

# HANDCRAFTED HISTORY

## A Kentucky Quilts and Quiltmakers Symposium

May 16, 2026

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM (EDT)

Doors open at 9:30 AM

### Kentucky Historical Society

Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History  
100 W. Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky

[history.ky.gov](http://history.ky.gov)



9:30 am

Doors Open; Check-In

Main Entrance (100 W. Broadway)  
Hilary J. Boone Commonwealth Hall

- Turn in your quilt for the Bed Turning at check-in by 11:30 am; quilt submissions limited to 30.
- Quilts can be picked up after the Bed Turning event in the Brown-Forman Room.

9:30 am - 3 pm

Exhibitor Tables Open

Hilary J. Boone Commonwealth Hall

10 am - 5 pm

Galleries and Museum Store Open

- Visit KHS's newest exhibit: *Revolution to Statehood: Kentucky's Founding in History & Memory* located in the Keeneland Gallery, as well as other locations on our campus, the Old State Capitol and the Kentucky Military History Museum.
- KHS's *Stewart Home & School 1792 Museum Store* is open with both reserved and extra copies of *Kentucky Quilts and Quiltmakers: Three Centuries of Creativity, Community and Commerce* by Dr. Linda LaPinta are available for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis. Purchase other Kentucky and quilt-related gifts!

10 am - 3 pm

Graveyard Quilt Top and Graveyard Quilt Reunited on Display

A Kentucky Journey Exhibit Gallery

- Elizabeth Roseberry Mitchell's Graveyard Quilt Top (1836) and Graveyard Quilt (1843) will be reunited and on display for the first time. Highlands Do!zeum's curator and registrar, Heather Whitman, as well as curators and collections staff from the Kentucky Historical Society, will be available to answer questions.
- Photography allowed in gallery; please do not use flash.

10 am - 11:30 am **Panel Discussion: Dr. Linda LaPinta, Linda Slye, Maureen Lane, and Lenna DeMarco**  
*Kentucky Quilts and Quiltmakers* Highlights  
Brown-Forman Room

11:30 am - 12:30 pm **Book signing: Dr. Linda LaPinta**  
*Kentucky Quilts and Quiltmakers: Three Centuries of Creativity, Community and Commerce*  
Hilary J. Boone Commonwealth Hall

- Pre-ordered books available for pick up in the Museum Store; other copies available on a first-come, first-served basis.

12 pm - 12:20 pm **KHS Quilts on Display Highlights Tour with KHS Educator Riley Bryson**  
*A Kentucky Journey* Exhibit Gallery  
(meet at entrance of exhibit)

- This tour does NOT include the Graveyard quilt and quilt top; these will be discussed during the presentation at 3:30 pm

12 pm **Pre-ordered lunches available\***  
Brown-Forman Room

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm **Presenter: Sandy Staebell**  
*Kentucky Quilts: Legacies in Stitches*  
Brown-Forman Room

1:30 pm - 1:45 pm **Break (exhibit tables & galleries open)**

1:45 pm - 2:45 pm **Bed Turning with Vickie Coleman**  
Brown-Forman Room

2:45 pm - 3 pm **Break (exhibit tables & galleries open)**

3 pm - 3:30 pm **Presenter: Rebecca Glasby, National Quilt Museum**  
*Honoring Today's Quilter* at the NQM  
Brown-Forman Room

3:30 pm - 4 pm **Presenter: Jennifer Downs, KHS**  
*Stitches and Sorrow: Elizabeth Roseberry Mitchell's Graveyard Quilt*  
Brown-Forman Room

5 pm **Building Closure**  
Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History and other museum sites close for the day

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*\* If you did not pre-order lunch, you are welcome to bring your own. Check with the front desk for nearby restaurant locations that offer take-out options.*

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SPECIAL THANKS:



