

# QUILT TOP MADE FROM CHENEY SILK

This quilt was donated to the Manchester Historical Society in 2010 by member Judy Marteney, who kept it on a wall in her home on Hackmatack Street.



**Judy Marteney, quilt donor, holding a picture of Ruth Manning Peck, quilt creator.**

Ruth Manning Peck (1889-1978) sewed the quilt by hand with tiny stitches. The quilt is in the log cabin design – note the red square in the center of each block representing the home fire burning. Ruth stored the quilt top in a trunk and did not use it during her lifetime. Mrs. Peck grew up on Hackmatack Street and moved a few houses away to Prospect Street when she married. She sewed all her own clothes, and knitted, crocheted, beaded and embroidered. She and her husband did not have any children of their own, but let the neighborhood children play in their yard.

Ruth's grandfather, Daniel Green, was the chief carpenter at Cheney Mills. He laid the floor at Cheney Hall and at the stables on Farm Drive. Ruth's father, Richard Manning, was chief gardener for the Cheney's, and the two families knew each other well. Judy explained that Ruth knew many Cheney family members.

Judy Marteney bought the contents of Mrs. Peck's house in 1978, and has donated photos and other items, including this quilt, to the Manchester Historical Society. We have placed the quilt here in the Loom Exhibit room so that visitors can see actual Cheney silk, woven in the nearby mills.

The quilt top is on display in the loom room of the Manchester History Center, 175 Pine Street.



Ruth Peck (1889-1978) was a close friend of the Marteney family. Photo taken at Hale Studio on Hilliard St., Manchester about 1897.