

February BOM - Garfield's Monument

Lucretia Rudolph Garfield was born in Ohio in 1832. Her father was a carpenter but the family highly valued education. She attended what is now Hiram College and expressed her belief that women were capable of their own achievements in society and deserved equal pay in employment. James Garfield, only a year older than "Crete", was also a student and took a teaching position there and was one of her teachers. They began a correspondence in 1853 and continued their courtship by letter until their marriage 5 years later. Both had serious doubts about getting married but felt their marriage was expected. Most of their early years, they lived apart; she continued teaching, he continued traveling as a preacher, a state legislator, and an Army officer. Their first 10 years of marriage were a dark time, with both unhappy. James was often unfaithful and Lucretia continuing to live her life independently. It was not until the sudden death of their son that their shared grief seemed to bring them together and they became determined to fix their marriage. Their devotion to each other grew as the marriage continued.



Lucretia became his closest adviser when James became the 20th president-elect. James Garfield was inaugurated on March 4, 1881 and so began Lucretia's short time as First Lady. In May, she became ill with malaria. James canceled his appointments to nurse her himself. In June she traveled to New Jersey to continue her recovery by the sea. On July 2, James was taking a train to visit her when he was shot by an unstable member of an opposing party. Lucretia returned from the shore to be with James but despite her tireless nursing for the next 10 weeks, he died on Sept. 19, 1881. The nation was outraged and the hearts of the people went out to the First Lady, who retired to the Garfield home in Ohio.

Facts about Lucretia Garfield

- * She assumed responsibility for refurbishing the White House, wanting to recreate the historical ambiance that recalled the earlier residents of the mansion.
- * Traveled to New York under an alias to purchase a dress for the inauguration.
- * Lifted the White House ban on alcohol
- * Quietly supported the belief that equal treatment of women was a right, not a privilege.
- * Worked with historian Theodore C. Smith to preserve records of her husband's presidency
- * Oversaw the construction of a library of all her husband's books and documents, establishing the first presidential library

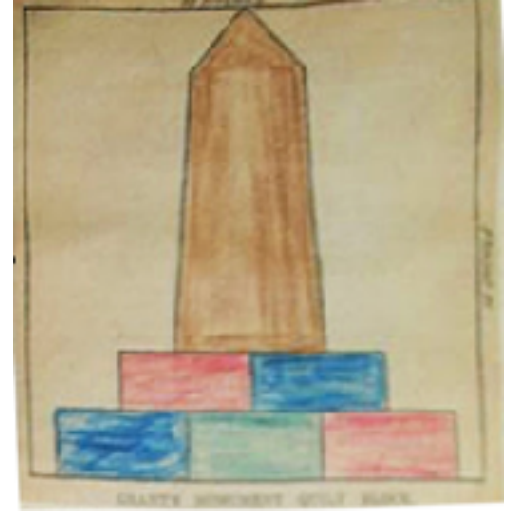
As I mentioned last month, Garfield's and Grant's Monument quilt blocks are very similar and are frequently shown with the same name.



Garfield's Monument
Ladies Art Co. 1889



Garfield's Monument
Farm and Home, 1880's



Grant's Monument
From an old scrapbook



I went with the Ladies Arts Company version because it included templates and instructions. I'm keeping as close as possible to the original, modifying only when necessary to meet our 12" block finish. I've included a copy of the original publication at the end of this month's directions. This block uses both piecing and appliqué.

There are many ways to appliqué. My directions are just 1 method. PLEASE feel free to adjust cutting sizes & steps to suit the method you like best. Call if I can help.

Cutting Directions

I am using a cream background, 2 blues, and a red for this block.

1. From cream / background, cut a 12.5" square
2. From dark blue, cut 3 rectangles, 2.75 x 3.25 in
3. From light blue, cut 2 rectangles, 2.25 x 3.5 in
4. Trace the pyramid shape from the original directions onto red fabric and cut it out. I added a bit extra when I cut it out to give me a good 1/4 inch all around so I could fold 1/4 inch under along sides and allow a 1/4 seam at the base.



PIECING:

Step 1

Sew 3 dark blue rectangles together, end to end. Press seams open.



Step 2

Sew 2 light blue rectangles together end to end. Press seam open and press strip ends to wrong side 1/4 inch.



Step 3

Center the light blue strip on the dark blue strip, right sides together. Sew together, catching the folded ends of the light blue strip in the seam.



Press towards dark blue and continue the fold of the raw edge of the dark fabric 1/4 to wrong side as well.



Step 4

Press sides and peak of the red pyramid shape under 1/4 inch.



