

# Lazy Daisies, Silk Ribbons, & Spider Webs:

## A Discovery Guide for Mary Louise Orr's 1890 Crazy Quilt



Mary Louise Orr lived on Bailey Island, Maine. In 1890 she made a crazy quilt. It took her only one year to complete it.

### What is a crazy quilt?

A crazy quilt is a quilt that does not follow a regular pattern. Instead, it has different types of fabrics cut up into small shapes and sewn together to form a fancy design. Very skillful makers decorated their quilts with decorative stitches, flowers made out of silks and velvets, and ribbons signed by friends or famous people.

On the quilt, you will see paintings of animals and ladies that lived on Bailey Island, and if you look closely, you find the many flowers and insects that are stitched on.

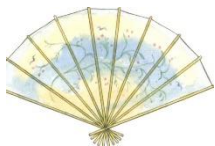
### Can you find:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Lady with a Veil on Her Face | <input type="checkbox"/> A Dog                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Young Girl                   | <input type="checkbox"/> A Cow                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Butterfly                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Some Yellow & Purple Pansies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A Bumble Bee                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Roses                        |



Spider Webs on a quilt are supposed to bring good luck to the quilter.

**How many can you find?**



Ladies' Fans were also popular designs for crazy quilts.

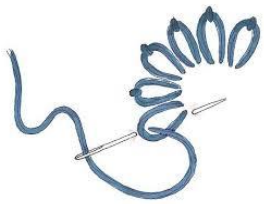
**How many fans can you find?**



**How many painter's pallets can you find?**

Mary Louise Orr must have liked cats a lot! She put 4 different cats on her quilt.  
**Can you find them? What colors are their collars?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_



As crazy quilts became more popular, they became fancier and fancier! Many were stitched with decorative embroidery stitches. **Can you find any of these stitches on the quilt?**



☐ Blanket Stitch



☐ Chain Stitch



☐ Feather Stitch



☐ Cross Stitch

There are three 3 silk ribbons with signatures of famous people that are sewn on to the quilt. Mary Louise Orr wrote to these people and asked them to sign her ribbons. When they sent the signed ribbons back to her, she sewed them on to her quilt and surrounded them with pretty velvet flowers. **Look closely and see if you can find all three signatures:**

- ☐ Anna Morton, wife of the Vice President of the United States in 1890
- ☐ John Greenleaf Whittier, a famous poet
- ☐ Carolyn Harrison, First Lady of the United States in 1890

Did you know this quilt has a special connection to Helen Keller? To find out more, you can read ***Helen, Ethel & The Crazy Quilt: Based on the 1890 Letters Between Helen Keller and Ethel Orr*** by Nancy Orr Johnson Jensen and illustrated by Dawn Peterson.