the period 1940-60 by writing for Woman's Day, the series "Story of American Needlework" in the 1940's and "American Needlework" series in the early 1960's, should have no mention of her contribution.

The "American Needlework" series was subsequently published in book form by Simon & Schuster, New York 1963, with complete patterns and covered not only patchwork, applique and quilting but crocheting, knitting, candlewicking etc. Woman's Day modestly called it... "the definitive book on the subject."

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