



The Edwin Mary Bloomfield coverlet, dated 1849-50 was acquired by The Quilters' Guild in 2004, driven by a desire to reunite this quilt with a very similar piece also bought by The Guild that year, the Wyatt Coverlet. (see both at www.quiltmuseum.org.uk)

The Bloomfield coverlet, contains a complex pattern of hexagon rosettes and pieced diamonds framed to make a star design at the centre. The plain hexagon in the middle of this design has the inscription embroidered in red 'Edwin. Mary. Bloomfield, 1850'. The centre is surrounded by framed panels of embroidered text, Maltese crosses in a red printed fabric, four large crosses and applied pieces of large-scale floral prints. The wording on the embroidered texts suggest that the coverlet is dedicated to mourning parents. The coverlet is bordered by a heavily glazed furnishing fabric in a trompe-l'oeil design of rope and tassels and edged by a red and white fringe.

The two coverlets (acquired by the vendor from different sources), share common fabrics as well as pieced and appliqué design motifs. Both also include framed panels containing embroidered biblical extracts and pious quotations suggesting a relationship between the two coverlets. Research carried out by BQSG members, Margareta Faust and Carolyn Ferguson, in 2007-9 has revealed a family connection in that Rev William Hindes Wyatt and Edwin Bloomfield married two sisters, Anne and Mary Newson of Great Glemham, Suffolk. William and Anne spent most of their church life in the Sneinton parish in Nottingham. Edwin Bloomfield was a career soldier and the Bloomfields lived in Suffolk after their marriage. We can assume that there would have been social contact between the two families despite a distance of about 150 miles between the two homes.

Read more in a blog post from October 2012 from the quilt museum website <https://www.quiltmuseum.org.uk/blog/quilt-history-articles/01389.html>! Read the BQSG research in Quilt Studies Issues 9 and 10, available in the Guild Library and Guild shop.

The Edwin Mary Bloomfield
Coverlet

The Quilters' Guild Specialist Group Challenge 2018/19

To Celebrate The Guild's
40th Ruby Anniversary all
Specialist Groups will
exhibit together at FOQ
2019, curated by Lynne
Edwards.

A new interpretation of a
classic quilt in The Guild
Collection

The Quilters' Guild
Collection, 2004 -11- B
240 x 225 cm. (96 x 90 in.)

Contact your Specialist Group
for more details.

Each Group will have its own
guidance regarding sizes,
requirements and selection
criteria for their interpretation
of the challenge.

The quilts must be submitted
by April 2019 for inclusion into
the FOQ 2019 Gallery.











