Episode 5
Gee's Bend: “The Most Famous Quilts in America?”

Pettway family group, Gee's Bend, Alabama
April 1937
Photo by Arthur Rothstein
Library of Congress
Prints & Photographs Division
Farm Security Administration
Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Washington, D.C.
Item number LC-USF34- 025385-D
www.loc.gov/pictures

Map of Gee's Bend
From Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

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Old man Mosely sits by his house,  
Gee's Bend, Alabama  
May 1939  
Photo by Marion Post Wolcott  
Library of Congress  
Prints & Photographs Division  
Farm Security Administration  
Office of War Information Photograph Collection  
Washington, D.C.  
Item number LC-USF33-030362-M1  
www.loc.gov/pictures

Cable ferry from Camden to Gee's Bend, Alabama  
May 1939  
Photo by Marion Post Wolcott  
Library of Congress  
Prints & Photographs Division  
Farm Security Administration  
Office of War Information Photograph Collection  
Washington, D.C.  
Item number LC-USF33-030356-M4  
www.loc.gov/pictures

Sandy Hill, the old Pettway plantation house,  
Gee's Bend, Alabama  
April 1937  
Photo by Arthur Rothstein  
Library of Congress  
Prints & Photographs Division  
Farm Security Administration  
Office of War Information Photograph Collection  
Washington, D.C.  
Item number LC-USF34-025380-D  
www.loc.gov/pictures

Inhabitants of Gee's Bend, Alabama  
April 1937  
Photo by Arthur Rothstein  
Library of Congress  
Prints & Photographs Division  
Farm Security Administration  
Office of War Information Photograph Collection  
Washington, D.C.  
Item number LC-USF34-025391-D  
www.loc.gov/pictures

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Half Squares
Martha Pettway
1930s
Cotton
86" x 75"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Episcopal Priest
B-roll from *The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend*
Alabama Public Television, 2004

Quilts on the clothesline, Mary Lee Bendolph's Yard
2006
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Bricklayer Variation and Housetop, two-sided quilt
Loretta Pettway
1972
Corduroy
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Housetop with Cross
Linda Diane Bennett
c. 1970
Cotton, synthetic blends, wool
78" x 75"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio
Freedom Quilting Bee
From Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Snowball variation
Sarah Benning
1949 or 1950
Cotton, velveteen, synthetics
101" x 85"
From Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

B-roll from The Quilts of Gee's Bend
Courtesy of Matt Arnett and Vanessa Vadim
Tinwood Media Production, 2002
Atlanta, Georgia

Housetop
Mary L. Bennett
1970s, quilted in 2002
Corduroy
81" x 74"
From Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Museum of Fine Arts Houston
Houston, TX
www.mfah.org
**Blocks and Strips**  
Loretta P. Bennett  
2005  
Polyester, polyester double knit  
69" x 58"  
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*  
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006  
Courtesy of Matt Arnett  
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Whitney Museum of American Art  
Photo by Daniel J. Feld

*The Quilts of Gee's Bend* exhibition  
B-roll from *The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend*  
Alabama Public Television, 2004

B-roll from *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*  
Courtesy of Matt Arnett and Vanessa Vadim  
Tinwood Media Production, 2002  
Atlanta, Georgia

*Jazzy Geometry, Cool Quilters*  
By Michael Kimmelman  
*The New York Times*  
Weekend Fine Arts Leisure  
November 29, 2002
**Nine Patch**
Ruth Mosely
From *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Courtesy of Matt Arnett and Vanessa Vadim
Tinwood Media Production, 2002
Atlanta, Georgia

B-roll from *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Courtesy of Matt Arnett and Vanessa Vadim
Tinwood Media Production, 2002
Atlanta, Georgia

**Blocks and Strips** work-clothes quilt
Missouri Pettway
1942
Cotton, corduroy, sacking material
90" x 69"
From *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Tinwood Books, 2002
Courtesy of Matt Arnett

**Chinese Coins** variation
Arlonzia Pettway
c. 1965, quilted in 1976
Corduroy, denim, cotton twill
88" x 73"
From *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Tinwood Books, 2002
Courtesy of Matt Arnett

Woman making Gullah basket
Folklife Resource Center, McKissick Museum
The University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina
www.cas.sc.edu/mcks

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Clyde Davenport
Photo by David Bartlett
Kentuckiana Digital Library
Morehead State University Special Collections and Archives
Morehead, Kentucky
http://kdl.kyvl.org

Musicians playing in field
From Mississippi Blues history presentation
Courtesy of William Ferris

Medallion
Loretta P. Bennett
2005
Cotton, twill
88" x 63"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Work-clothes Strips
Annie Mae Young
c. 1970
Denim, corduroy, cotton/polyester blend
108" x 76"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Basket Weave (Freedom Quilting Bee name "Crazy")
Nettie Young
1975
Cotton, velveteen, double knit
89" x 80"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

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Housetop sampler containing Nine Patch and Southern Star
Arlonzia Pettway
1976
Cotton, polyester and wool blend, corduroy
90" x 72"
From *Gee's Bend: The Women and Their Quilts*
Tinwood Books, 2002
Courtesy of Matt Arnett

