

Quilt: #217 Fence Posts

Quilter: Pansy Elizabeth Townes Cantrell

Sponsor: UHQT

The latest quilt block to grace the [Holly Springs Center](#), 120 Holly Springs Road, Pickens in upstate South Carolina is a gift from the [Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail](#), Fence Posts, to the Center. This quilt was chosen by Abby Holcombe Baker, former Executive Director for the center, and was made by her great-grandmother.

The pattern, Fence Posts, also known as Interlocked Squares, was first named in 1932 by Edna Marie Dunn in the Kansas City Star. Other names are 4 Part Strip Block (ca. 1948), Roman Square (ca. 1974) and Spirit of St. Louis (ca.1934). The moniker, Fence Posts was first used in 1973. This pattern is frequently made as a scrappy quilt, as was this one, according to Abby's mom, Roslyn Denise Cantrell Holcombe, whose grandmother, Pansy Elizabeth Townes Cantrell, was the original quilter. Pansy made quilts out of scraps of material that her daughter-in-law, Linda Gail Cassell Cantrell, had left over from making clothes for herself and her daughter, Roslyn. This quilt was on Linda's bed when she passed in May 2017. She kept it folded over her feet, but with the top edge within reach, in case she got a chill during the night.

Pansy was known to the family as Granny Cantrell, and often gave quilts to the family members for Christmas gifts, made from scraps saved by Linda Cantrell. Granny Cantrell raised five daughters; Janette, Julia, Nancy, Joyce and Lilly Mae, and one son, W.A. Cantrell who was Roslyn's father. All the children in the family attended Holly Springs Elementary School. Granny Cantrell also had ten grandchildren, (six of which attended Holly Springs), and two great-grandchildren before she passed away in 1994. She gave the two great-grandchildren, Kade Pittman McConnell and Abigail Elizabeth Holcombe Baker, their quilts the Christmas before she passed away.

Granny Cantrell often devised quilts with special designs that related to the recipient's interests. W.A. got one that featured a two horse-drawn wagon, pieced out of fabric scraps. Roslyn's brother got one with a Jeep on it. There was a particular fabric in the painted replica of the Fence Posts quilt that Roslyn recognized as coming from a blouse made for her as a child, and the second red flowered border from a pair of shorts! The depth of detail felt in this Fence Posts quilt still doesn't compare to the sentimental value to the family the quilt holds in each stitch.