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### ***Arlonzia Pettway Biography***

**Arlonzia Pettway** (1923-2008) was the daughter of Missouri and Nathaniel Pettway and granddaughter of Sallie, a mid-wife whose mother was a slave on the original Pettway Plantation in Gee's Bend, Alabama. Arlonzia's family had been quilting for generations, and Arlonzia learned quilting as a young girl. After marrying, she continued to quilt with her mother-in-law, and later she said that her quilting style was a combination of things she learned from her relatives and from her mother-in-law. In the late 1960s as Arlonzia and three friends quilted around the frame together, they formed the singing group the White Rose. They sang together in church and continued as a group for nearly 40 years. Arlonzia's quilts are in numerous private and public collections and have been featured in exhibitions including *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*; *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*; and *A Survey of Gee's Bend Quilts*. Her work has been featured in many publications, and she has appeared on television and radio programs, including *CBS Sunday Morning*, *The News Hour with Jim Lehrer* and *CBS Evening News*. Arlonzia was an active quilter and community member until she suffered a stroke in 2006 from which she never fully recovered.