

Colebrook Quilt, 1867

In the mid-1990's, one of the members of the Colebrook Historical Society, Lynda Cheverton, was attending a convention of antiques dealers in a town along the Connecticut coast. One of the other attendees had on display a quilt quite obviously made in 1867, as that date appears on two of the squares. While all those in attendance knew that the quilt originated in Connecticut, Lynda immediately recognized it as of Colebrook origin. We do not know what happened next, but what we do know is that when Lynda returned home, the quilt came with her. Shortly thereafter, the "Colebrook Quilt" was presented to the CHS. Initially, it presented a problem to the society; as it was of such importance that it must be displayed appropriately, and space in the Colebrook Inn is at a premium, as we all know. After many discussions it was determined that one entire upstairs bedroom be set aside as a repository for the quilt. An ornate bedstead from storage was pressed into service, and the Colebrook Quilt had a home.

Careful analysis revealed that this particular quilt was what is known as a "wedding quilt"; each square is signed by the maker, along with their home town and in two cases, the date 1867. All told, there are 49 names from 10 different towns.

The bride would have been one of the Loveland girls, of which there were 17! She was to marry a son from the Hill family, who lived about one-half mile away. The Lewis Loveland house still stands; its address today is 109 McClave Road. As far as we know, it is the oldest existing house in North Colebrook, having been built by David Viets in probably 1772. The Hill homestead no longer exists, but the cellar hole can be seen on Simons Pond Road, more or less opposite numbers 63 and 65.

From **Colebrook** came these 3 names: John Smith, Mary Hill and Aunt Abbie Smith; from **North Colebrook** came 16 names; Mary Spencer, Mrs. John Smith, Aunt May Spencer, Ada, Susan, Nora, Albert, Lois, and Bell Loveland, as well as "Mother L". Also Hattie Spencer, Abbie Stillman, Emerette Stillman, Clirisa Spencer, Mrs. James Stillman and Mother Hill.

Unionville also produced 16 names; Emma Wright, Jennie Witherby, Julia Teck, Nelly Larkin, Freddy Taylor, Martha Goodman, Abbie Kenny, Bell Robotham, Anna Brice, Clirissa Taylor, Julia Moses, Mya Donalson, Anna Jackson, Addie Woodford, Rosell James and Mrs. Mary Bremer.

Collinsville was represented by 6 names; Etta Woodford, Hannah Woodford, Heny Hill, Emma Hill, Hattie Woodford and Abbie Woodford.

Two were from **Canton**; Mrs. Charles Wright and Eunice Case; two from **Housatonic**; Esther Hatch and Gina Mary Hatch.

The remaining 4 towns, each represented by one person were: **Burnside**, Mary Shortma; **Springfield**, Bell Root; **Goshen**, Lizzie Bierce; and **Barkhamsted**, Josaphine LaGogg.

This quilt is in excellent condition; obviously its recipient and all who subsequently possessed it cherished it, and the quilt will continue to be highly prized and cared for by the Colebrook Historical Society.