

welcomes

Betsy Chutchian with her Eliga's Indigo 1810-1830

Betsy Chutchian developed a passionate interest in fabric, quilts, sewing and history as a child. After graduation from the University of Texas at Arlington in 1980, Betsy received an antique quilt top made by her paternal great grandmother and great aunt and taught herself to quilt.

Betsy began teaching quiltmaking in 1990 and continues to enjoy teaching and sharing her passion for reproducing 19th Century quilts. She is the author of several books with The Kansas City Star, Gone to Texas, Quilts from a Pioneer Woman's Journal, Lizzie's Legacy, Just Treats, No Tricks and is co-author of History Repeated, Block Exchange Quilts by the 19th Century Patchwork Divas. Betsy is co founder of the 19th Century Patchwork Divas, a block exchange group dedicated to 1800's reproduction fabric.

Betsy lives in Grand Prairie, Texas with husband, Steve.

Visit betsysbestquiltsandmore.blogspot.com

PS31500 / KIT 31500 Eliza's Indigo Size: 80" x 92.75"







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In 1739, at age 16, Eliza Lucas moved from her home in Antigua to South Carolina, where she would care for her invalid mother, siblings, and manage the three plantations inherited by her father. Relying on her study of botany in England, Eliza experimented with a variety of seeds, but it was with the indigo seeds sent from her father in Antigua, that Eliza found success. After several crops were killed by frost and another crop sabotaged by an overseer, Eliza's indigo crop was so successful, that she saved the seeds and shared them with other planters. Indigo dye proved a profitable crop with the volume of export to England increasing from 5000 lbs in 1745-1746 to 130,000 pounds in 1748, making it one of the major cash crops, for South Carolina until the American Revolution.

Eliza married Charles Pickney in 1745 at age 20. Widowed in 1758 at age 32, Eliza continued to manage the couple's many plantations and raise her family. Eliza died in Philadelphia in 1793, an educated, independent business woman of colonial America. George Washington served as a pallbearer at her funeral.





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