



Westport Historical Society Macomber Primary School Sewing Project

Dear Friend,

The Westport Historical Society and the Westport Education Foundation have partnered on a project to perpetuate the art of hand sewing by embarking on an adventure to teach the 1st Grade students at the Alice A. Macomber Primary School how to hand sew a quilt inspired by a patchwork piece in the historical society's collection!

This piece was created locally by students in Mary I. Gifford's class sometime between the years 1891-94. It is a basic beginner block known as a quarter square block. What makes this piece even more special is that the teacher hand wrote each student's name and age on a piece of paper that is pinned to the row of blocks sewn by that student. The ages range from five to seven years old, the same as the students who will be participating in the project!

With the help of volunteers, the 1st graders will create a Queen sized quilt to be raffled off to benefit the Westport Education Foundation. Along the way, the students will learn about local history, the craft of hand sewing and quilting, working as part of a team, and a sense of accomplishment that will help build self-esteem.

This project will take place on Wednesdays during April and May 2015 for a 45-minute session, 1:30 – 2:15 pm, at the Macomber Primary School, 154 Gifford Road. We are recruiting volunteers to help teach the students to hand sew. We would appreciate having each volunteer sign up for a majority of the sessions, but, appreciate a reliable shorter commitment as well. Training will be available to those who have never hand sewn or need to brush up on their skills. An affinity for working with small children is a requirement as a rapport will be built up with the students over the weeks. Quilters, sewers, crafters, and teachers are most suited to this project, but, anyone is welcome to apply.

Please fill out the attached volunteer application and CORI form and mail to Kathleen McAreavey, Manager of Education Programs, Westport Historical Society, P.O. Box N188, Westport, MA 02790.

Any questions may be directed to Kathleen at education@westporthistory.net. This project is funded by a grant from the Westport Cultural Council, a division of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Thank you for your interest in, and support of, Westport Historical Society Children's Heritage Education Programs! We look forward to seeing you!

Very truly yours,
Kathleen

