

# Chelmsford's Bicentennial Quilt



1976

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*The Chelmsford Revolutionary War Bicentennial Commission  
expresses its gratitude to all the citizens who gave of their time,  
talents and skills to create the Town of Chelmsford Bicentennial  
Quilt.*

*Mary J. Guaraldi, Chairman*

*Chelmsford Bicentennial Quilt Committee*

This booklet is a reproduction of the original booklet printed in 1976 when the Bicentennial Quilt was completed. The Library wishes to thank the Chelmsford Cultural Council for its part in having the quilt cleaned and preserved by the Textile Conservation Center at the American Textile History Museum in Lowell so that future generations may view it.



*Sally Palmer Field*

*Advisor*

*Margie Moler*

*Design Chairman*

*Irene Pouliot*

*Fabric Selection Chairman*

*Prue McBride*

*Fabric Selection Co-Chairman*

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Margaret E. Adams  
John Alden  
Joanne Allard  
Janice Baird  
Helen Barris  
Robert Barris  
Betty Belanger  
Eleanor Bragdon  
Audrey Carragher  
John Carragher  
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Val Clark  
Jane Drury  
Brenda Dudley  
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Virginia Fielding  
Nancy Fiske  
Eustace Fiske  
Julia Fogg  
Irene Foster  
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Joyce McKenzie  
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Robert Picken  
Mrs. Helen Poland  
Ernest Pouliot  
J. Perry Richardson  
Betty Ripsom  
Marjorie Sargent  
Connie Scarth  
James Scarth  
Judy Seredynski  
Clara Sills  
Mary Slattery  
Chris Stavros  
Hazel Stevens  
Marilyn Supple  
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Dot Webb  
Linda Webb  
Roger Welch  
Barbara Willman  
Kathy Willman  
Hedy Zaberick

## Some Notes on the History of the Squares

The descriptions for the quilt blocks were written by the Bicentennial Club of the McFarlin School under the direction of Ms. Janice Carragher and Ms. Virginia Blouin. They were assisted by sixth grade students Terry Cryts, Sirry Karlsson, Melissa Micol, Susan Burns, Judy Fahey, and Kim McBride.

1. **Waite House:** This 18th Century brick-ender in South Chelmsford was built by John Bateman, whose daughter Charlotte married Ezekiel Byam, the match manufacturer.
2. **Match Box:** The first Lucifer Matches were made in South Chelmsford by Ezekiel Byam in 1835. The old match shop stood on Robin Hill Road, a granite marker now marking its site.
3. **Barrett-Byam House:** Located on Byam Road, is the headquarters and museum of the Chelmsford Historical Society and is one of the oldest homes in Chelmsford.
4. **Granite Quarry:** In the early 19th century granite quarried in Chelmsford supplied stone for some of the major construction in the area, including the arch over the Middlesex Canal depicted here.
5. **Lime Quarry:** Lime was quarried for many years in Chelmsford at a site a little west of the Center on Route 110.
6. **Apple Orchard:** In rural Chelmsford apple orchards were a prominent feature of the countryside and important to most farmers.
7. **Garlic:** Was a plant widely used in early times in cookery and medicine.
8. **Adams Library:** Was dedicated in 1895, and named in honor of Amos F. Adams who donated the funds for its construction.

9. **Chelmsford Town Seal:** Depicts Revolutionary War Monument and town motto “Let the Children Guard What the Sires Have Won.”

10. **I.O.O.F. Building:** Now occupied by the First Bank and Trust, at the turn of the century housed the E. T. Adams Store and a bakery on its first floor. The Odd Fellows Hall on the second story was used by St. Mary’s Parish for Sunday Mass before construction of a church.

11. **Dill:** Was an important herb to rural housewives for pickling.

12. **Old Mill House:** Located in Chelmsford Center, is an early building connected with the mill complex on Beaver Brook which dates back to the 17th century, including both grist and saw mill operations. For over thirty years Miss Ruby Emery and Miss Rose G. Merserve operated a bakery here that was famed for its home-baked delicacies.

13. **Chelmsford Brick:** Was once manufactured in East Chelmsford on Brick Kiln Road. The 1802 School House was made from these bricks as well as many of the older houses in town.

14. **Ice Harvesting:** Was an important occupation in early Chelmsford during winter months.

