
OUR HERITAGE

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A Charming Doll Quilt



VARIANT OF SUNSHINE AND SHADOW

The little doll quilt pictured above measures 16"x17½". It was crafted by Rae Edna (Rettew) Maybe in 1910, when she was only 6 years old. Her grandmother, Mrs. Nolt, helped her make the quilt. It's wonderful that the initials R E R and the date 1910 were added to the little quilt at the time it was made. Ms. Rettew was born in the Leacock area (Amish area) of Lancaster County. The tiny patches total 473 in number. The orange frame outlining the center was formed using strips of the cloth. Quilts of any size that are formed with very small patches are referred to as postage stamp quilts. A local collector owns a postage stamp quilt made by Mrs. Emanuel Balmer of Manheim that contains 6,742 patches. The quilt was made in the 1880's and is signed and dated.

What appears in column one also appeared in the October 2014 issue of **Our Heritage**. It's being republished here because of some impressive information just made available to HMPF. The information is related to Mrs. Maybe's training as a nurse.

In the book: **The Rettew's Genealogy**, recently added to our Ensminger Library, is the following information concerning Mrs. Maybe.

Eight Generation

Rae Edna Rettew

Born January 12, 1904, in East Earl Twp., Lancaster County, Pa.

In a period in history when education was considered "unnecessary" for females, Edna Rettew totaled an impressive list of schooling credits.

Graduated from Manheim High School, 1922; Graduated from Lancaster General Hospital, 1925; Attended Summer School at Columbia University, New York City, New York - 1926-1927; Attended Summer School, Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio - 1928; Attended Cleveland Night Adult College - 1927-1932; Much of the time spent going to school was also time spent working. Private duty nursing, Lancaster, Pa - 1925-1926; Worked at Ann Arbor Hospital, Ann Arbor, Mich. 1926; Worked at the Mt. Sinai Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio - 1927; Employed by the Cleveland Visiting Nurse's Association - 1927-1931

During the depression Edna Rettew returned home to Lancaster County and worked in the family business, a department store in Manheim, Pa., for eight years; and finally returned to private duty nursing in Lancaster, Pa., in 1944. She retired in 1978 and received a Life Membership in Nursing from the

Lancaster General Hospital Alumni.

Mrs. Maybe held memberships in the following: National Society Daughters of the American Revolution; National Society of Daughters of the War of 1812; National Society US Daughters of the American Colonies and the Hugenot Society of Pennsylvania.

She married Harold Conkin Maybe June 21 1933. Mr. Maybe was born in Patterson , N. J. April 4 1899. He enlisted as an aviator mechanic, December 17, 1919 and was stationed at the Dirigible Naval Station at Lake Hurst, N. J. Harold was employed by the American Telephone and Telegraph Western Reserve Division - 1924-1931. United States Navy Yards, Philadelphia, Pa. - 1939-1950. United Sates Post Office, Manheim Pa. - 1950-1960. Harold was a 32 Degree Mason.

The person placing the article here was a friend to Harold (Hal) Maybe through the Baron Stiegel Coin Club and Harold's many friends here in Manheim. Harold was a really nice person.



Rae Edna Rettew is the child standing on the left side in the picture. Her brother Elden and sisters Elva, Anna and Arlene are also in the picture. Edna was age 6 at the time the picture was taken. As mentioned earlier, it's the age when she, with the help of her grandmother, made the doll quilt.



Lancaster General Hospital School of Nursing, Established 1903

Miss Edna Rettew, Lancaster General Hospital Graduation Picture, 1925

As Jean and Pat recollect their early years, they remember a house full of books, friends, even Fresh Air children. Plus they had a mother who always worked. Edna was a graduate of Lancaster General Hospital and, as a young woman, spent some time in Cleveland, OH, working as a visiting nurse. During the depression she returned to Manheim and helped at the family store, "Rettews", and later went back to work as a private duty nurse seven days a week until retirement.

She believed in education, not just for herself, but for her two girls as well. She became a nurse because it was the only way for her to be educated in 1920. As a young girl, Edna also saved the money she made at Lancaster General Hospital, so that during the summer breaks she could go to New York City to attend classes at Columbia University. She also arranged for her sister, Elva, to train as a nurse.

Edna (Rettew Maybe) Roberts was very independent and she worked her whole life. She also had high expectations. It was understood that her daughters would go to college, study hard, work, set goals and fulfill them, thus ensuring a happy life for themselves.

She was generous. As Jean and Pat have gotten older, their friends have expressed appreciation of how Edna inspired them. She introduced books, education, and expectations not only within her own family, but to others as well.