



This is a huge quilt: 6-foot by 9 foot consisting of 56 individual squares, each square 7-inches wide by 8-inches tall. We will be showing you selected individual square in hope that you or someone you know may recognize their own artwork.

The quilt covers a number of titles including those to the left. Also included are *How to Eat Fried Worms*, *Freaky Friday*, *Girls are Equal Too*, and as shown, *No Ducks in Our Bathtub*. Other panels will show you some other titles.

The children designed each panel. After the panels were collected, Mrs. Bremer and other teachers sewed the quilt together and added the edges. The quilt you see is just one of the many quilts Mrs. Bremer created over her years in Ferguson.

Marjorie Eakin Bremer was born in Pittsburg, Illinois in 1916. When she was 4-years old her family moved to Ferguson. She went to grade school in Ferguson and started Ferguson High School, but finished in Decatur, Illinois. She noted, in a brief autobiography, that she experienced culture shock by moving from Ferguson High with a senior class of 30 to Stephen





Decatur High and a senior class of 400. After graduation, the then Miss Eakin attended MacMurray College, the University of Colorado and Millikin University. She graduated with a BA in teaching. As she noted, in Illinois a woman had to be 30 years old and single in order to teach. For that reason, she moved to Ferguson. But – she didn't teach! She worked a number of jobs, including working for Ferguson City Hall.

She eventually married Clemens Franz Bremer, a banker, and moved to Ste. Genevieve. They had two children (Marian and Thomas). Clemens, however, died when the children were 4 and 6, thereby passing on to her the full responsibility of raising her children. She eventually moved back to Ferguson and began her

teaching career. We know that she taught in 4 elementary schools in the Ferguson-Florissant School District – all in Ferguson. We have yet to confirm the years in which she either taught or was the librarian in each school, but we do know that she spent time in Central School, Vogt School and Griffith School. Some Facebook responses indicate that she was a 1st grade teacher at Central in 1957-58. Facebook also noted that she taught 1st grade at Vogt. Another response indicates that Mrs. Bremer also served at Ferguson Methodist Church as their librarian. According to notes by her daughter, Marian, the quilts were most likely created in the early 1970's. Looking at this quilt we have to assume that the quilts were made while she was a librarian as the individual squares do not look like first grade art. Mrs. Bremer died in 1998 at the age of 81.





Currently the quilt is in storage, looking for an appropriate space to display it. It is large and takes a big space. At one time this quilt was on display at the Ferguson Public Library when the library was located in the current City Hall Building. If you remember the old library, it was hanging from the balcony.

If you recognize Mrs. Bremer (photo to left) or a square on this quilt – or maybe doing another quilt, we would like to hear from you. You could help fill out this wonderful Ferguson Historical story. Please contact any member of the Ferguson Historical Society or drop an email to me at fjbenner@mindspring.com. We will get back with you quickly.

This story came from documents in the Ferguson Historical Society archives, including a brief autobiography of Mrs Bremer, some Facebook responses and a brief history by Mrs. Bremer's daughter, Mariam.

Membership in the Ferguson Historical Society is open to anyone – membership levels range from \$20.00 to \$50.00 a year. If you are interested in joining or have any suggestions, questions, or items to donate to the Ferguson Historical Society, please contact Jerry Benner at fjbenner@mindspring.com. You are also welcome to visit the History Museum at 1064 Smith (behind the Community Center) by e-mailing the above address. Note: we will need to schedule a date for you, so ask well in advance

“The Ferguson Historical Society is dedicated to preserving and promoting the history of Ferguson Missouri. Membership is open to all sharing our interest.”