15. **Scythe Factory:** Located in West Chelmsford, was established in the 1820’s. During the Civil War the manufacture of swords replaced scythe making.

16. **Chelmsford Glass:** Was manufactured at a glass works in Middlesex Village established in 1802. The Barrett-Byam Museum has an extensive collection of Chelmsford glass.

17. **Susan McFarlin’s classroom:** Susan McFarlin taught the youth of Chelmsford for almost half a century at the old yellow school house in the Center, where the fire house now stands.

18. **Russell Mill:** In 1656, the first saw mill in Chelmsford was located at what is now known as Russell Mill Pond by Samuel Adams and maintained by five successive generations of his family.

19. **Pulpit Rock:** Rev. John Parkhurst, a minister in Chelmsford in the early 1800’s used to practice his sermons at Pulpit Rock on Robin Hill.

20. **Chelmsford Ginger Ale:** In 1901, the Chelmsford Spring Co. was established in the Center for the manufacture of ginger ale and other beverages. The plant was purchased by Canada Dry in 1928.

21. **Locomotive:** Pictured is the sixth locomotive of the Nashua-Lowell Railroad’s Lion train, which started running in 1838. After departing from its Lowell depot at the corner of Merrimack and Dutton Streets (old YMCA now on site) it made two stops in Chelmsford, one at Middlesex Village at Baldwin Street and a second in North Chelmsford Center.

22. **Middlesex Canal:** Linked the ocean at Charlestown with the Merrimack River at Middlesex Village, its operation thriving during the first three decades of the 19th century. After its opening in 1803, it offered cheap transportation of goods between Concord, New Hampshire and Boston.

23. **Fiske House:** In Central Square was built in 1798 by Simeon Spaulding, Jr. In the late 1830’s one Thomas Moore operated it briefly as a tavern called the Lafayette House. In April 1839, it was purchased by John Minot Fiske and has since remained in the Fiske family.

24. **Middlesex Canal Toll House:** Stood at the landing at the head of the canal in Middlesex Village.

25. **Angelica:** Was cultivated for its aromatic odor, its medicinal roots, and for its stalks, which were candied and eaten.

26. **Blacksmith:** The blacksmith and his forge were essential in a farming community for the tools he fashioned as well as shoeing of horses.

27. **Chelmsford sign:** Is the historic marker in Chelmsford Center, commemorating the original settlement of the town in 1653.

28. **Minutemen and British Prisoners:** Chelmsford was selected to quarter prisoners of war during the Revolution because it was far enough away from the battle lines.

29. **Borage:** A hairy-leaved herb, was used medicinally and in salads.

30. **Perham Cider Mill:** Was located on Westford Street from 1835 until it was destroyed by the construction of Route 495. Local apple growers brought their product for processing into cider and vinegar for S.S. Pierce.

31. **Garrison House:** Was constructed between 1683 and 1690. During the threat of Indian attack, the house served as a garrison for soldiers.

32. **Summit House:** A popular “resort” located at the top of Robin Hill, was opened in 1886, by Walter S. Simonds. Its pleasant view and tasty treats made it a popular destination for summer carriage drives during the 1890’s.

33. **Bicentennial Logo:** Is the symbol for the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of America’s Declaration of Independence.

34. **Southwell Combing Mills:** Along with its predecessors in North Chelmsford have been one of the town’s major industries since the 19th century.

### 35. Center Panel:

A. **First Parish Church:** Was constructed in 1842 and is the fourth church to stand on this site.

B. **Forefathers’ Cemetery:** Contains the graves of many of the earliest settlers of Chelmsford and the graves of forty-five Revolutionary War soldiers.

C. **1802 School House:** Was constructed of brick from East Chelmsford to replace the original school house on this site, dating to 1718.

D. **School for the Deaf:** In 1865, Miss Harriett Burbank Rogers founded the first oral school for deaf children in the Deacon Otis Adams House on Academy Street. Here five pupils were instructed in “articulation and reading from the lips.”

E. **Town Hall:** Was constructed in 1879, with an original appropriation of \$7,000.

F. **Beech Tree:** Was planted on the Center Common in 1891, by the graduating class of Chelmsford High School.

G. **Revolutionary War Monument:** Was erected on the Common in 1859, in honor of the townsmen of Chelmsford who served their country in the struggle for independence.