

The Clarissa D Moore Quilt

Wanda Heidemann

The creation of The Clarissa D Moore Quilt started with a phone call one day while I was at work. I have a sister named Clarissa Moore and she called me to tell me she had Googled her name and the first thing that came up was a picture of The Clarissa D Moore Quilt. She wanted me to know that there was one named after her and if I wanted to Google it I could. I did and bought the pattern as a birthday gift for her.

When I open the packet to look at the pattern and what was needed to recreate this quilt, I got very nervous. I had realized that this would be a reproduction quilt, which I knew nothing about how to do a reproduction quilt and what the process was. I also realized that it was made with Y seams and other quilting techniques I was not too familiar with; this was a red flag for me. It was a pattern that took me out of my comfort zone as it was a new quilting technique that I had never done. I was very intimidated by the pattern and I spent hours studying it and making paper patterns to get the project started. This was also going to be my first reproduction quilt. As I study the pattern and read the story about Clarissa D Moore, I connected with the similarities to the Clarissa Moore of the 1800 to my sister. I liked that both of them were born in a different state but ended up living in Connecticut. They also had similar childhoods by growing up on a family farm.

This quilt has been about an 8-year process. It took 3-years to put it together. I started collecting the fabrics after flying to Connecticut for her 50th birthday, in this trip I discovered she loved the Victorian motif. Then

my search began to find and choose the colors that would fit in her house. Through my search of the fabrics I built many friendships in many quilt shops from Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Missouri that I visited in my search. My biggest find was in a quilt shop in Camdenton, Missouri, there I found a Victorian queen size quilt set that was closing out for \$35.00. With it this find I felt that I had collected enough fabric for the quilt. I had showed the fabric to my sister Clarissa and she loved the colors. I was ready to begin cutting the shapes and piecing the quilt together. In all of this process I was also starting off a new career as a Pastor. I was very lucky the day God placed me in a job of Pastor at St. Luke United Methodist Church. Through this new role as pastor I discovered that on Tuesday morning there were a group of ladies named "Thimbles and Needles" that would get together and work on hand quilting quilts for friends and family. When I told them what I was doing and asked if they be up for the challenge of helping me hand quilt reproduction quilt, they agreed. The quilting group and I worked on the quilt for over 4 months on Tuesday morning for 4 hours. I would also work on it in my spare time to get it completed before Clarissa was to arrive for a visit. I was excited to show her quilt and give it to her for Christmas.

Clarissa and I grew up in a family of seven children, there were 5 girls and 2 boys. I was born in Springfield, Missouri and moved to Waterloo, IA when I was a year. While we lived in Waterloo, Iowa, where Cathy, Clarissa, Donna, Rayman and Lonny were born. Then we moved out to the farm in 1973 and Karen was born. We grew up with a rough childhood, and Clarissa and I used to share a room and fight when we were younger. As we grew up our friendship has grown into something more the just sister, but also friend and confidant. Each of us has moved on and I married to my high school sweetheart Ronny Heidemann in 1978 and had two children. We then

moved to Marshfield, Missouri where I have a quilting business and am a Pastor. Both my children are grown and my daughter is married and has two children and lives in Iowa and my son lives in Missouri. Clarissa moved to Connecticut in 1986 to work as a nanny and then become a Preschool teacher in Greenwich. She continues to live in Stratford, Connecticut and remains single. Even though there is a great distance between us we remain very close and talk at least once a week and know that we are here for each other.

My decision to make this beautiful quilt for Clarissa, is because she is very special to me. I got my love of quilting from our Grandmother Josie Moore and our Aunt Rosie Boyce. I really enjoy quilting and doing this reproduction quilt, I have found that my quilts can tell a story of our past and bring together a love of family and friends. I hope one day someone will find one of my quilts that I have created and want to do a reproduction quilt for someone they love.



Put together
and ready
to go to
my Quilters



Thimbles
and
Needles
quilting
group
Left to Right
Leann
Kaehy
Pat
Carol
Rose
not Pictured
Pat So Wanda H



3 months of
hand quilting
the Quilt
is finished,
ready to be
trimmed and
Binding sewn
on.



Clarissa
receiving
her Quilt



Clarissa Meeting the Beautiful
Quilting Ladies of Thimbles and Needles,
getting her picture with them.

Left to Right Clarissa Moore,
Pat (our oldest quilter), Kathy, Lucille,
Rose, missing were Wanda (taking picture)
Leann + Pat S.

Creator of the Quilt Left: Wanda Right: Clarissa



Wanda,
Left
Clarissa,
Right

Sisters and Friends



Clarissa Proudly
displaying the
Back of her Quilt



No Quilt is
complete
with out a
label with
a little story