

We the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, promote the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do hereby constitute this Federal Government.



ELLEN LEWIS HERNDON ARTHUR

(Died before her husband became President)

Ellen was born August 30, 1837 in Culpepper County, Virginia, as the only child of William Lewis Herndon and Frances Elizabeth Lewis.

When she was 22 years old, she married Chester Alan Arthur on October 25, 1859 at the Calvary Episcopal Church. Ellen and Chester had three children: William Lewis Herndon, Chester Alan, and Ellen Herndon.

Ellen was raised in Virginia but little is known about her education. Her father was a Navy officer and spent time exploring the Amazon. He died at sea and there is a statue of him at Annapolis.

Ellen was an accomplished horsewoman as well as having some musical talents. She did not get along well with her husband's family and her loyalty was questioned during the Civil War.

Ellen loved opera and this was thought to have caused her death because she became overheated after attending an operatic recital. She lapsed into a coma and died two days later on January 12, 1880.

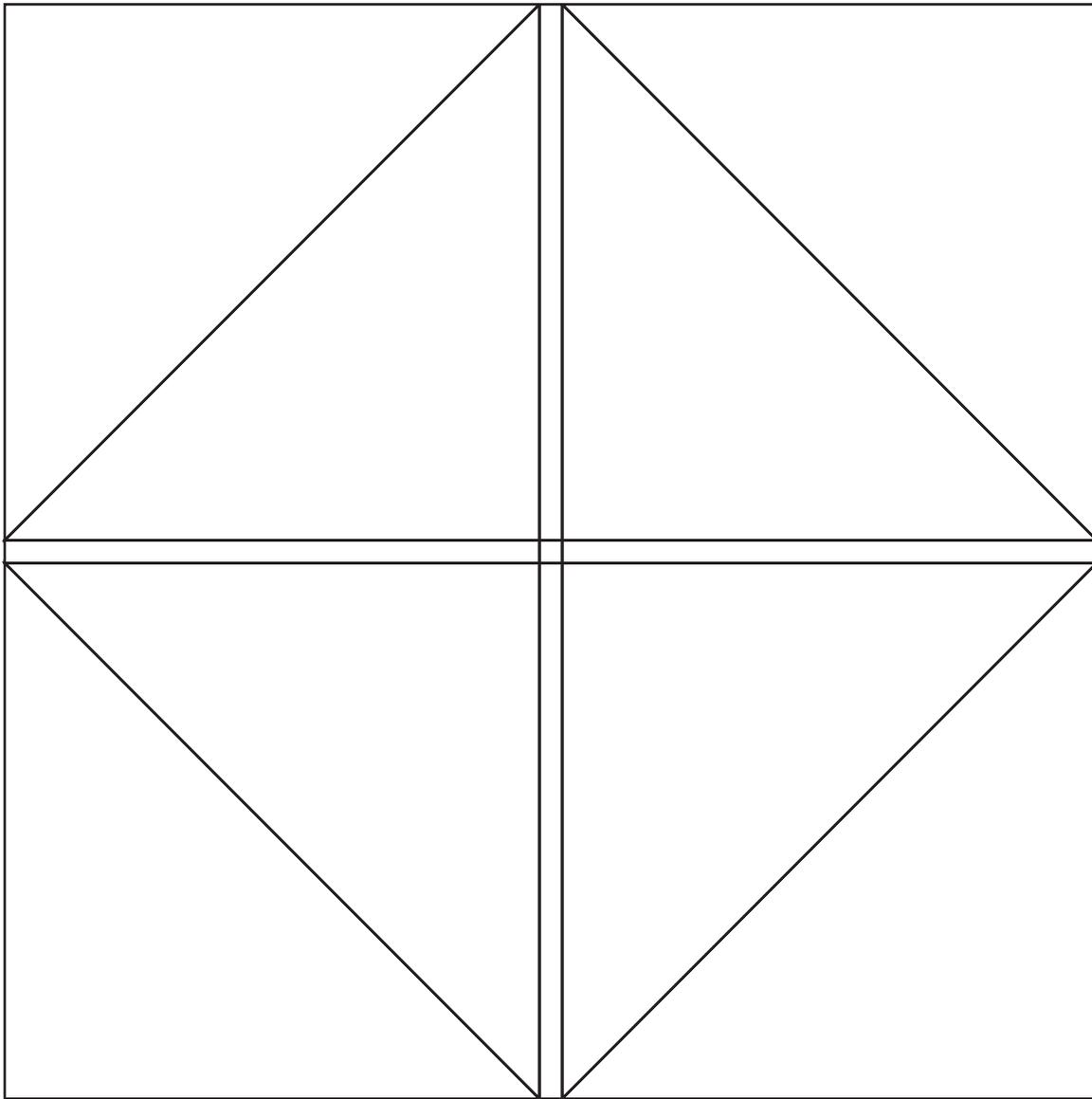
*Still mourning her
bitterly, in his own
words: "Honors to me
now are not what they
once were."*

~Chester Arthur



Ellen's Light

Ellen's block was designed to show her husband's tribute to her memory: a stained glass window in St. John's Church on Lafayette Square. Chester had the window installed on the south wall so he could see it from the White House.



Ellen's Light
Making the Block

Cut:

Color	Number of Pieces	Size
Different Jewel Tone Fabrics	8	4½" x 4½"

To make the half-square triangles, cut all of the 4½" squares into 2 pieces by cutting on the diagonal. Discard one of each color.

Cut black strips according to the block design and appliqué to the pieced block.
 Trim block to 6½" x 6½".