

## 2011 Oregon Quilt Project a Huge Success!

By Martha Spark



[http://www.oregonquiltproject.org/Oregon\\_Quilt\\_Project/OQP\\_-\\_Salem\\_WHS.html](http://www.oregonquiltproject.org/Oregon_Quilt_Project/OQP_-_Salem_WHS.html)

On behalf of all our team and volunteers, I wanted to send a "BIG THANK YOU" for the opportunity to partner with the WHC and MM to present an Oregon Quilt Project Documentation day at your facility. We deeply appreciate your time and efforts, and the same with your staff, that facilitated the smooth planning and execution of this important event.

In summary, we documented 60 quilts total on Saturday. We involved 44 volunteers from the local and affiliated quilt guilds in Salem and PDX, as well as local community members. We gathered 13 Core Documentation Team members, including Mary Bywater Cross.

1. The oldest one was a whitework piece, c.1830, with lovely, large quilted block designs of florals, pot-of-flowers and feathered wreaths, with dense stipple and crosshatch grid quilting in alternating plain blocks. It was a real surprise to see!

This type of quilting was popular in the first quarter of the 19th century in America, mostly on the East coast and Southern states. It's design is derived from the white, whole cloth Marseilles quilts that were popular in France and England since the 18th century. Instead of the typical medallion style format of these older quilts, our quilt was fashioned in alternating, quilted block designs of pots of flowers, garlands, wreaths and leaves, with dense cross hatch grid quilting in the plain quilted blocks. It was like a patchwork quilt, but just made with one color. Nothing was known about the original maker.

Unfortunately its condition was not good. However, the owner came away with new appreciation of its history and plans to look into possible conservation work to have it cleaned and stabilized. Yea!

2. Another 19th century beauty was a Delectable Mountains block pattern quilt, c. 1850. It had wonderful, bright and vivid prints including illuminated Indigoes, paisleys, roller printed mill engravings, and a cheater print in red and blue that resembled 3 or 4 different prints, all connected into one large patchwork design. (detail pic attached - OQP 4\_Salem). The quilt maker was possibly from upper New York state.

Names of those in the attached pictures are as follows:



OQP 1\_Salem

Documentation team members at table: Sharon Skiles (middle) and Ann Pfrender (right).



OQP 2\_Salem

Sharon Skiles (left), Ann Pfrender (next), Paula Hyatt (quilt owner), Cleda Dawson: doc team volunteer (right).



OQP 3\_Salem

Featured are Mary Bywater Cross (back left) and Joan Beck (back right), measuring a Grandmother's Flower Garden quilt.

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Overall, this documentation day brought mostly historic quilts, many vintage, and a few contemporary examples. Compared to other doc days we have done so far, the Salem area had some of the oldest, and nicest examples of quilts from the first half of the 19th century.

I just wanted to again express our gratitude for this opportunity to collaborate with your organization in helping to keep Oregon's quilt history alive.

Thank you,

Martha Spark  
Co-Coordinator, Oregon Quilt Project