



There are literally hundreds of quilt block patterns and variations. The names of the quilt patterns reflect a connection between the early quilt makers of the 19th and early 20th century and the world in which they lived. Some patterns celebrate the environment seen around them like the Log Cabin or Flying Geese. Some patterns echo the hard times of the westward movement like Rocky Road to Kansas. There are patterns celebrating national and political events, religious beliefs and more.

The first known quilt pattern was published in Godey's Lady's Book in 1835 and identified as the honeycomb or hexagon. Most early pattern examples in periodicals simply described the shapes or were called "patchwork". In the mid 1900's Godey's continued to publish patterns simply numbered in a series. By the 1880's magazines were publishing patterns on a regular basis and began selling patterns to their readers.



By the 1920's the quilt making revival of the time encouraged publishers to expand their offerings by employing designers with art backgrounds to run quilt pattern columns and design new patterns.

Quilt patterns do not all have names and yet some may have several names for the same design. The names reflect all aspects of our lives.

