

**The Second in a Four-Part Interview Series with Quilter Joyce Muller**  
*Joyce's Favorites!*

**Susanne: What type of quilt do you enjoy working on most (applique, pieced, whole cloth)?**

**Joyce:** Well, applique [because] it's a challenge and it's pretty. You take a pretty piece of fabric and you kind of adhere it to the background and you've got a whole new piece of fabric. I'm a very creative person, I always have been!

**Susanne: Why applique?**

**Joyce:** Applique is a challenge. You pretty much want to see how neatly you can do it and if you do a good job [each appliqued piece] pretty much comes out the same. If it's too easy, it loses my interest. I always try to challenge myself a little bit because I can see it [in my mind] visually and now I want to bring it together [in a completed piece].

*Joyce shared her technique for quilting appliqued works. She said that an appliqued piece can be quilted by hand or machine. I was amazed to learn that quilting fact!*

**Susanne: Which of the two quilting methods (hand or machine) do you most prefer?**

**Joyce:** Hand quilting. In my generation, everything was made by hand. I just like the process. I like [that first] you have a blank piece of fabric and by the time you get done hand quilting, you have a design [that wasn't there before]. It's no longer a blank piece of fabric. It's just a challenge! If it's too simple, it becomes boring. It becomes a job, which is fine if you're just making a quilt to use for every day.

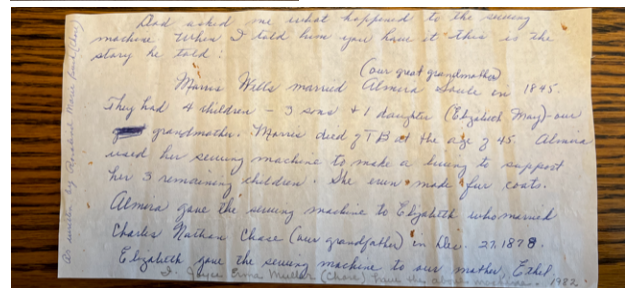
**Susanne: What type of sewing machine do you use?**

**Joyce:** My favorite machine to work with is my treadle. [Her treadle machine has been in her

family for over **175 years!** The machine had first been owned by her great-aunt in 1845. The machine was later handed down to Joyce's mother in 1920 and later, after Joyce married, it became hers in 1953.] I also own a PFAFF which I use for veteran quilts and those that need to withstand repeated washings.



(Right) Joyce's treadle machine.  
 (Below) The history of the machine's owners.



**Susanne: Is there a part of quilting that you don't like?**

**Joyce:** Yes, putting the three layers together. It drives me crazy! I use my carpeted floor. I get down on my hands and knees. I put the backing down and pin it to the carpet [so it doesn't move]. Then, I pin the batting down. [Sometimes] if the batting is too small, I have to splice it [together]. Then I pin it all around [again]. Then the top [goes on] and I pin that all around. So, now I have three layers with pins. Then I have to baste the layers together so that I can pick up the quilt. [In the end, there are] two layers of pins I have to slowly remove. [Now,] it's ready to work on.

**Susanne: Do you have any fabric favorites?**

**Joyce:** No, I use just basic cotton fabrics. I think because I do so much applique and hand quilting.... I'm pretty traditional.

**Next edition:** *Joyce's Competition Quilt, Great-Grandmother's Antique Quilt, and Trunk Show!*