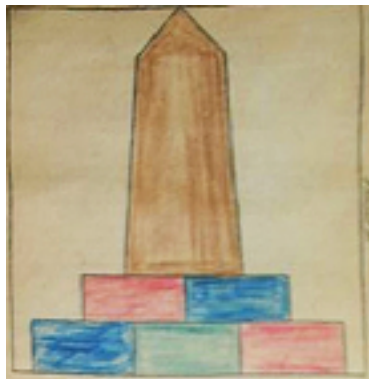


## January - Grant's Monument



Julia Boggs (Dent) Grant was born at West Haven plantation, complete with 30 African slaves, just west of St Louis, Missouri in 1826. In 1844, her brother, Fred, brought his roommate from West Point home for a visit: Ulysses. S. Grant. Julia & Ulysses fell in

love and became engaged with his class ring. Her parents doubted the earning power of a poor soldier and his parents strongly disapproved of the slave-holding Dents. However, they married in 1848, after Grant's service in the Mexican-American War. Even then, they were frequently separated by his military postings. In spite of this, they gave each other a life-long loyalty. Julia was enthusiastic about her husband's presidential candidacy and relished her time as first lady. She entertained lavishly at the White House, from receptions and small gatherings of Union Army officers to elaborate dinners for foreign guests and politicians. After leaving the White House, the Grants embarked on a two-and-a-half-year tour of the world which included stops in India, China, Japan, Egypt, Russia, Greece, and more.

### Fun Facts

- \* Was the 1st First Lady to be recorded on film
- \* Was almost always photographed or painted in profile, as she suffered from strabismus (crossed-eyes) since childhood.
- \* Hosted the first State Dinner, which honored King Kalakaua of the Kingdom of Hawaii.
- \* Was the 1st First Lady to write her own memoir, although they went unpublished until 1975.
- \* Launched a major Gilded Age refurbishing of the White House to prepare for First Daughter Nellie Grant's 1874 wedding, installing new gas chandeliers and Renaissance Revival furniture.
- \* Raised 4 children to adulthood
- \* Were invited to join the Lincolns at Fords Theater but had to decline, as they were traveling back to their home in New Jersey that evening.

I'm sure you noticed the differing block examples above. Both share credit as Grant's Monument and Garfield's Monument. Oral histories make it tough to be absolutely sure of a block's name. In this case, they are almost interchangeable. I made the executive decision to go with the pyramid-style block for Grant. We'll tackle Garfield next month :)

### **Let's get cutting!**

From dark blue fabric

three 2.5" squares

one 2.5 x 4.5 rectangle

one 2.5 x 6.5 rectangle

one 2.5 x 8.5 rectangle

one 2.5 x 12.5 rectangle

From white/cream fabric

two 1.5 x 2.5 rectangles

two 2.5 squares

two 2.5 x 3.5 rectangles

two 2.5 x 4.5 rectangles

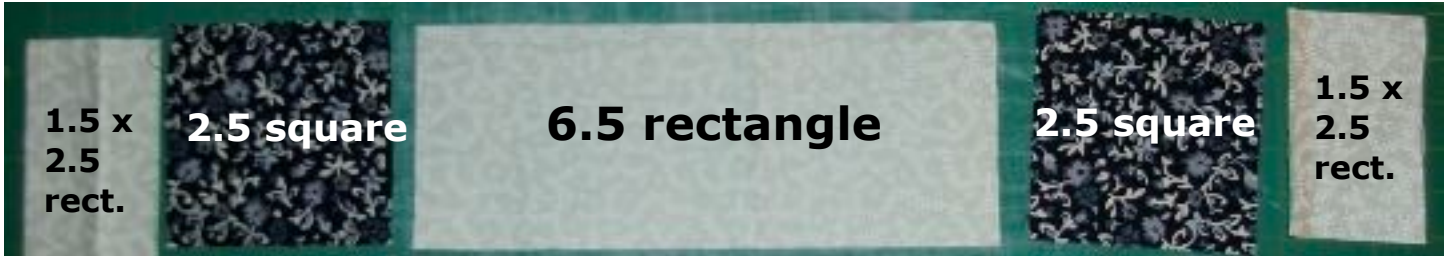
two 2.5 x 5.5 rectangles

one 2.5 x 6.5 rectangles

### **Assembly**

This block goes together row by row. We'll start at the top. Follow the illustrations below to sew sections together. Press to dark fabric.





Now lay out the rows as shown, setting 12.5 x 2.5 blue rectangle at the base, and sew rows together.



Press seams in one direction and you're done !



A couple of final thoughts . . . . .

1. For the dark fabric, a jelly roll strip at least 40" long works great. For the light fabric, a jelly roll strip at least 41 inches long will work. If your light strip isn't long enough, use it for the outside pieces and cut the 6.5 x 2.5 rectangle from a similar fabric.
2. This is a great block to test your 1/4 inch seam. Your rows should all measure 12.5". My strip with the white rectangle in the middle was a bit too long which tells me my 1/4 inch seams are a bit too scant.
3. The white space in the pyramid would have been used to embroider a loved one's name, perhaps a family member who was lost in the war. I think this block would be great for using old clothes, with the original wearer's name in the space. Or perhaps a gift to someone special, made and signed by friends and family.