Highlands Do!zeum  
for bringing the Graveyard Quilt Top



## SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS:

### Linda Elisabeth LaPinta



*Kentucky Quilts and Quiltmakers: Three Centuries of Creativity, Community and Commerce*, constitutes a social history of three hundred years of Kentucky women (as well as a sampling of men) through the lens of quilts. LaPinta is a retired professor of English, journalism, and literature, as well as the author of five books and numerous articles regarding Kentucky arts and history. She is not a quiltmaker, but an avid champion of consequential commonwealth quilt-world contributions. Her most recent book, *Kentucky Quilts and Quiltmakers*, won the 2024 Emily Toth Award for best single work in women's studies. Dr. LaPinta earned her Bachelor of Arts in English literature, English composition, and oral history from Beloit College; her Master of Arts in journalism from Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communication; her Master of Arts in Teaching in English from the University of Louisville, and her Doctor of Education in educational leadership from Spalding University. She has lived in Louisville since 1987 and during the last four decades has taught at Elizabethtown Community College, Midway College, and Spalding University.

### Lenna DeMarco



According to DeMarco, "Kentucky quilts have been known for generations as some of the first quilts ever produced in this country. Kentuckians have a rare respect for their quilts and quilt heritage. Because of this, wonderful examples of antique Kentucky quilts still survive. Besides the beautiful patchwork and applique, Kentucky quilting is outstanding, especially in certain select counties, Logan in particular." DeMarco is currently studying unique designs in regional areas. Her goal is to identify the origin of the designs, document quilts that include them, and explore how those designs were shared within the region and into the twentieth century. Louisville native DeMarco now lives in Phoenix, Arizona, and is revered nationally as a quilt historian, collector, restoration expert, author, and organizational quilt-world leader. She is a past president of the American Quilt Study Group and the founder of the Arizona Quilt Study Group.

### Maureen Lane



Maureen Lane is the curator of museum collections at The Filson Historical Society, overseeing the care and interpretation of the organization's art and historical artifacts. She's an avid quilter and embroiderer who is active in several guilds. Lane holds a master's degree in American studies with a concentration in art and material culture from Penn State University, as well as a master's degree in museum studies from Johns Hopkins University. With prior experience at the Phillips Museum of Art at Franklin & Marshall College, the Pennsylvania State Museum, and the Frazier Kentucky History Museum, Lane has worked with a wide range of art, clothing, textile, and history collections. Her work centers on uncovering the hidden narratives preserved in objects, especially quilts, using material culture to illuminate the social, political, and economic histories of the past. Lane recently collaborated with the Kentucky Heritage Quilt Society and the Louisville Nimble Thimbles to complete documentation of the Filson's quilt collection.

### Linda Slye



Linda Slye is a quilt advocate with interest in the stories woven into each quilt. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in biology from George Mason University, and has been active for many years in several quilting entities, including the Patriot Quilt Committee (orchestrates the presentation of quilts to local veterans), the Kentucky Heritage Quilt Society Registry Team (documents antique quilts for a statewide archived database), and the American Quilt Study Group (co-chair for the 2023 national seminar in Louisville). Previously, she was active in the Louisville area Quilters' Day Out event (co-chaired for ten years), and the Louisville Nimble Thimbles quilt guild (served as secretary). Slye's discussion focuses on guild structures and activities, the distinctions between quilt guilds and organizations, and the economic aspects of quilts and quilt making.

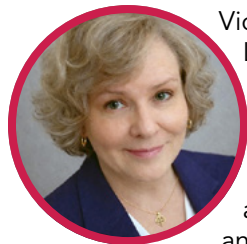
### Sandy Staebell



Sandy Staebell retired in 2024 after serving for over 35 years as registrar/collections curator of the Kentucky Museum at Western Kentucky University. She received a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Northern Iowa and a Master of Arts in museum science from Texas Tech University. Prior to coming to WKU, she was the collections manager of

the John E. Conner Museum at Texas A&I University. Staebell's special interests at the Kentucky Museum included historic textiles, particularly quilts, as well as decorative arts and political memorabilia. In her role as an assistant professor in Library Special Collections, she collaborated with the museum education curator to offer close study access to Kentucky Museum collections for University classes in targeted disciplines. Staebell spent 25 years on the Kentucky Humanities Council Speakers Bureau, where her presentations focused primarily on quilts and historic costumes. In 2016 she presented "The Godey Quilt: One Woman's Dream Becomes a Reality" at the Annual Seminar of the American Quilt Study Group and currently serves on this organization's Publications Committee.

