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- USA**
***Arizona:** Barbara Stillman and Lolly Konecky, PO Box 74035, Phoenix, AZ, 85085, 602-942-8950
***California and N. Nevada:** Barbara Stillman and Lolly Konecky, PO Box 74035, Phoenix, AZ, 85085, 602-942-8950
***Colorado:** Jan & Kim Keller, 11250 Glen Canyon Dr., Falcon CO 80831, 719-866-8570
***Connecticut:** Dave & Amy Carter, PO Box 2419, Cumming, GA 30028, 866-825-9217
***Delaware:** Merle and Gail Taylor, PO Box 320, Meridianville, AL 32759, 888-616-8319
***Florida:** Dave & Amy Carter, PO Box 2419, Cumming, GA 30028, 866-825-9217
***Idaho:** Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181
***Indiana:** Merle and Gail Taylor, PO Box 320, Meridianville, AL 32759, 888-616-8319
***Iowa:** Linda Glendy, P.O. Box 6, Tama, IA 52339, 641-751-2619
***Kansas:** Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181
***Maine:** Robin Levison, 24 Bluebird Lane, Gloversville, NY 12078, 518-752-6399
***Maryland:** Kim & Mickey Keller, 2920 144th Ave NE, Ham Lake MN, 55304, 763-754-1661
***Massachusetts-RI:** Dave & Amy Carter, PO Box 2419, Cumming, GA 30028, 866-825-9217
***Michigan:** Leslie Howell, 2875 Dunkirk Dr., Saginaw, Michigan 48603, 989-751-8860
***Minnesota:** Kim & Mickey Keller, 2920 144th Ave NE, Ham Lake MN, 55304, 763-754-1661
***Montana:** Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181
***Nebraska:** Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181
***Nevada (N):** Barbara Stillman and Lolly Konecky, PO Box 74035, Phoenix, AZ, 85085, 602-942-8950
***Nevada (S):** Glenna Dunn, 4568 Carol Circle, Las Vegas, NV, 89120, 702-523-1803
***New Jersey:** Merle and Gail Taylor, PO Box 320, Meridianville, AL 32759, 888-616-8319
***New Mexico:** Jan & Kim Keller, 11250 Glen Canyon Dr., Falcon CO 80831, 719-866-8570
***N. Carolina:** Barbara Stillman and Lolly Konecky, PO Box 74035, Phoenix, AZ, 85085, 602-942-8950
***North Dakota:** Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181
***Ohio:** Barb Moore, P. O. Box 37, Cable, OH, 43009, 937-652-1157
***Oregon:** Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181
***Pennsylvania:** Merle and Gail Taylor, PO Box 320, Meridianville, AL 32759, 888-616-8319
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***S. Carolina:** Barbara Stillman and Lolly Konecky, PO Box 74035, Phoenix, AZ, 85085, 602-942-8950
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***Washington:** Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181
***West Virginia:** Merle and Gail Taylor, PO Box 320, Meridianville, AL 32759, 888-616-8319
***Wisconsin:** Scott & Jennifer Hughes, P. O. Box 276, Altoona, WI, 54720, 715-838-9426
***Wyoming:** Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717 605-568-0181

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***Alberta:** Kirby & Colleen Gust, Box 801 Stn Main, White City, SK S4L 5B1, 306-585-0274
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please visit www.wildwindfestival.com,
email: info@wildwindfestival.com, or call (802) 689-0609

46th Annual Wild Wind Folk Art & Craft Festival

Celebrating Artistic Excellence and Family Fun!

This year's event takes place on Saturday, September 12th & Sunday, September, 13th at the Warren County Fairgrounds, 371 Barton Run Road, Pittsfield, PA. Held rain or shine, hours are 10 am to 5 pm, each day.

As the first signs of autumn begin to appear across the region, the Wild Wind Folk Art & Craft Festival welcomes visitors back for another memorable weekend of art, entertainment, and family fun. For nearly 50 years, the Wild Wind Festival has marked the arrival of fall for generations of festivalgoers. Held annually the weekend after Labor Day, the event has grown into a treasured gathering where artists, families, and longtime friends reunite among the sights and sounds of the season.

At its heart, the festival is a celebration of handcrafted artistry. More than 150 skilled artisans from across the region will be on hand, offering a wide variety of unique, high-quality creations. From potters to woodworkers, Wild Wind's crafters are selected to captivate every interest. Many of them return year after year, a clear indicator of the event's high quality. Others are new to the show, adding to the festival's artistic diversity and offering visitors a unique experience from year to year. Taking advantage of the fairground's idyllic setting, artists display their wares in quaint, open air barns and the surrounding outdoor areas under tents. Whether searching for a small gift item or something new for the home, festivalgoers are invited to take time at each exhibit as they make their way through the grounds.

Beyond the artistry, the event offers a full weekend of family-friendly entertainment. Children and families can enjoy a traveling petting zoo, balloon art, hula hoop fun, face painting, and more. The Tamarack Wildlife Center returns with its popular birds of prey exhibit, along with educational presentations. Weather permitting, Double C Ranch Carriage Services will offer scenic horse-drawn rides around the fairgrounds.

A special highlight this year is the return of Alexander the Magician, who is sure to enchant audiences with a blend of humor, magic, and many new surprises. For those eager to learn some magic themselves, lesson will be offered throughout the weekend. All ages are welcome to join!

Live chainsaw carving demonstrations will also be featured, with talented carvers Lisa and Ross Barr of Barrnone Carvings & Creations and Brian Fox of Fox Sawmill and Custom Design transforming raw wood into impressive works of art. Visitors are encouraged to take a seat and watch these creations come to life!

