

Quilt: #267 Capital T

Owner: Cynthia & Fred Rickenbaker

Quilter: Tama McLarin Tripp Tew

Sponsor: Pickens County ATAX Commission Grant

When Fred & Cynthia Rickenbaker came to the Upstate of South Carolina in 2020 from Fayetteville, North Carolina, little did they think they would buy an Inn on the north end of Pickens County. What was supposed to be a short-term assignment with Duke Energy has now turned into a huge project that should benefit the area for years to come.

When approached by UHQT with the idea of displaying a quilt block on her new business, the completely remodeled Table Rock Inn, Cynthia did not hesitate. The quilt she chose to create was made by her grandmother and is cherished by her family. The Capital T pattern has many variations and has been around the quilting world for generations. This quilt, circa 1945, was entirely hand-made by Cynthia's grandmother, Tama. It was made for Tama's son Hardie Gibson Tew, Cynthia's father. Hardie lost his father, Willie Eschol Tew, at the age of three, and a brother, Joseph Seavy Tew, aged six, from Spinal Meningitis.

Tama made at least ten quilts in her lifetime. They were made from necessity, as she supported herself and Hardie as a schoolteacher in Stedman, NC. Tama's quilts all have different patterns, including the Capital T, Log Cabin and a star pattern, as well as patchwork quilts, all hand-made from repurposed fabrics. She leaves legacies to all her three grandchildren of hard work and determination, as well as the quilt to Cynthia's brother, Joseph, her old school bell to Tamara, her sister, and a beautiful, hand-made jewelry box to Cynthia.