Quilt History Tidbits -- Old & Newly Discovered

Home

Remembering New York City

Carol Aimes

Jane Alan

Aunt Martha

Winifred Avery

Miss Clara R Brian

Nancy Cabot

Cappers Weekly, Wide Awake, and The Queen

Carol Curtis

Scioto Imhoff Danner

Drunkards Path and T Quilts

Ford County Illinois signature quilt

Bessie Freeman

Gadabout Patterns

1932 George Washington Bicentennial

Georgette

Grandmother Clark

Grandmother's Quilt Books

Mrs Grace Jones

Kansas City Star

Helen Kaufman

Martha Madison

Mary Ann Patterns and Monarch Pattern Service

Mary Lee Quilts

Mayfair

Esther Millison

Needlecraft Supply Company

Nancy Page

Peerless Fashion Service

Pennsylvania Quilts

penny squares

Quilting Clubs

Quilting Exclusif Magasin

Quilts in Newspapers

Patty Shannon

Spinning Wheel Patterns

Pearl Strachan

Margaret Techy

Fannie Smith Tobey

Lydia Le Baron Walker

Wedding Ring designs

Laura Wheeler and Alice Brooks

Hetty Winthrop

Wonder Package

Phantom Quilt Books

odds and ends

Just For Fun

Help with Identification

Help with Identification

for serious researchers

About us

Contact us

Evolution of Nancy Cabot quilt patterns

Gadabout Patterns by Miss Theodocia Willman

Little is known about this intriguing short-lived 1930s era pattern source.

Headlines vary from "Gadabout Patterns / By Miss Theodocia Willman" to "Personality Patterns / By The Gadabout." Only two quilt patterns are known at this time.

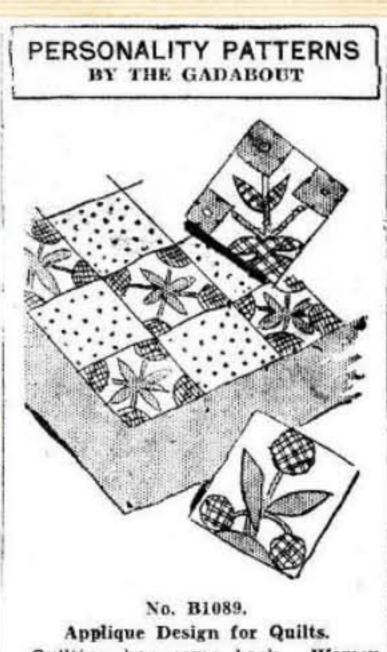
The feature has been located in the Decatur (IL) Daily Review, Hutchinson (KS) News, Zanesville (OH) Signal, Zanesville (OH) Times Recorder, Indianapolis (IN) News, Des Moines (IA) Register, Detroit (MI) Free Press, Lincoln (NE) Evening Journal, Brooklyn (NY) Daily Eagle, all in 1931. The bylines have not been located before or after 1931.

The mail-order address was Gadabout Patterns, Suite 1021, 326 W. Madison St., Chicago, an office building with a wide variety of tenants. Among these was National Newspaper Service owned by John F. Dille, distributors of the self-contained Jane Alan quilt pattern feature found in newspapers from 1932 to 1935 or 1936 (see separate Jane Alan page).

As an interesting side note, there truly was a Theodocia Willman who lived in Arkansas and Texas. She was Theodocia Stinson, born in Mississippi, June 1860, married William Pickard Willman, an itinerant farm laborer, January 2, 1878, in Hot Spring County, Arkansas, who had two children from his first marriage. They were living in Clark County, Arkansas, in 1880, back in Hot Spring County in 1900, and in Angelina County, Texas, in 1910. She died June 1, 1911, in Greenville, Hunt County, Texas (FOOtnote.com). In 1910, she was reportedly the mother of nine children, three of whom died young. Was daughter Emma or Bertha, or possibly a granddaughter, the Gadabout lady in 1931? Possibly, but doubtful. Instead, the coincidence of the unusual and uncommon name was probably just that -- an ironic coincidence.

© Wilene Smith, September 11, 2010, all rights reserved; updated January 16, 2016

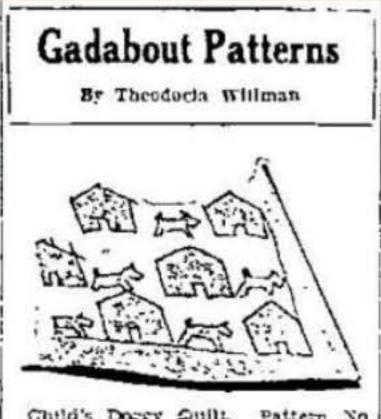
Applique Design for Quilts, No. B1089, from an original Indianapolis News clipping, March 31, 1931.



Quilting has come back. Women are again interested in the needle work pastimes. Here are three charming designs for quilt blocks. Use any one of them and alternate it with a plain block and you'll be delighted with the results. In each case muslin forms the background and colored fabric makes the flowers-green for the leaves and your favorite pastel color for the blossom. Send 15 cents in coin carefully wrapped for the pattern.

Doggy Quilt, No. B1097, from the Zanesville (OH) Signal, July 24, 1931.

(NewspaperArchive.com)



Child's Doggy Quilt. Pattern No. Bi097—The "Doggy" Quitt. besides being attractive has a great influence ternoon hap or a night's sleep! It is made of a series of blocks on which is are appliqued dogs and dog houses 3 used alternately. A wide plain border provides a neat finish for the nutt. A combination of bright colors in c calico appliqued on an unbleached L musin background is effective. Send 15c in coin carefully wrapped for the pattern.