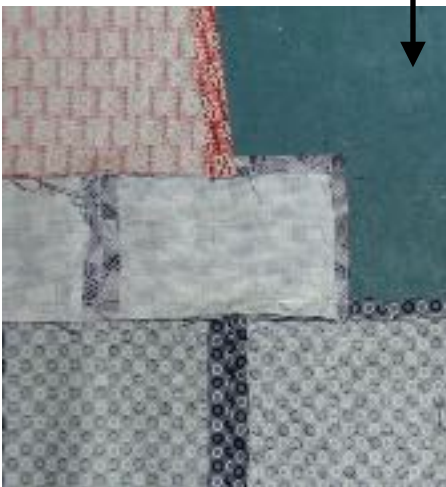
Step 5

Center base of red pyramid on the light blue strip, RST, and sew together.



Step 6

Press towards light blue, all the way to end of blue fabric.

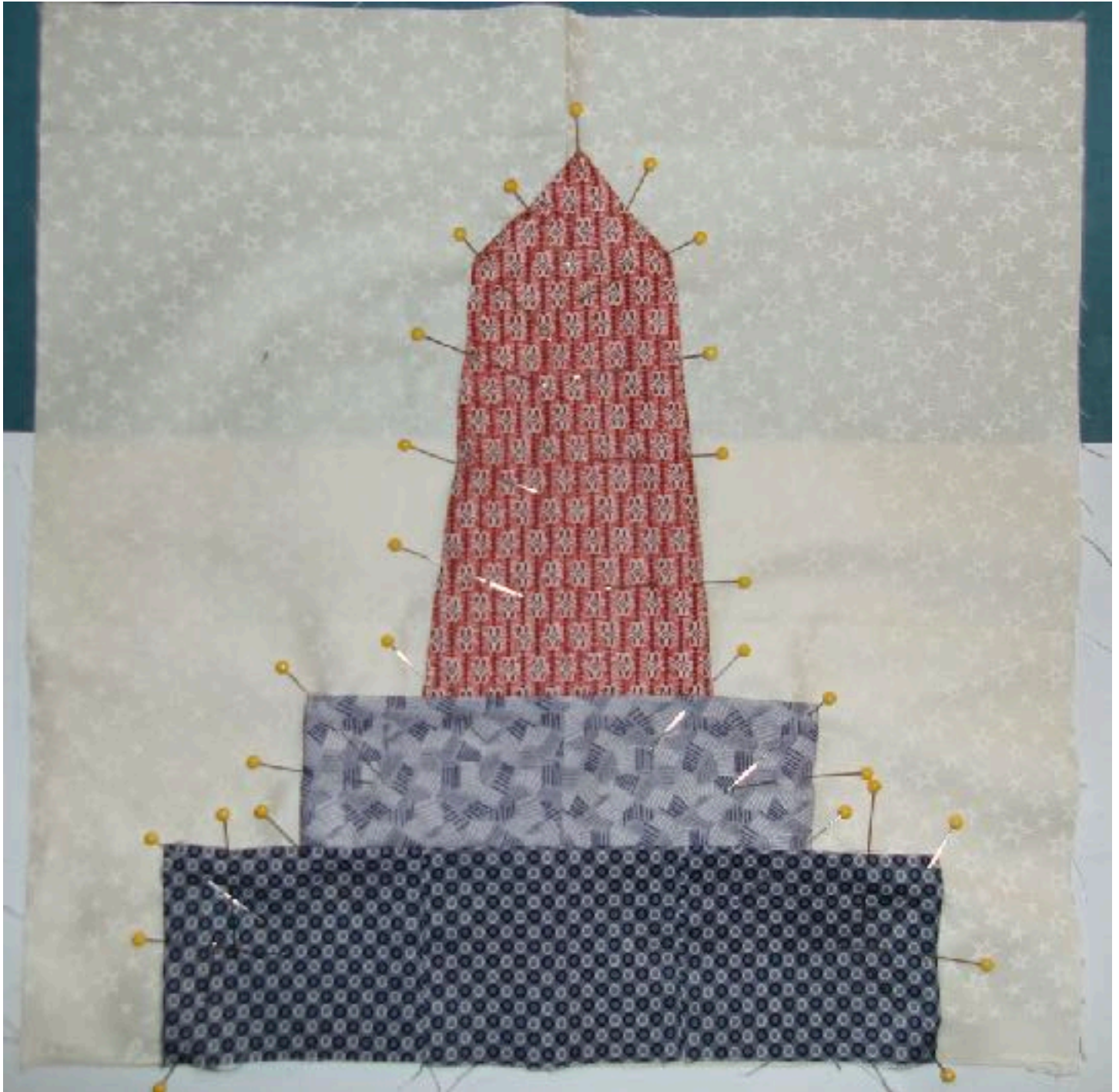


Step 7 Fold 1/4 in. of ends of dark blue fabric to wrong sides on ends of dark fabric. The wrong side of your "monument" should look like this:



APPLIQUÉ

There are many ways to appliqué so please follow the method that suits you best. I wanted finished-looking edges, which is why I folded them under 1/4 inch. Center the "monument" onto your background square. The base can be just a shade up from the bottom of the square, as it will eventually be caught in a later seam. If you enjoy a bit of hand-sewing, whip stitch around the monument to secure it to the square. If not, top stitch or blanket stitch around the monument.



