

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 Andrew Jackson our President, for the term of four years, commencing on the 22d day of February, 1800, at Nashville, Tennessee.



RACHEL DONELSON ROBARDS JACKSON

(Died before her husband became President)

Rachel was born in June 1767 (the exact date is unknown) in Pittsylvania County, Virginia, the daughter of Colonel John Donelson and Rachael Stockley.

When she was 18 years old, Rachel married Lewis Robards. Her husband accused Rachel of flirting with a young circuit lawyer named Andrew Jackson and he filed for divorce. In those days, you had to have cause and to help his claim of infidelity, Lewis told Andrew that he had, in fact, gotten the divorce and Andrew could marry his wife.

That proved to be untrue and after Andrew married Rachel on January 7, 1794 at the Donelson home in Nashville, Tennessee, his political opponents made much of the fact that Rachel was considered to be a bigamist and adulterer.

She was the first of three First Ladies whose previous marriage ended in divorce. Rachel and Andrew did not have any children but were legal guardians for six boys and two girls and they adopted two sons. One of the adopted sons was an American Indian, found by Jackson on a battlefield at the age of two. Rachel died in 1828 at the age of 61.

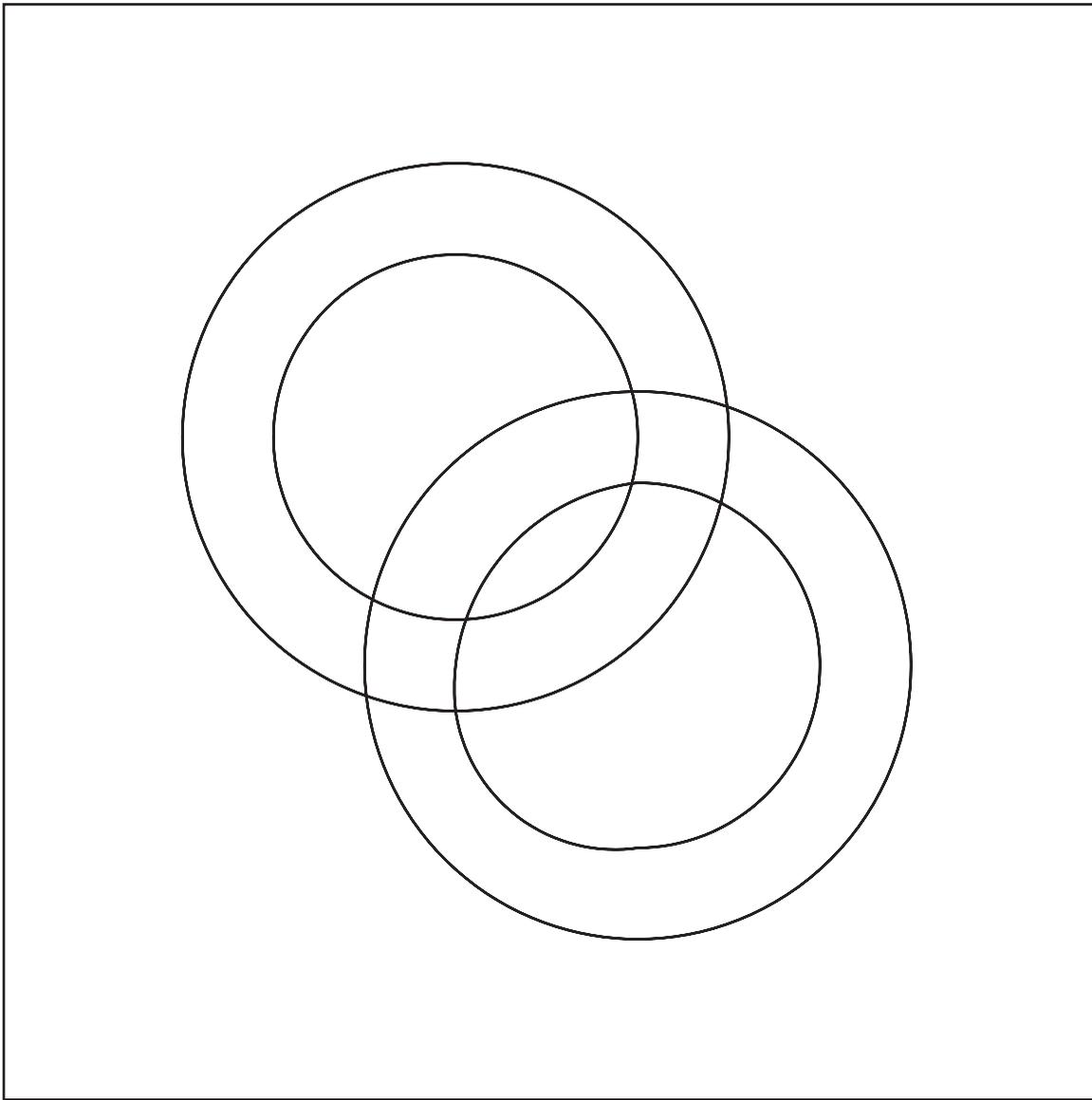
“Do not, my beloved husband, let the love of country, fame and honor make you forget that you have me. Without you I would think them all empty shadows.”

~Rachel Jackson



Rachel's Rings

Rachel's block was created to illustrate her courage in the face of two marriages and all the problems she had in a time where divorce was not that common.



Rachel's Rings
Making the Block

Using the diagram above, make templates and appliqué to a 7" square of background fabric according to the block design. Trim block to 6½" x 6½".