Rich Selfridge of Selfridge Studios will return with live glass blowing demonstrations and a collection of his handcrafted glass artwork. Known for his beautiful functional and sculptural glass pieces, Rich brings years of experience and artistry to the festival, giving visitors the opportunity to watch the fascinating process of glass blowing while exploring his one-of-a-kind creations.

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Festivalgoers can also enjoy a relaxing break in the shaded picnic area while sampling a wide variety of food offerings, including longtime favorites and several new additions. From BBQ, gyros, crab cakes, and pierogies to hand-cut fries, wood-fired pizza, and homemade pie, there is something to satisfy every appetite. Live music will add to the festive atmosphere throughout the weekend, with the Kokomo Time Band performing a blend of oldies, blues, and more on Saturday and Old Dawg Bluegrass taking the stage on Sunday with its toe-tapping rhythms.

The Wild Wind Folk Art & Craft Festival welcomes you to join them for a weekend of award-winning artistry and family fun. The admission fees are \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and veterans, and free for children 12 and under. As a bonus, those who attend on Saturday can return on Sunday free of charge. This is a special event, one not to be missed! We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information, visit www.wildwindfestival.com, email info@wildwindfestival.com, or call 802-689-0609.



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The 250th Anniversary of the United States: Ideas and Ideals

by Nancy J. Nash

In the 1890's, a man named Dietrich was a blacksmith at the Wilhelmshaven naval shipyard in Germany. The story is told that one day he spoke to his younger brother, Wilhelm, and gave him a warning.

"I'm not supposed to tell you this," he said. "I could lose my job for divulging this secret. But down at the shipyard, we're not making cargo ships for world trade like the Kaiser wants the public to believe. We're putting guns on them. We're building battleships and preparing for war.... Don't stay in this country. You have to leave again."

Wilhelm had already lived for a short time in the Midwestern United States with his wife and son before returning home to Germany. There they were blessed with the birth of another child, Sophia. The young father bemoaned the lack of job opportunities he had had as a carpenter in the Midwest. But now there was another reason to return: trouble was brewing in his native country. He knew he had to heed Dietrich's advice.

Wilhelm and his family crossed the ocean to Ellis Island, landing on July 3, 1894. Little Sophie was almost three years old. She watched, transfixed, as her parents bowed and kissed the ground in gratitude for a new homeland. She never forgot.

The family settled in Illinois, where Sophie grew up on a farm, as did her daughters after her. One of them later married into my family and became my aunt. She was raised to value freedom, and all her life, she embraced the sense of responsibility on which freedom rests.

A number of years ago, my brother wrote *Books and the Founding Fathers*, a study of the literature that influenced the drafting of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States. Our Founders thought deeply, read widely, and attempted to articulate principles that they could then apply to forging a system of government responsive to the will of its citizens.

Over and over, they affirmed the need for virtue and integrity among the people of the new nation. Ultimately, the success of the American experiment would depend upon the ability of its foundational ideas to live in the minds of the citizens and the power of its ideals to sustain their willingness to sacrifice.

The Founders gleaned wisdom from the works of ancient philosophers and from Judeo-Christian scripture (with its emphasis on freedom, justice, equality, and human worth). Thus was born a nation different from all other nations - one that replaced kings and queens with a few carefully crafted pieces of paper that contained an enduring blueprint for the American republic.

The United States is not simply a place of prosperity or a distinctive landscape. At its heart is a set of principles of government intended to honor human dignity and to form a sturdy framework for freedom. Its ideals continually demand our attention and challenge us to think soberly and wisely.

Sophie grew up to marry the son of English immigrants. England and Germany fought each other in the First World War, but the life of the young couple in America was one of peace. It was also rigorous, working a farm without running water and electricity for many years. But Sophie had seen her parents kiss the ground in this new land, and she never forgot their gratefulness for the opportunity to escape oppression and to embrace liberty. Neither did my aunt.

Their memorable heritage is like fabric in a patchwork quilt, its colors and designs blending with others in a unique and vibrant pattern 250 years in the making.

Copyright 2026 Nancy J. Nash

Nancy is the author of *Mama's Books: An Oregon Trail Story* and *Little Rooster's Christmas Eve*, both available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). She holds a B.A. in English composition from Mount Holyoke College and an M.F.A. in Writing for Children from Simmons College. She may be reached at tradit2@verizon.net.

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Memories of Mom

by Tammy Page

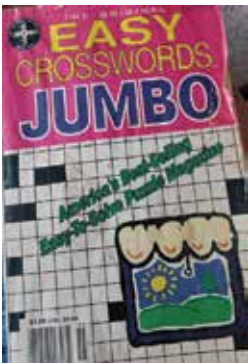
I grew up watching my mom when she had a few spare moments work crossword puzzles. It's a pastime that has been forgotten by the younger generation.

I recently cleared out my mom and dad's home after my dad passed away and found new and some old crossword puzzle books. Our whole family was used to seeing my mom picking up a crossword puzzle book when we would gather together or drop in for a visit. There was rarely an occasion such as a birthday, Mother's Day or Christmas that she did not receive a new book as a gift. Mom was always good with words and an intelligent women and I can now appreciate the piles of crossword books laid around the house. She would have a couple on her end table beside her recliner and there was usually one on her bedside table and one on the kitchen table while she was preparing a meal. And, of course there might have been one in the bathroom too.

As a child I thought my mom was the smartest mom on the block because she could complete a puzzle in no time flat. If she didn't have a book she would work a puzzle in the daily Indianapolis Star newspaper. Since finding her books while clearing my parents home, I've found myself opening them up and working some myself.

