

### **Luvata Bowles**

**Born 1889 at Henderson, Kentucky. Died 1989 at Champaign, Illinois.**

Mrs. Bowles was the mother of eight children. She gave this quilt to her good friend, Mary McCoy, over seventeen years ago.

### **Mary Avant**

**Born October 14, 1909 at Tate County, Mississippi.**

Mrs. Avant now lives in Champaign and is the mother of eight children. She started quilting when she was ten years old. She would sneak and use the sewing machine when her mother went to work. One of her earliest sewing experiences was when the needle of the machine got caught in her finger and she never told her mother about it. She has quilted over 100 quilts using old scraps of clothing that her children had outgrown. The patterns that she used were some she had seen and remembered and she also made some up in her mind. She has made quilts for all her children and some grandchildren.

### **Mary Louise McCoy**

**Born November 12, 1922 at Wintersville, Mississippi.**

Mrs. McCoy came to Champaign in 1944. She was about fifteen years old when she made her first nine patch quilt. She loves going to the Douglass Annex Senior Center and working on projects with other seniors.

### **Pauline Gates Pelmore**

**Born January 21, 1922 at Richardville, Oklahoma.**

Mrs. Pelmore was one of twelve children. When she was three years old the family moved to Arkansas. She then came to Champaign in 1957. She had already started sewing and quilting at the age of four years. As a result she has made so many quilts in her life time that she is unable to keep track of them. She works on quilts and other crafts everyday and has taught others how to quilt and make various crafts.

### **Mamie Smith**

**Born October 16, 1913 at Evergreen, Alabama.**

Mrs. Smith is the oldest of seven children and has three daughters of her own. She moved to Danville, Illinois in 1944 and came to Champaign in 1962. In Danville she worked at the V.A. Hospital. When she came to Champaign she worked at the University of Illinois and she also drove a taxi cab. She does a lot of sewing, a skill that runs in her family; all her children follow her gift. She has a grandson who has his own sewing business. Mrs. Smith has made quilts and passed them on to other family members and friends. She makes a lot of her own clothes and hats too.

**Hattie Fry**

**Born March 31, 1880**

**Died April 28, 1962 at Corinth, Mississippi**

**Landau Cannon Butler**

**Born July 13, 1908 at Corinth, Mississippi**

**Died May 19, 1990 at Champaign, Illinois.**

Hattie Fry and her daughter Landau Cannon Butler made many quilts over a period of years. The two unquilted tops shown here were made from tiny pieces saved from sewing the family's clothing. Mrs. Fry's granddaughter, Ethel Bridgewater of Champaign, recalls that her grandfather Fry was a minister and that the Frys' nine children grew up with strong family values. Mrs. Bridgewater remembers adding some small squares to these tops herself as a child.

Landau Cannon Butler, Mrs. Bridgewater's mother, made the striking applique quilt alone. She created the red applique motif by cutting folded paper to make a pattern. Mrs. Bridgewater later had the top quilted at Douglass Annex.

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## **Maudie Edwards**

### **Born at Pulaski, Illinois**

"I attended school and college (SIU) in southern Illinois. I taught school in southern Illinois and completed my teaching years in Champaign.

My number one hobby is sewing. I owe my great love for sewing to my mother. To me, she was the best seamstress in the world.

I designed the pattern, pieced, and quilted this quilt. Years ago I decided to make it, finish it before retirement, and have my co-workers at school each sign a door or window of one of the schools.

My oldest sister promised to quilt my quilt for me, but became ill. I decided to try quilting. I knew nothing about lining, padding, or quilting. It is not a professional finish, but 'I did it myself'."

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**Emma Brant**

**Born August 30, 1914 at Hickman, Kentucky**

After moving about with her family Mrs. Brant came to Champaign in 1939. She is the mother of 9 children.

Her mother taught her to sew at age 5 and she made her first doll clothes. She also sewed clothes for her younger brothers and sisters.

Mrs. Brant made her first dress when she was 8 years old. In the early years she did most all of the quilting by hand. She worked at the Douglass Annex through the Urban League doing sewing work on different crafts. She still does a lot of sewing at home, making crafts and sewing clothes.

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