### Vickie Coleman



Vickie Coleman founded Bluegrass Quilt Appraisal, LLC in 2018 and earned American Quilter's Society certification. She currently serves on the American Quilter's Society Certification Committee, where she contributes to the education, testing, and certification of quilt appraisers throughout the United States and Canada. Coleman's study of textiles began with an undergraduate degree in textiles and clothing. She

later earned a Master of Science in career and technical education and completed certification in educational leadership. Coleman served as professor and chair of the Textiles, Clothing, and Merchandising program at Midway College, where she directed the historic costume collection. She later served as an adjunct instructor at Eastern Kentucky University, teaching Introduction to Textiles, Textile Testing and Evaluation, and Beginning and Advanced Apparel Design. She has served as museum and archives chair for the Kentucky Heritage Quilt Society and as quilt registrar for the Kentucky Quilt Documentation Project. She is a member of the Quilters Guild of the Bluegrass, Kentucky Heritage Quilt Society, American Quilter's Society, Tennessee Quilt Study Group, and the Midwest Fabric Study Group.

### Becky Glasby

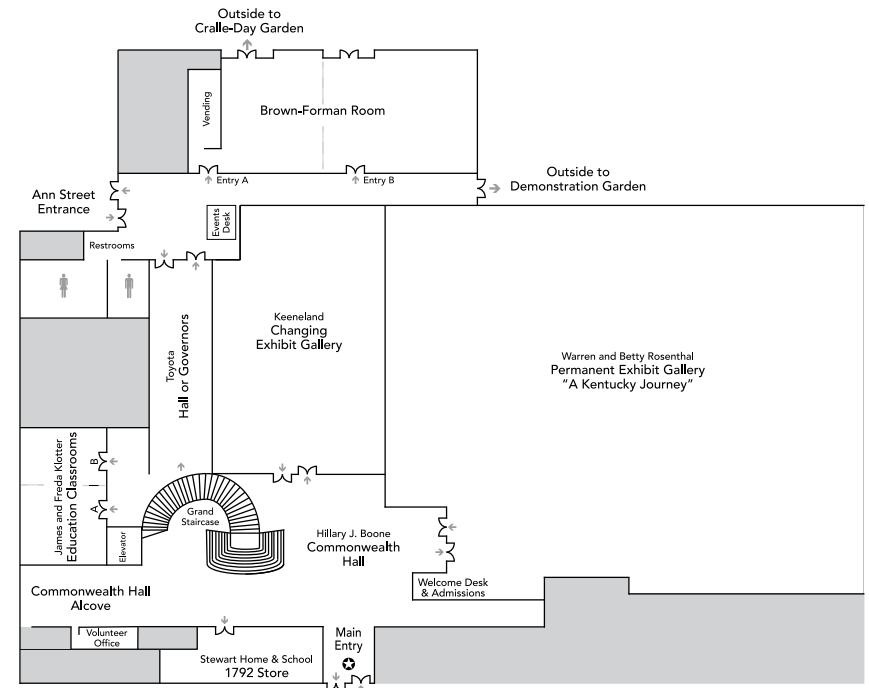


Becky Glasby has more than fifteen years of experience in museum education and has been at the National Quilt Museum since 2010. As the director of learning & engagement at the NQM, she works to inspire new quilters of all ages, and promotes quilting through a variety of programs and classes. A self-taught quilter, Glasby loves being able to share her passion for quilting with everyone she meets in both her professional and personal life.

### Jennifer Downs



Jennifer Downs is senior curator at the Kentucky Historical Society. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in art history from the University of Kentucky and a Master of Arts in the history of decorative arts from the Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum/Parsons School of Design. Downs has held curatorial positions at several museums including the Speed Art Museum in Louisville, Kentucky, the Bonnet House Museum & Gardens in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and The Art Institute of Chicago. She has also consulted on several research and curatorial projects rooted in Kentucky's diverse history. Down's special interests include archival research, 19th and 20th-century American decorative arts and material culture, and historic interiors.



1st Floor: Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History (100 W. Broadway)

#### Other Sites on the KHS Campus:

The Old State Capitol (300 W. Broadway)  
Kentucky Military History Museum (125 E. Main)