

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 for the United States of America.



ELIZABETH KORTRIGHT MONROE

First Lady (1817-1825)

Elizabeth was born on November 27, 1728 in New York City, the daughter of Lawrence Kortwright and Hannah Aspinwall.

When she was 17 years old, she married James Monroe on February 16, 1786 at Trinity Episcopal Church in New York. They had three children: Eliza, James Spence and Maria Hester. Elizabeth died at age 62 in 1830.

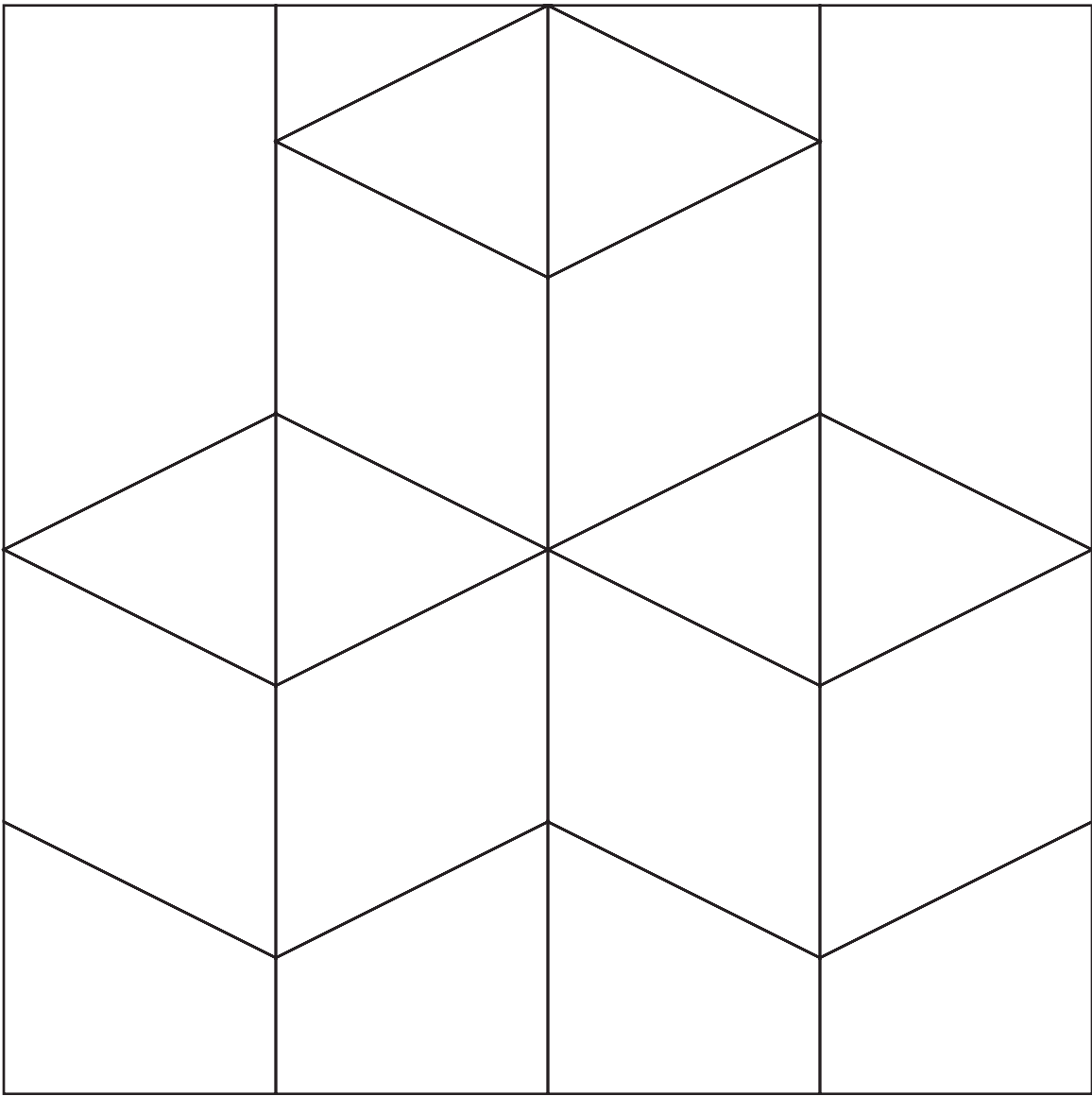
Elizabeth was the first First Lady who had a direct connection with quilt making. Her daughter, Maria Gouverneur, made a quilt comprised of $\frac{3}{4}$ " hexagonal designs made from paper templates that were printed in a New York newspaper. The paper templates are still attached to the back of the quilt. The quilt is quite beautiful and as the hexagons were set into triangles, the top gives the illusion of stars and tumbling blocks.

The quilt piece was handed down through Maria's family, given to a distant cousin at some point and finally, to the James Monroe Museum Memorial Library in December of 1991.



Daughter's Love

Elizabeth's block commemorates her daughter's quilt and is comprised of diamonds to represent the "tumbling block" effect of Maria's quilt.



Daughter's Love
Making the Block

Foundation piece using the pattern in the template section.