

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 and elect this 22nd President for the United States of America.



## HELEN HERRON TAFT

*First Lady (1909–1913)*

Helen (Nellie) was born on June 2, 1861 in Cincinnati, Ohio, the daughter of John Williamson Herron and Harriet Collens.

When she was 16 years old, Nellie and her family were invited to the White House and Nellie decided that she wanted to live there. She set a goal to become First Lady.

She began by graduating from Miami University and thought about becoming a lawyer. Instead she decided to teach and start groups to discuss literature. It was during one of her literary meetings that she met her future husband.

When she was 25 years old, she married William Howard Taft on June 19, 1886 in Cincinnati, Ohio. They had three children: Robert Alphonso, Helen Taft, and Charles Phelps.

Helen broke with tradition and started a new one by being the first First Lady to ride down Pennsylvania Avenue with her husband after the inauguration. She was the first First Lady to publish her autobiography and was known for her nervous disposition which led to her nickname “Nervous Nellie.”

Nellie died at the age of 81 on May 22, 1943 and was the first First Lady to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

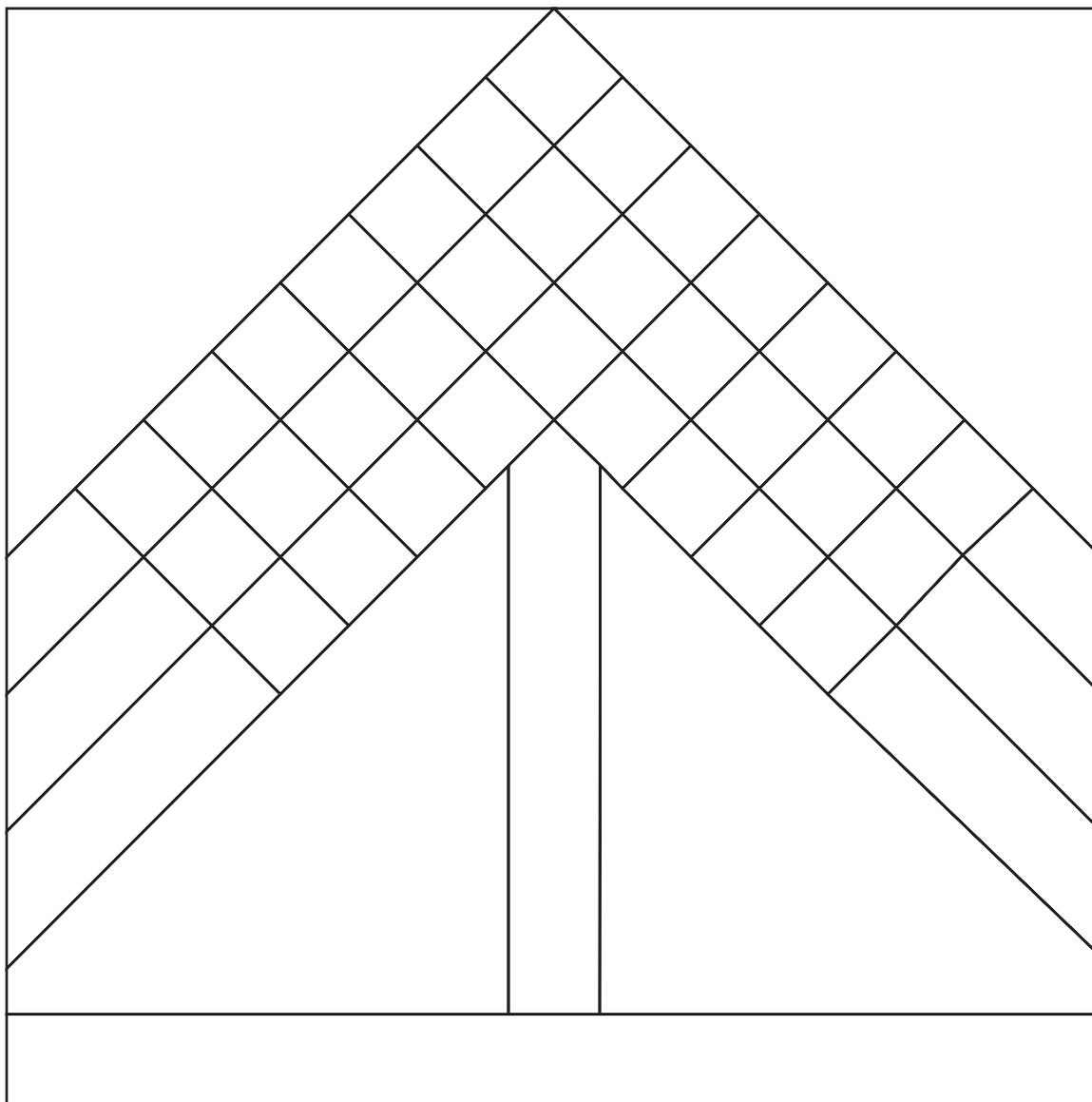
*“I had always had the satisfaction of knowing almost as much as he about the politics and intricacies of any situation in which he found himself, and my life was filled with interests of a most unusual kind.”*

*~Helen Taft*



### Helen's Cherry Blossom Tree

Helen's block commemorates her importing 3,000 Japanese cherry trees to be planted along the tidal basin.



**Helen's Cherry Blossom Tree**  
 Making the Block

Cut:

Color	Number of Pieces	Size
Blue (Background)	1	6½" x 7"
Green (Grass)	1	1½" x 7"
Dark Brown (Trunk)	1	½" x 3"
Pink	3	1" x 10"
White	3	1" x 10"

Sew green strip to blue background, making a 7" x 7" square. Position the dark brown strip in the middle of the background. Appliqué or fuse in place. Sew the pink and white strips so that one strip has a white strip in between two pink strips. The other one should be the opposite: One pink strip in between two white strips. Subcut these strips into 6 one-inch pieces. Alternate the pieces so that the pink butts to the white and the white to the pink and sew seven 1" sections together into one piece. Repeating the steps above, sew four 1" strips into one piece. Attach the shorter piece to the larger piece to form the tree top. Position and appliqué to background according to the pattern. Trim block to 6½" x 6½".