I retired two years ago and at times I don't have my everyday chores to do or my husband is watching another favorite wartime movie and I curl up in my chair and work on one a little bit. I've found that one of my favorite places to relax and enjoy the quiet is on my front porch with a crossword puzzle book in my hand. It's a chance to get away from the everyday noises of television and phones. I make it a habit to leave my phone in the house and just enjoy the peace and quiet with my own thoughts. I also find it relaxing and comforting to know that I inherited the enjoyment of crossword puzzles from my mom who passed away four years ago. I even found one that had not been finished from 2000 and it was nice that I could finish what mom had started. The one from the year 2000 had some old phrases and meanings of words used today. I've found those a little easier to solve because of my age I suppose. I also love seeing my moms handwriting again and before her hands became too shaky to stay in the lines. It makes me feel close to her each time I pick one up and miss her even more.

I know that from now on I will continue to work crosswords and each time it will bring back precious memories.



© 2026 Tammy Page, who writes from her family farm in Indiana.

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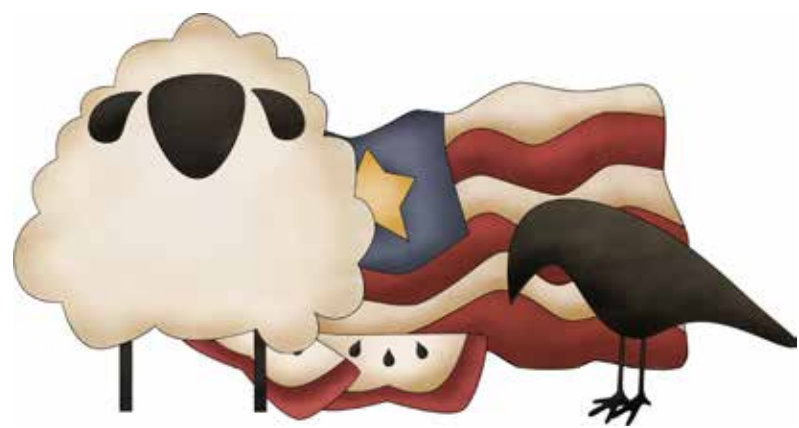


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Country Roads Shop Hop

October 12 - 17, 2026

Mon.- Sat 9-5, Thurs. 9-7

One great hop, 9 unique shops!

In honor of the 15th Anniversary of the Country Roads Shop Hop each shop will be giving away a free quilt pattern that represents their store. It may be the fabrics choices, the pattern, or the style that represents them; so hop on the Quilted Road and check out what makes these shops unique!

The Quilt Shops of the 2026 Hop

	Amy's Quilt Room	Uniontown, PA
	Creative Pursuits	Ebensburg, PA
	Four Seasons Stitchery	Grantsville, MD
	Quilt Patch	Mt. Pleasant, PA
	Quilt Peddler	Johnstown, PA
	Schrader's Fabrics	Johnstown, PA
	The Sewing Box	Meyersdale, PA
	Sewing Solutions	Bedford, PA
	Zimmerman's Bernina	New Enterprise, PA



Prizes of the 2026 Shop Hop

Get your passport stamped at all 9 shops and be entered to win a Shopping Spree at 1 or 2 quilt shops of your choice!

- 1st Place Prize: \$500 Shopping Spree*
- 2nd Place Prize: \$250 Shopping Spree*
- 3rd Place Prize: \$150 Shopping Spree*

Get 3 or more stamps from any Shop to be entered into a drawing for additional Prizes*

Each shop will also give away a Stuffed Quilty Basket valued at \$100
*see website for complete details



On Sat. Aug. 1, each shop is giving away a free souvenir pin to the first 30 customers who purchase a passport.

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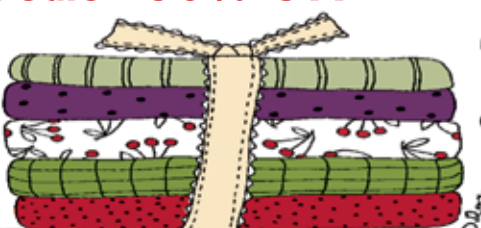
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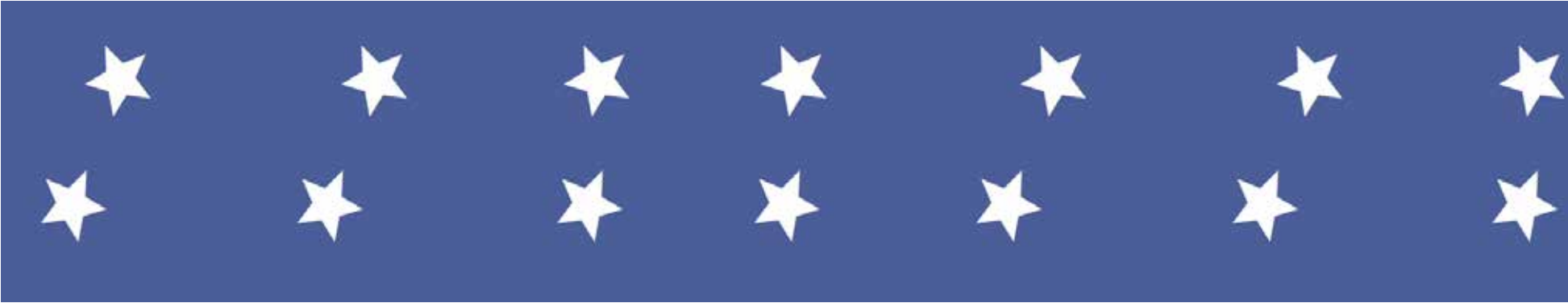
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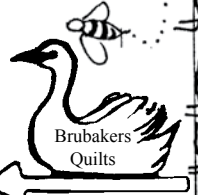
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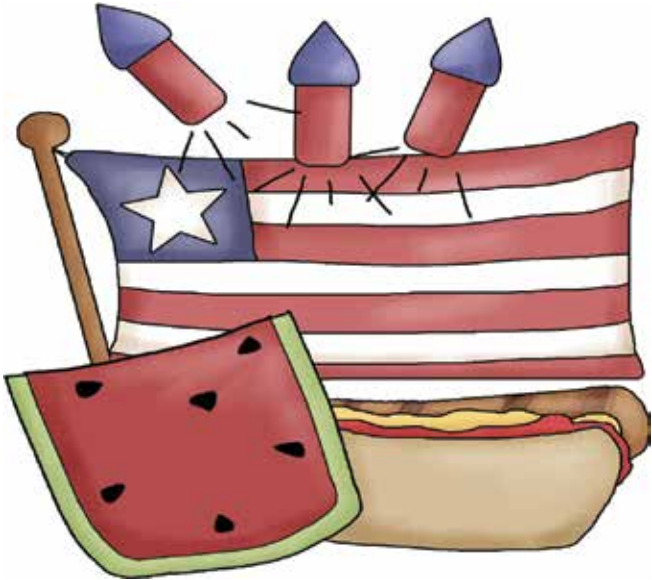
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Age Matters

