

Quilt: #218 Fifty-Four Forty or Fight
Quilter: Anne Fields Hall
Sponsor: Jane Chastain

Fifty-Four Forty or Fight, a pattern first published in Practical Needlework, (ca. 1906), is also known as Grandma's Star and was designed by Clara Stone. Anne Fields Hall created a quilt for her sister, Jane Fields Chastain, on Jane's fortieth birthday.

The term "Fifty-Four Forty or Fight" referred to the dispute between the US and Canada in the 1840s over the northern boundary of the Oregon Territory and the Pacific Northwest. In 1844 the presidential candidate, James Polk won the election against Henry Clay with this slogan that asserted that the US had a valid claim to the entire Oregon Country up to Russian America at parallel 54 degrees 40 minutes north.

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Jane was a veteran of 31 years as a Kindergarten teacher at Holly Springs Elementary, long enough to teach the children of students she taught in her early years. Jane holds the Holly Springs community very dear to her heart and was moved after her retirement and the closing of the school to donate a replica of the quilt to the new Holly Springs Center. The block was installed on the outside wall of the former Kindergarten room where Jane taught so many children.

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