

“American Pride - Eagles and Stars Quilt”

~ circa 1850



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On June 20, 1782 the American Bald Eagle became the official symbol on the Great Seal of the United States. It is a representation of freedom and strength...a symbol of our great country. Women have been creating quilts throughout the years using patriotic symbols to showcase support for their country. The design characteristic of the eagle, used by quilters, has changed throughout the years. The more recent design of the eagle is not as elaborate as the design from the early 19th century...but the symbolism continues to support the patriotism felt by the women for centuries with pride.

It is believed the placement of the eagle on a quilt is symbolic. Eagles facing to the right are representing peace. Eagles facing to the left are representing war or are willing to protect and defend peace. We are always willing to protect and support this great country of ours. Needle artists continue to show their support through a needle, while men and women of our military continue to protect our freedom.

The border displays triple rod quilting along the continuous flow of a green vine with alternating red and green five pointed stars. The original quilt also displays quilted five pointed stars symbolizing the patriotism of the quilter. There are nine eagles with a halo of 13 five pointed stars representing the original thirteen colonies. It is believed a five pointed star was chosen to represent our independence. Betsy Ross demonstrated the ease to construct a five pointed star by folding and cutting the fabric. There is no proof that Betsy Ross made the first flag...there are some that believe a committee designed the first flag.

Benjamin Franklin suggested the eagle was a bird of bad moral character and was a scavenger that stole food. He felt the turkey was a bird that best represented our country...one that is more respectable and displays courage. The “Bald Eagle” continues to represent our country today and we are proud to protect the honor of patriotism and respect the representation of freedom.