Only if You're Counting

by Barbara Kalkis

I was feeling pretty perky about the country's 250th anniversary and even planning a family gathering until I had a conversation with a casual acquaintance. In a somber voice, he mentioned that he is old enough to remember our country's 200th anniversary. The thought of clearly remembering a major event 50 long years ago made him feel old. Realizing that I also fondly remembered 1976, my perky attitude died as quickly as a mosquito hit by a bug zapper.

Rather than dwell on how I've spent the last 50 years, I decided to consider age in a disciplined, logical manner. Difficult to do. After all, society is consumed by the ages of everyone we know and those we don't know but who are related to those we do know. We color our hair to hide the gray. We erase wrinkles with magic creams and medical procedures. We work out at fitness clubs with gusto and the determination of professional athletes. Health foods become meal staples. Conversations dwell on ways to stay healthy, what vitamins to take, how to maintain balance, how to be a 'super-ager,' avoiding unrefrigerated leftover foods that create toxic bacteria. (Cooked rice! Who knew???)

Taking a different approach, I took out a packet of 1976 quarters that I still have. Remember them? Yes, you may admit it. A colonial patriot is beating a drum; adjacent, 13 stars representing the colonies encircle a flaming torch. Below it are the immortal Latin words, "e pluribus unum," or "from many one," that beautiful concept of a diverse population united by love of country. The words, "United States of America... Quarter Dollar" circle the coin's edge. Every essential image packs just under 1-inch diameter.

Then I started to consider things older than I am. When in doubt, think about crafts. My first thought was that stitching things together had to have occurred on the final day in the Garden of Eden. On a more logical trend, I remembered spinning fibers and weaving linen into clothing and tanning animal skins into hats, coats, shoes happened in our earliest history. Anonymous painters like the one of Lascaux, France ancient caves, covered the walls with vivid likenesses of racing horses, deer and bulls.

In America, weaving, shaping bowls and grinding grain were mainstays of natives and, later, Pilgrims. Quilting was a mandatory job to make blankets. Children embroidered alphabet samplers with decorative stitches. Cooking was required to survive.

In the late 1800s, astute homemakers wrote books that elevated every housewife's tedious role into "craft". Suddenly, it wasn't just cooking anymore. Authors instructed readers how to design nutritious meals, sew clothing and decorative items. Most importantly, the books explained how to create budgets and manage household expenses under the title of "home economics."

With that history in mind, I feel better about age. As with all the anonymous people who lived in North America or came to it, building, creating, designing, inventing, painting, "making do" and doing what was necessary to make a home was the start of crafting. Folks just didn't know it then. Today we have the luxury of crafting for comfort, beauty and celebrating our imagination to make something beautiful or useful. Crafting is the heart of every national anniversary. It's not about numerical ages on a personal or even a national level. It's about ensuring that the age we live in and our own stage of life build on the past, celebrate the present and gift the future with new talents and new perspectives. Happy birthday, America! Here's cheers for the next 250 years!

©Barbara Kalkis, 2026. Barbara is a writer, teacher and marketing consultant. Her poetry book is Little Ditties for Every Day: A Collection of Thoughts in Rhyme and Rhythm. She believes happiness lies in not thinking about age – hers or anyone else's.



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Those Were The Days!

Advertising in Song

by Jay Mark

In this day and age of instant communication, radio & TV, internet, social media and the like, it is a challenge to think back to a time when none of these existed. Radio, the first mass communication medium didn't emerge until the 2nd quarter of the 20th century.

Magazines and newspapers were the primary source of news and information... albeit delayed.

The telephone, patented in 1876, allowed person-to-person communication. A year later, Thomas Edison introduced the phonograph. For the first time people could hear recordings of voices and music.

Until then, music and performances could only be heard live. That's why the piano was the most popular instrument in the American home. It was the family's entertainment medium. To keep up with the latest songs and music, the sheet music industry exploded in the 19th century. The industry changed from simple covers to colorful, eye-catching covers to lure customers into making a purchase.

Sheet music (initially called "music sheets") in itself offered opportunities to publish historic classical scores and other instrumental music. But the medium soon opened up to song sheets that could tell stories of love and romance, humorous experiences, travels and news events like in "The Wreck of the Titanic." Anything a composer could come up with.

As aviation emerged, it was quickly covered in sheet music – *Come Josephine in My Flying Machine*, *Come Take A Trip In My Airship* and *Lucky Lindy* amongst countless others.

All this got me wondering what mediums did companies use to promote their products in the late 19th and early 20th centuries? It turned out sheet music was an ideal way for advertisers to get their messages and products out to the masses.

With the emergence of the automobile, dozens of promotional pieces were published. Songs like *In My Merry Oldsmobile*, *My Little Ford Rambled Along*, *Take Me on a Buick Honeymoon*. Countless other manufacturers whose life spans were pretty short are immortalized in sheet music. *The Jitney Bus*, *Mack's Swell Car Was A Maxwell* and *A Jolly Ride in a Glide*.

Food and beverage products were another area in which themed sheet music proliferated. Songs like *Heinz is Pickled Again*, *Under the Anheuser Bush*, *Rum and Coca Cola*, *I'm Just Wild About Animal Crackers*. Well, you get the idea.

The beauty of old sheet music is that because of a plethora of subjects and themes,

(story continues on page 16)

INTERCOURSE - STROUDSBURG

Life on My Farm - Breezy Manor
It's Been a Soggy Mess, And Now..

by Donna Jo Copeland, farmeress

My goodness rain, muck, mud, floods, wild winds and weeds chin high!

Garden update: my feed sack garden is doing well... tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers are happy and I will have some produce soon!

I planted beans in rows of heavy muck, we will see how they do. Of course I had to cover with pieces of fence trying to chicken proof

I lined the feed sacks up against a section of cattle panel for support and the cucumber vines like the climb!

And of all things, my weedeater mower is on the fritz. Lacking money for repair or replacement, I have decided to let the goats and sheep graze, letting the yard just go au natural... Charlie likes being in charge, waiting for my "round em up" command. He's got it handled!

I confess I like seeing what comes up with no mowing. The flea bane who is usually white, this spring has been a glorious pink! Lots of patches of white clover, a feast for the bees. Plantain has made a huge bed by the wood shed. My yard is really kind of neat.

My bane, as with most sheep raiders, is the lovely thistle. Yes their purple blooms are lovely, their stickers not so much. As I don't spray, Charlie, me, spade, leather gloves and wheelbarrow spend a lot of time in the pasture digging. I do bag the whistles for garbage pickup. Can't have those stickers in my sheep wool!

As I have a huge patch of false nettle across the creek, I have spent years searching for redeeming qualities, to no avail. I've tried dye, cordage, the goats and sheep won't eat it. When I mow with my scythe the cut off bits reroot. I tried a weed wizard to burn it, did the tops but it came back. So once again (when the water level goes down and I can wade across) I will dig and bag.

Living here over 55 years I have taken note of the changing weeds. Pigweed and Johnson grass used to cover garden and pasture. Then Japanese knotweed, then thistles and nettles bringing along Creeping Charlie for company.

I try to spread barn leavings, muck and manure over pastures and gardens. But one old lady with a pitchfork and wheelbarrow can only do so much. And weirdly no one volunteers to help. But I try. Not always my best but I try.

In half a century I think I have raised the ground level 6 inches. The dirt certainly is happier with no chemical sprays or bagged fertilizer...just poo.

When Charlie and I take a break with a cup of tea and homemade cookie, we sit in the yard and enjoy the sheep grazing contentedly. Makes me smile. Reflect. Tell myself it's good that I'm a simple lady, poor in coin farmeress and stewardess of my wee corner of the world.

I try to keep my wants and needs simple. No internet, no TV, no computer, no central heat, no air conditioning. Almost a primitive lifestyle. But there is peace here with all of the craziness of livestock...and magic.

My soul sings as I work with the tools ...looms, spinning wheels, spades, pitchfork, hammers...of my ancestors. I even have my great great grandmother's homemade wooden ironing board---yes I still iron. I feel the comfort of their love, their legacy.

And I grieve for the youth today. They seem so lost in technology, no sense of purpose or direction. Alien to manual labor, tactile sense. Loss of respect for each other. They don't take time to rejoice in sunrises or the serenity of sunset. Never take the time to lay on a hillside and watch the clouds.

Yes I cry the lament of old crones.

May you dig in the dirt, plant flowers, vegetables, breathe rain fresh air, greet each day with joy in your heart.

Peace and love.

© 2026 - Donna Jo Copeland writes from her farm, Breezy Manor, Mooresville, Indiana where she tends her flock and creates art from the wool. Being the 14th generation of farm owner/operator, Donna Jo brings alive the struggles of farm life.



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America The Great

by Janet Young

As we enter the 250th Anniversary of our nation, let us be ever mindful of the impact the signing of the Declaration of Independence signifies.

Signed in 1776 in Philadelphia Pennsylvania, this document shaped the future of our country as it stated that all people are created equal, and are empowered by unalienable rights, to which we adhere to this day. Through this document our freedoms were granted. The establishment of this nation was built on God-fearing men, who wanted to escape Britain's religious persecution, taxes, and social constraints.

Many believed that the Hand of God enabled them to win the wars. In fact, the reference to God's Hands is a symbol of peace, strength, and the ability to see His influence in all things. For example, when George Washington was preparing for battle, fog appeared overnight which enabled Washington and his troops to escape. Abraham Lincoln referencing "this Nation under God," encouraged the people to fast and pray for this country, which further supports the idea of divine guidance. Another example that these men saw The Hand of God in establishing this nation, was their commitment to putting "In God We Trust" on our currency. Many examples show that these men clearly felt God's Providence was upon them.

Just as the men and women of yesterday, fought for our freedom; so too, our brave men and women of today are fighting to keep our nation safe and free. Let's not destroy that which we have fought for so hard these many years.

There is no question the United States of America is by far the greatest country ever. Let us not destroy it from within. We reap what we sow. So tonight, when you put your head on your pillow, I trust that you will thank God for this country and pray that as a nation we will come back to Him. For our country was built on Godly principles. If we turn our backs on God, He will let us go on our narrow ways. Remember America is the greatest country ever born, let us not destroy it.

