



The 1876 Centennial Quilt Project

Original antique 1876 Quilt. 89" x 89"

Quiltmaker unknown.

Owned by Barbara Menasian, Connecticut.

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Every now and then, one can still come across a quilt that stops you in your tracks for its complexity and visual impact. In May of 2015 one of those exciting serendipitous moments occurred for a group of quilt friends in the San Juan Islands of northwestern Washington when one member found an extraordinary Connecticut quilt on-line in a quilt history discussion group. Set in a medallion-style arrangement, the quilt contained over 70 different patterns. It also contained the date 1876 and the initials EMC in four separate rather large circles, all part of its stunning medallion setting.

Many of the block patterns in this quilt have been around for well over 125 years and most are in the public domain. However, it is the arrangement of the blocks in this quilt that is so unique and so exacting.

The journey began in July 2015 after the group obtained permission to pattern the quilt from its owner, Barbara Menasian. It was a taxing journey for all, from creating the pattern to completing 23 quilts - several members making more than one! Completion of all the quilts in the project took well over two years, with the patterns writer and project leader, quilt shop owner Anne Dawson of Lopez Island, presenting 3 to 4 new patterns each month, staying just one or two blocks ahead of the rest of the group.

The participating 18 quilt-makers skillfully and beautifully interpreted the original quilt in a wide variety of styles. You can see their quilts on Anne's website, [lopezislandquiltersstudio.com/Quilt Gallery](http://lopezislandquiltersstudio.com/Quilt%20Gallery).

Are you ready for a truly remarkable quilt making experience? The 1876 Centennial Quilt project is available to you no matter where you live or when you are ready to begin. The 1876 Centennial Quilt is presented in a blocks of the month format in fifteen installments. Patterns, templates and extensive step by step instructions are included. Over 450 pages mailed to your door.

Step by step, block by block you will recreate the quilt. You determine the colors and style of fabric - Reproduction to Modern - it's up to you. Hone your piecing skills as you learn different techniques, tips, and tricks while working your way through 81 individual blocks and borders; some easy, some not.

The end result is well worth the effort. No matter your skill set at the beginning of this project, at the end you will be a more confident and skillful quilt maker - guaranteed!

For more information about hosting a special exhibit, workshops, retreats, the lecture, and to register for the project contact Anne Dawson at anne@lopezislandquiltersstudio.com or visit: www.1876quilt.com