

QUILT SQUARES: A woman's work is never done c. 1915



Donated by Phyllis Craig Graves

Chosen by Lynn A. Bonfield
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This square is one of 27 hand-stitched blocks in Graves's donation; some have stenciled signatures and others are signed in indelible ink. They were made by local women and handed down through the Craig-McBride-Graves family.

They provide us with information about the method used to assemble album or signature quilts, also sometimes called friendship quilts. We have such a complete quilt in our collection, The Blanchard Quilt.

We do not know who made these squares, or why these squares were never assembled into a finished quilt. It appears the blocks were made by one person who then requested signatures be added to her work. Note the vivid colors of the swatches and the clarity of the signature. The fabrics used were likely from a dry goods store here in Peacham or a nearby community.

Signatures on the quilt squares: A. A. Hooker, Flora Nelson, E. A. Rudd (?), Lizzie M. Abbott, M. M. Clark, M. J. Rudd (?), Inez Nelson, I. M. Hooker, M. S. Nelson, Mary A. Cobb, Adeline Hall, Louise M. Stevenson, (plus 15 plain blocks)