Happy 250th America!

© Janet Young is a Certified Tea and Etiquette Consultant, Co-Founder of Mid-Atlantic Tea Business Association, and prior owner of Over The Teacup



From Breezy Manor Recipe File

Afternoon tea, scones and fresh berries

1 to 2 cups fresh berries, washed, put in a pretty bowl

Mix together

2 cups flour	1/2 cup cold milk or cream
1 stick cold butter, grated	1/4 cup sugar
2 t. Baking powder	1 egg

Mix by hand until a dough forms, put out on floured surface, knead a bit, pat into an 8 inch circle. Cut into 8 wedges. Place on parchment paper lined cookie sheet, bake 18 to 22 minutes at 400 degrees.

Serve with tea and a smile

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Weeding the Summer Garden

by Kerri Habben Bosman

I weeded our garden this summer morning before the swelter of the day snuck in. I worked beneath a nicely overcast sky, surrounded by a quiet breeze with the slightest hint of rain in it. I migrated from garden bed to garden bed, welcoming each arriving thought as I listened to the world breathe.

I talked to the tomatoes and smiled at the watermelon. I checked the cucumber plants, happy to see that more were growing after yesterday's harvest. I shook my head at the plethora of mint, swiping my hand across it to bring forth its aroma. I pondered the tiny purple flowers on the thyme. I transplanted seven pepper plants to a better spot, silently apologizing as I uprooted them. I secured them gently but firmly into their new place, and watered them right away with a promise to come back soon.

My husband, Wayne, says it is an act of faith to plant a garden. Each winter as our seedlings sit in the front window, we eagerly await each new stage of their development. We plant dormant seeds with prayerful hopes, hoping that our care, their environment, and uncontrolled circumstance will support their growth into the best plant they can be. We rejoice from the first tendrils to the last vegetable or flower when autumn is coming upon us. We clear out for the last months of the year and wait to start all over again.

Much of our summer garden began on a winter's day in January when I brought out all the seeds we'd saved from last year. Zinnias, marigolds, peppers, and tomatoes. The beans, carrots, sugar snap peas we had to buy. And of course, I bought plants. Except for spoiling grandchildren, we are frugal. With Scottish and German backgrounds between us, we cannot escape it. However, putting me in a plant nursery in late April with a credit card is possibly more dangerous than sending a shopaholic to the mall. Thankfully I have a lot of willpower, but often something beautiful and new to me simply jumps into my cart.

We bought our cucumber plants from our 16 year-old-grandson, Hunter. He grew them in his high school horticulture class, and then they had a plant sale. Cucumbers don't always grow well here at the coast. Because he planted the seeds and nurtured

them, we especially wanted them to bear fruit. Even if it was just one cucumber, his efforts would be a success. We are grateful to be enjoying many a cucumber salad.

And, like I said at the beginning of this article, I plucked out the ever-tenacious "Pflanzeichwillnichtus." (This is my very own botanical name for a weed. It is a combination of German and Latin, meaning "plant that I do not want.") Along the way, I made mental notes as to how the plants I do want are growing, deadheading as I go. I find a bit of irony in weeding-as I meticulously cull a concentrated area, I am also focusing on the entire garden. I feel the surrounding beauty and the grace of being alive. This creates a precious cohesion, an acceptance of all that is and all that is not.

Our garden of life these last few years has been partially fertilized by loss and sorrow. They churned up the soil of who we are, and these emotions are still breaking down into nutrients that will somehow serve us. Yet, through it all, we resettled our roots, trusting the journey in this strange soil, and we were given enough water and enough light to grow into a new season.

Now, I must go to check the transplanted peppers, smile at the cucumber plants, and pause gratefully at the tender, tiny flowers of thyme.

Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer living in Cape Carteret, NC.





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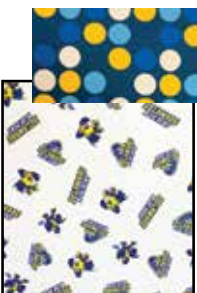
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Life in Skunk Hollow

Christmas in July

by Julie A. Druck

I've been thinking a lot about Christmas lately – more specifically, about Christmas trees. The thoughts have been coming as I wander through the newly-planted Christmas tree field on the hill above our little house. I've taken to walking through the grassy field most evenings at dusk, praying over and blessing the trees – that they would grow strong and well as they work their way to maturity over the next 7 years.

In addition to a growing beef cattle herd, our son, Caleb, and his wife, Abby, are trying this new venture on the fifty-acre farm on which both our families live. Our son is a thorough researcher and meticulous implementer of any new project that he takes on. So, after much planning and paperwork, he purchased 1,100 Canaan and Douglas Fir seedlings. And over a period of three days in late spring, our family helped put those baby trees into the ground. Four generations from Caleb and Abby's families turned out to help at various times over those days. From Caleb's grandfather who helped dig holes to little nieces and nephews who watered the baby seedlings with cups from a bucket, it truly was a family affair.

Caleb told me that he heard 7-year-old Joshua gently talking to one of the trees as he watered its base. Josh's encouragement of "Grow, baby, grow" is the same desire of all those who helped – from the ones who babysat Caleb and Abby's toddler son (who was more interested in eating dirt than planting trees), to Abby's sister who helped tuck trees into the ground while her newborn son was tucked into his swaddle against her, to those who golf carted bucket after bucket of water to the field, and the ones who dug (seemingly) countless holes. We're all eager to see the growth and harvest of the crop.

And therein lies a tendency I recognize within myself – that of wanting to jump to the end of a process – no matter if I'm making something, reading a book, or waiting for trees to grow. The process can sometimes feel like an interference to the ending. Sometimes I just want to have the gift without the bother of opening it! And yet, I'm slowly realizing (in a lot of areas of life) that the process, the journey, IS the gift.

