

# The Basin Record

## *The Gilded Age of Quilting Revealed*

Our excitement is that for the past two years, the Guild has been partnering with the Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History to create a virtual quilt show. This show celebrates the guild's rich history through quilts and stories from its members. As we say in quilting, "it's better to be done than perfect," and we are finally done! This achievement is a testament to the hard work of many volunteers and the funding provided by RDEK - ReDi Grants and Heritage BC - Heritage Legacy Fund, as well as some generous personal donations. This virtual quilt registry is the first of its kind in British Columbia and, perhaps, even in Canada. The site boasts over 85 stories of local quilters and their activities, showcasing the diverse talents and passions of the quilting community. It also documents over 170 quilts, created by members or their kin, providing a tangible glimpse into the guild's legacy and into quilts as heritage resources. The quilting stories feature seasoned members like Lisa Sharpe and Dominique Drummond, the guild founders, along with Wendy Litz, Peggy Salvador, and Erika Schulz. Their stories offer a wealth of knowledge and insight into the guild's history and quilting tradition.

On the other hand, the "young members" stories and quilts, featuring Stephanie Kastelan and Jennifer Ham, bring a fresh and modern perspective to the collection. In our minds, the last 40 years are the "gilded age of quilting". It spans the time when guilds were forming across our Kootenay valley to now, when members are "aging up", and fewer younger quilters are joining guilds. Guilds brought in quilting instructors "from away" to teach novices and make them the best they could be. They held biennial Quilt Shows in local auditoriums to showcase members' creations, and they donated quilts to social and health agencies. It was the Gilded Age when



quilting was returning to fashion, with an ever-expanding array of affordable tools and fabrics. From the new-fangled rotary cutter in the early 80s, to the multitasking sewing machines and ending with the home-size mid-longarm quilting machines many of us have in our basements, quilting has come a long way. You can be a "traditionalist" in your approach or a "modernist," making bed quilts or art pieces. There isn't a limit to how you use quilting as a creative process. It truly is like being a child, experiencing the joy of a box of 64 Crayola crayons and a blank canvas to colour. This virtual quilt show is a "feast for sore eyes" that will captivate your imagination and may inspire you to take up the needle. So, snuggle up on a cold and frosty evening, and embark on a journey through the Cranbrook Quilters Guild History & Gallery. Access the site at [cranbrookquiltersguildhistory.ca](http://cranbrookquiltersguildhistory.ca) or [basininstitute.org](http://basininstitute.org), or scan our QR code on our posters and greeting cards.

# The Basin Record



## *Teachers Unite in Naming Quest with 'Name That Teacher'*

The Columbia Basin Institute of Regional History (CBIRH) is thriving as we continue to build our collection of memories. We recently kicked off 'Name That Teacher' 2026. Our dedicated volunteers continue to help identify the region's residents in old photos and yearbooks from School District No. 5 (SD#5), with the generous support of sponsors who have funded this project.

At the end of last year, many new volunteers joined 'Name That Teacher' on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Their energy filled the office as they explored decades of photos of local teachers. Volunteer Coordinator and Project Facilitator Deryll White says the project has been a success so far. "These wonderful volunteers are reaching deep into their memory banks and bringing forth people and events almost lost. A picture is not worth a thousand words when we no longer know what we are looking at. 'Name That Teacher' is repopulating Cranbrook, B.C. with known faces from the 1920s forward," he said. White, with the dedication of fellow volunteers and former teachers in various leadership roles, including Chris and Carol Johns, has helped bring this project to life through their vision, hours spent in boardrooms, and hours spent on grant writing, graciously stepping up, along with ongoing contributions from SD#5 to cover staff support and the Cranbrook District Teachers Association (CDTA) and BC Retired Teachers Association (BCRTA).

Documenting the history of the schools in this region has become part of the CBIRH's identity, as it carries forth to tell the stories of this unique and vibrant area.

We invite anyone interested to join us and take part in 'Name That Teacher'. If you want to learn more or volunteer, contact us at [info@basininstitute.org](mailto:info@basininstitute.org).

# The Basin Record

## *ABQSS Documentation Protocol & Shoot*



A special thank you to the Alberta Quilt Study Society (ABQSS) for the workshop and guidance they provided for the Cranbrook Quilters Guild History & Gallery. As pioneers in Alberta quilt indexing, their team developed protocols and detailed instructions for properly documenting quilts from a sociological and genealogical perspective.

From the CQG a well-deserved nod to Susan Little, project coordinator, and her dedicated team of quilters and guild members for their invaluable skills, perseverance and drive in completing this two-year project successfully.



# The Basin Record

Heritage BC  


## *Sponsors and Partners*



As we start a new year, the CBIRH would like to acknowledge our donors, volunteers, sponsors and partners. Our mission is made possible and richer with the support of these groups and individuals.

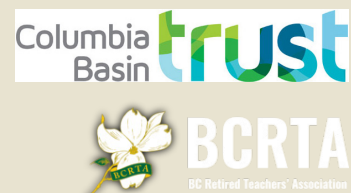
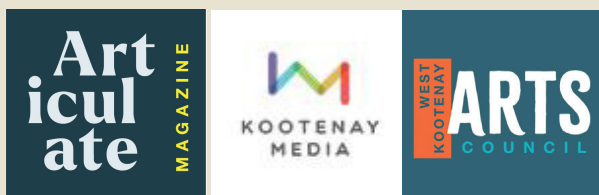
Time is a valuable commodity, and our organization greatly appreciates the time and dedication of our volunteer base, which supports data entry and activation in our archives and contributes to many other departments, including accounting, community outreach, and consulting.

We are fortunate to have a solid board of directors, who bring individual strengths to the CBIRH and have made many contributions and donations over the years. Our board members are generous and gifted individuals, and we are incredibly grateful to have their expertise and support as we move forward, bringing history to the world, especially to the Canadian Columbia Basin.

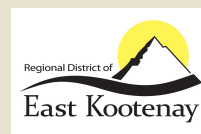
Thank you to our excellent IT and Web Development support through Murray Technical Excellence and Eggplant Studios for their continual guidance, insight, and expertise as we continue to develop our digital footprint and presentation.

As always, donations and members are vital to our success. We invite you to continue partnering with us through donations, fundraising, and collaborations to help us preserve and share history. For more information, to volunteer, or to donate, please visit [basininstitute.org](http://basininstitute.org) or email [info@basininstitute.org](mailto:info@basininstitute.org).

Thank you!



Canada



*basininstitute.org*

*105, 105-9 Avenue South  
Cranbrook B.C. V1C2M1*

*250-489-9150*

*info@basininstitute.org*

