

Let's Talk About Quilts

Susan J. Jerome

Quickly now, what do you think of when someone begins to speak of a quilt? Can pieces of fabric evoke an emotional response? This powerpoint program explores the ways in which quilts have become part of American culture. Using images of antique quilts and quilted objects, Ms. Jerome will discuss some of the definitions and ideas surrounding the word “quilt.” How has the term evolved through time? Learn about textile history and how technological changes in producing fabric influenced the production of quilts-and the use of time-during the 19th century. The audience is encouraged to bring one quilt or quilted object with them. These objects will be used to illustrate and enhance the discussion of all-things-quilts, including care of your family heirlooms.

Participants will:

1. Learn about textile history and how the development of cheap, printed cotton fabrics and synthetic dyes influenced quilt making in 19th century America
2. Explore the different meanings of the word “quilt” and why quilting today is considered to be a “leisure time” activity
3. Learn how to properly store textile heirlooms for future generations
4. Learn something about family quilts and/or quilted objects
5. Be able to ask questions relevant to textile and quilt history



Susan J. Jerome is the Collections Manager at the University of Rhode Island Historic Textile and Costume Collection. She earned her MS degree from the URI Department of Textiles, Fashion Merchandising and Design. Prior to continuing her education, she worked for a number of years at Mystic Seaport Museum and continues to do so as a part-time employee. Ms. Jerome also works as a textile and quilt conservator, and a consultant to museums and historical societies. An avid textilian, she is happiest when writing, talking and doing all things textile.