You know, the length of time we have on this earth is unknown to us. There's no guarantee that I'll actually see those trees grow to fruition or ever have the privilege of having one decorate our home during the holiday season. But if I focus on the beauty of the process instead of jumping ahead, I realize that seeing the end of the trees' maturity isn't the only, or even the primary gift. One gift that's already been realized because of these Christmas tree seedlings has been the blessing of family working together for a common purpose. And that purpose goes far beyond a farming venture. For this year, we planted more than just trees. We planted common memories – memories of the joy and sweetness there is in helping one another. The process of doing a job together is just as valuable and as precious as tall, mature Christmas trees. And so, in a sense, beauty has already begun coming to fruition, and these seven years of waiting will provide more opportunity to discover, delight in, and be thankful for all the gifts that will surface in the process.

Julie Druck is from York, Pennsylvania, and writes from her farm in Skunk Hollow. She'd welcome your comments at thedrucks@netzero.com.



Sorting Stash Summer

by Janet M. Bair

This April I was fortunate to attend the AQS (American Quilter's Society) show in Hartford, CT. Since it was only an hour away, many from our quilt guild attended. It was certainly much closer than going to Paducah, Kentucky for their main show.

Seeing the amazing craftsmanship of quilters from all over the world was inspiring and intimidating. I could only imagine the thousands of hours that went into some of the stunning quilts. The "art quilts" that show a picture very close to a photograph amaze me. My friends and I were there for seven hours and we still didn't see everything. With over 100 vendors, it was hard to choose what to buy. I restrained myself and only bought ten fat quarters from out-of-state shops.

The following weekend was our own guild quilt show sponsored by the 150 members. I was very happy to see my first queen size quilt "Seaside Dreams" on



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display. Two years ago when I first walked into Colchester Mill Fabrics, I fell in love with several turquoise seashell prints. After I walked around the whole store which has amazing selections, I went back to the first bolts of beachy themed fabric and created my quilt from them. While I can't swim all year round in New England, I can dream about the beach while sleeping under my quilt.

At our show, there were four quilt shops selling fabric. I selected a fat quarter bundle of five coordinating beachy fabrics, plus an unusual piece of batik that I couldn't resist. Oh, and I bought a fat quarter of donut fabric for a doll's dress. Our guild sold a lovely variety of handmade items besides "mystery bags" of fabric. I just had to buy two of those.

April turned into May and at our last guild meeting, they held a huge sale of donated fabric for \$5 a bag. The collected money went towards purchasing child oriented prints for our Comfort Quilts that we donate to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. Of course, I stuffed a bag.

The following week, I went to a Quilt Auction where you bid on baskets of fabric. The competition was fierce but I managed to win the bid for one basket. There were 150 baskets of fabric to bid on but the prices quickly went up higher than I wanted to spend. But it was a fun event.

This is going to be a stash sorting summer, as I lay fabric out on the two spare beds, the card table, and the rug, looking to see what pieces will go together and trying to decide what I am going to make. For starters, I was able to already sew a quilt top from a jungle print with borders of green, grey and a bright yellow.

I usually have between 5-10 projects that I am working on at once. The piece of "glow in the dark" fabric I bought at AQS will make a cute pair of doll pants for my granddaughter. Several other doll dresses are in the works plus two requests for aprons.

I'm trying out various star designs using patriotic fabric for a wall hanging. The fat quarters I bought for this project are: white background with red stars, navy background with a 1776 drum print and a pale blue with a ring of small white stars print. I am still working out the sizing of my wall hanging.

My fabric stash is not very large compared to other quilters. Most of my past sewing was clothing which left very few scraps and in 2020 I managed to sew every spare piece of fabric I owned, when we couldn't go shopping. I want to be a good steward of my resources and to use up the fabric I've already acquired in the past four years of quilting. One of my goals is to start cutting three inch strips to make a "scrappy" quilt. I have plenty of blue fabrics and my leftover pieces of yellow will coordinate well, along with green accents.

It's a lot faster to buy material than to sew it! Hopefully, I can sit outside and do some sorting and organizing this summer. What are your fabric plans for the summer? Whether they are big or small plans, I wish you a Happy Fourth of July and a super summer!

© Janet M. Bair of Ansonia, CT. You may contact her at librarybair@hotmail.com

HANOVER



KISSed Quilts

Take a Ride Into the Countryside

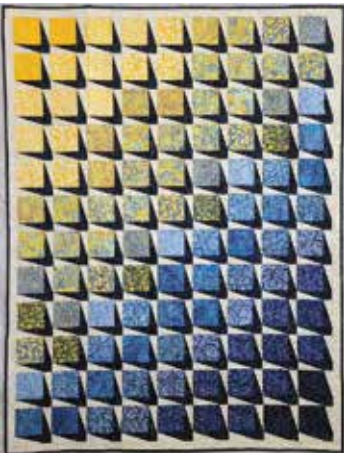
by Marlene Oddie

For over a decade I have been designing quilts with Island Batik fabrics. They are now a division of Lumin Fabrics and I'm honored that they asked if I'd put my name to one of the fabric collections designed by Jerry Khiev. I selected this beautiful blue and yellow collection – *Countryside Charm* – as my first Signature Collection.

Various values of blue and yellow create a pleasing palette that is just happy! The motifs are a variety of floral patterns, leaves and small petal shapes.

I've designed four primary patterns and a couple of them have bonus designs included.

Angled Shadows – you may recognize the block that I designed last year as part of our All Pacific Northwest Shop Hop event. This version of it doesn't include any sashings and has a consistent background throughout the quilt. This is easily constructed when using AnglePlay® templates for the half rectangle triangles. Having angled shadows is something new to our industry! Enjoy the 3-d effect.