FINISHING TOUCH

Now for the "G" on the monument. Again, lots of options. If you enjoy embroidery or cross-stitch, this would be a perfect opportunity to add the initial "G". If not, trace & cut out the "G" on the original pattern on a light fabric. The original pattern allows a small amount of fabric to be folded under. With the folded edges under all the curves and tiny spaces, it will be tough to machine sew around it. Hand stitching would work.

I opted to iron-on and chose a piece of light-weight fusible fabric that I use for labels. I traced & cut out the "G", centered it on the blue fabric, and ironed it on.



And that's it ! As I researched these last 2 blocks, I gained a greater appreciation of Civil War and Reconstruction era quilts. Each block carried the individuality of its maker, regardless of its name. It makes me happy that we have all chosen to continue their art.

Quilt Pattern No 136

Quilt Blocks are of two kinds: Pieced Blocks and Appliqued Blocks. In Pieced Blocks, all the pieces that go to the making of the block are cut out and sewed together. In Appliqued Blocks the pieces that form the design are appliqued (whipped) on a solid block of white or any other plain color. The latter is the plan adopted in the case of all very irregular designs, where it would be manifestly impossible to cut out and piece in the design. We will give two examples: No. 4 is a pieced block; No. 189 is an appliqued block. We make this explanation because inexperienced quilters sometimes write in to complain, when they get an appliqued pattern, that all the pieces have not been sent. No allowance for seams have been made in our patterns; you must allow these yourself when cutting the goods. The best plan is to mark off our patterns on heavier paper, then cut outside these lines, large enough for the width of seam you are in the habit of turning over. Now cutting the goods by your patterns you will get your pieces all of a uniform size.

#136 GARFIELD'S MONUMENT Ladies Art Co.
St. Louis, Missouri

QUILT PATTERN NO. 136--GARFIELD'S
MONUMENT

SIZE OF QUILT,
84x97 inches.

This quilt is made up of forty-two 13-inch blocks set six in width and seven in length with a 3-inch plain border. The monument is pieced to a 13-inch plain block. The "G" is appli-
qued to the center of the monument as shown below.

COLORS

We suggest blue, olive green, yellow and white for this quilt. Any desired color or combination may be substituted.

AMOUNT OF MATERIAL REQUIRED

White.....11 yards
Blue..... 3 yards and 24 inches.
Olive green... 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ yards
Yellow..... 1 yard

NUMBER OF PIECES TO BE CUT.

Piece No.1.....42 blue
" No.2.....84 olive green
" No.3.....126 olive green
" No.4..... 42 yellow
42 squares 13x13 inches...white
2 strips 3x84 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.....blue
2 " 3x97 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.....blue

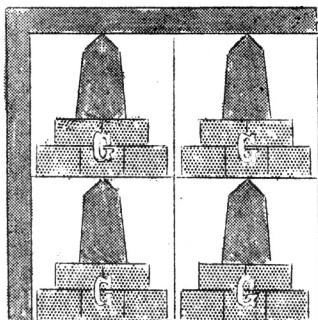
NOTE: Cut strips first to get full length without piecing.

SUGGESTIONS FOR CUTTING

Trace pattern on light cardboard or sandpaper and cut out. Use these cardboard or sandpaper patterns as cutting guides. The most accurate method is to lay cardboard or sandpaper pattern on material and mark around with pencil. Cut out on pencil lines.

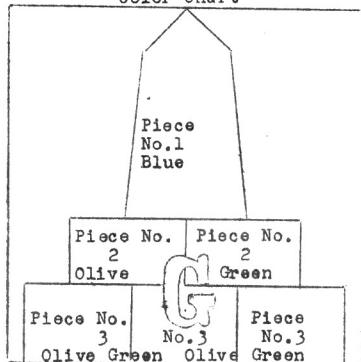
QUILTING

Quilt along all seams of the piecing. Use our Q42, 2-inch size, on the plain border.



Corner of Completed Quilt

Color Chart



The "G" is Piece No.4. Applique the "G" to the pieced monument. Then applique the monument to the plain 13-inch white block.

Pattern Sheet QUILT PATTERN NO.136
GARFIELD'S MONUMENT

Piece No.2

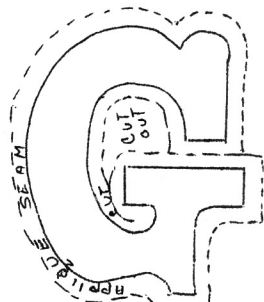
seam allowance

Piece No.3

seam allowance

Piece No.1

PIECE SEAM



ABOVE... Piece No.4
Yellow or desired
color.

LADIES ART CO.
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI