

Quilt: #248 Granny Nell's Hexagon Stars

Quilter: Nell Barker Stone

Sponsor: John and Dawn Stone

Nell Barker Stone, or as most of her friends and family called her, Granny Nell, was the maker of this lively quilt whose pattern goes by many names—Hexagon Stars (Nancy Page, 1934), Texas Star (*Ladies Art Company*, 1922), Friendship Hexagon (Nancy Page), Dolly Madison (*Kansas City Star*, 1937). Granny Nell's Hexagon Stars was most likely made sometime in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. However, this popular pattern appears in quilts as early as 1844 (source: Barbara Brackman, *Material Culture* blog.spot, May 21, 2016).

Nell's creative use of plaids and stripes in her quilt, as well as a calming turquoise and peach palette, resulted in a quilt that is both energetic and composed. The six-pointed star is constructed of five-sided shapes sewn to a center hexagon. There are several ways to complete this block. Granny Nell's version of this pattern places a white hexagon between the hexagon stars. Other variations of the design use either a diamond or an elongated triangle to complete the hexagon block and connect the blocks to each other.

In 2017 after Nell Stone passed away, her daughter-in-law Dawn Stone was given this treasured quilt. Dawn said, "Granny Nell was a great influence in my life and I helped her with many quilts in the basement of her home. She would hang the old wooden quilt frame from the ceiling and often times have family and friends to help out."

The location of this quilt block is on the Barker/Stone family farm in the Earle's Grove community in southern Oconee County. Dawn's family is the 4<sup>th</sup> generation to own and work the 65-acre farm originally purchased by her husband's great-grandfather, Joshua Barker, in 1927. In the early 1900's the farm grew cotton. At present, it is a working poultry and beef cattle farm. With good fortune, it will become a Century Farm in 2027.