Honeycomb – Used my newly designed Half Hexi template, that maximizes the use of a 10" square and can cut a half or whole hexi, the setting elements and corners, to make this quilt. The template has holes where the 1/4" intersections are to help facilitate marking your seam start and stop points. Bonus: Make a simple wallhanging with your favorite fabrics. This concept could be used with any collection.



Sintra Entrada – This one may be familiar, but looks quite different than one you might have seen a few years ago. This is because I'm using a light medium value blue consistently for the vertical rectangle instead of a darker value. This may look difficult to construct but uses strata techniques to make it simple. This tile pattern can be found at the entrance of Sintra Palace in Portugal. I've chosen to color it quite differently.



Hearts-a-Bloom – Using the corner-to-corner technique you'll get bonus half square triangles. So I used them in a bonus design—Windy Pinwheels. You could also just make one block set and frame it as a wallhanging.

These fabrics, templates and patterns are shipping to your local quilt shop now. If you need patterns, templates, fabrics and/or kits—please ask!



-Marlene Oddie, of Grand Coulee, WA, is an engineer by training, a project manager by profession, and a quilter by passion. At her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts, she quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus and especially enjoys designing quilts and helping create meaningful keepsakes. Fabrics, patterns, kits, and templates are available at kissedquilts.com. Follow Marlene's adventures on Facebook and Instagram.



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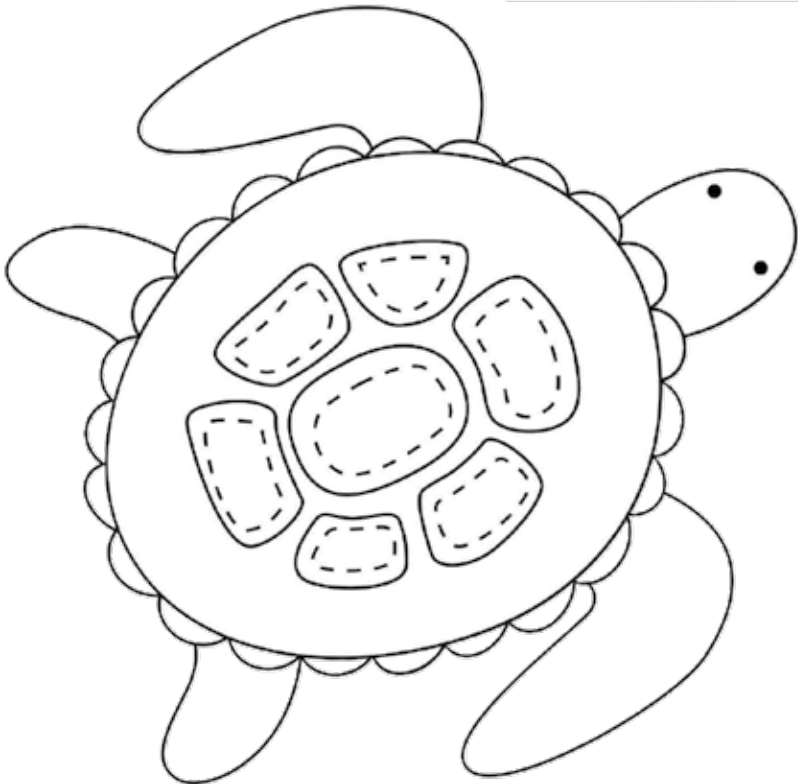


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Free Pattern

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Free Embroidery Pattern – May not be sold or used for commercial purposes. Use this pattern for embroidery, wool applique, punch needle or rug hooking, painted projects or whatever your imagination can dream up! Reduce or enlarge pattern as desired.

OAKS - VARIOUS SHOP HOP TOWNS



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(story continued from p. 10)

there is virtually nothing that one can't find of interest. I've found that amongst the many things I collect, I probably have more sheet music than any other thing. Pick the subject and there are enough to satisfy a collector's desire to accumulate. Some of my areas of interest include Rags, railroads, aviation, Black Americana, jazz, sports, musical instruments, songs about cities and states, just to name a few.

But for me, I am most interested in advertising sheet music. Not only for their colorful, imaginative covers, but how they address their products in lyrics. My holy grail is a piece of music called "*Signs We See As We Pass Along.*"

Published in 1904, it is an early critique of the pervasiveness of advertising. A train passing through a tranquil countryside assaults passengers with 40 products on billboards, signs and painted barn sides.

For more information about that intriguing song, see my article in the May-June 2017 *Antique Register*.

The great thing about sheet music collecting is that they don't have to be just stored in albums. In fact, they serve as ideal framed decor. They are easy to display. And they are frequent conversation starters.

A Good Read: Few books have been published of late about the history of sheet music. Some information can be gained from “*Old Sheet Music: A pictorial history*” by Marian Klamkin (1975); “*Victorian Sheet Music Covers*” by Ronald Pearsall (1972); “*Rare 19th Century Large Music Sheets*,” and “*The Sheet Music Reference and Price Guide*” (1992).

Value: The beauty of collecting sheet music is there is something for everyone. Many pieces are valued at under \$5. Others can be purchased for less than \$25. For some of the most desirable pieces such as those mentioned in this article can go far north of \$100. Remember, condition is one of the most significant factors in evaluating the value of sheet music.

Start collecting sheet music, and people will “sing” praise to your unique eye and ear.



© 2026. *Virtually an antique himself, or maybe a “collectible,” Jay Mark, has more than a half-century experience in the antiques business. He owns Those Were The Days!, an online specialty bookstore. A recognized historian, he also teaches, lectures and writes about antiques and history. Reach him at jaymarkshistorian@gmail.com.*



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