Housetop
Lucy T. Pettway
c. 1970
Cotton, cotton blend
76" x 80"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Ramsey's Groceries (now destroyed), where County Road 29 enters Gee's Bend
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by William Arnett

Tinnie Dell Pettway's store, Gee's Bend
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Door, Dew Drop Inn nightclub, Gee's Bend
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio
Flora Moore's house, Rehoboth
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Dew Drop Inn nightclub, Gee's Bend
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

*A Communion of the Spirits: African-American Quilters, Preservers, and Their Stories*
Roland L. Freeman, 1996

Annie Mae Young with quilts and her great-granddaughter, Shaquetta; Rehoboth 1993
From *A Communion of the Spirits: African-American Quilters, Preservers, and Their Stories*
Roland L. Freeman, 1996

B-roll from *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Courtesy of Matt Arnett and Vanessa Vadim
Tinwood Media Production, 2002
Atlanta, Georgia
Workclothes quilt with center medallion of strips
Annie Mae Young
1976
Denim, corduroy, synthetic blend
108" x 77"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Workclothes quilt again

B-roll from *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Courtesy of Matt Arnett and Vanessa Vadim
Tinwood Media Production, 2002
Atlanta, Georgia

Housetop
Lola Pettway
1970s
Corduroy
89" x 74"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Medallion
Loretta P. Bennett
2005
Cotton, twill
88" x 63"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio
Medallion
Pearlie Pettway Hall
1950s
Cotton
80" x 65"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Medallion variation, tied with yarn
Creola Pettway
1983
Nylon blend (tricot)
84" x 69"
From *Gee's Bend: The Women and Their Quilts*
Tinwood Books, 2002
Courtesy of Matt Arnett

B-roll from *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Courtesy of Matt Arnett and Vanessa Vadim
Tinwood Media Production, 2002
Atlanta, Georgia

B-roll from *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Courtesy of Matt Arnett and Vanessa Vadim
Tinwood Media Production, 2002
Atlanta, Georgia

Blocks and Strips, two-sided quilt
Lucy T. Pettway
1960s
Denim, corduroy, cotton
81" x 73"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio
**Housetop Variation**
Martha Pettway
1930s
Cotton
80" x 73"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

**Basket Weave**
Nettie Jane Kennedy
1973
Corduroy
80" x 80"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

**The Quilts of Gee's Bend** exhibition
B-roll from *The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend*
Alabama Public Television, 2004

"H" Variation (quiltmaker's name: "Milky Way")
Nettie Young
1971
Cotton
88" x 77"
The Quilts of Gee's Bend exhibition
2002
Whitney Museum of American Art
New York, New York
From *The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend*
Alabama Public Television, 2004
The Quilts of Gee's Bend exhibition
Whitney Museum of American Art
2002
New York, New York
From The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend
Alabama Public Television, 2004

Medallion
Louisiana P. Bendolph
2006
Cotton
80" x 72"
From Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Two-sided Geometric
Loretta P. Bennett
2003
Corduroy, velveteen
66" x 59"
From Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

The Quilts of Gee's Bend exhibition
Milwaukee Art Museum
B-roll from The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend
Alabama Public Television, 2004

The Quilts of Gee's Bend exhibition
B-roll from The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend
Alabama Public Television, 2004

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Bars
Annie Mae Young
C. 1965
Cotton, polyester, synthetic blends
81" x 79"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Blocks, Strips, Strings and Half Squares
Mary Lee Bendolph
2005
Cotton
84" x 81"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Gee's Bend books
Photo by Focal Point

Medallion with Center Bars
Polly Bennett
1943
Cotton
80" x 72"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio
Basket Weave (Freedom Quilting Bee name "Crazy")
Nettie Young
1975
Cotton, velveteen, double knit
89" x 80"
From Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Housetop – nine block variation
Mary L. Bennett
c. 1975
Cotton, denim, cotton/polyester blend, cotton knit
87" x 77"
From The Quilts of Gee's Bend
Tinwood Books, 2002
Courtesy of Matt Arnett

Broken Star variation
Magdalene Wilson
c. 1925
Cotton, wool, silk
91" x 85"
From Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Bricklayer single-block variation
Aolar Mosely
c. 1950
Cotton, twill, cotton hopsacking, corduroy
81" x 85"
From Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio
**Bricklayer** variation  
Loretta Pettway  
c. 1975  
Corduroy  
94" x 69"  
From *Gee’s Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*  
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006  
Courtesy of Matt Arnett  
Photo by Pitkin Studio

**Made in Gee’s Bend**  
By Lisa Gray  
Houston Chronicle  
*Zest* cover story  
June 11, 2006

**Housetop** and **Bricklayer** blocks with bars  
Lucy T. Pettway  
c. 1955  
Cotton, corduroy, cotton knit, flannel, even weave  
90" x 78"  
From *Gee’s Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*  
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006  
Courtesy of Matt Arnett  
Photo by Pitkin Studio

**Housetop**, fractured-medallion variation  
Delia Bennett  
c. 1955  
Cotton  
79" x 79"  
From *Gee’s Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*  
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006  
Courtesy of Matt Arnett  
Photo by Pitkin Studio
Negroes, descendants of former slaves of the Pettway Plantation
1937
Photo by Arthur Rothstein
Library of Congress
Prints & Photographs Division
Farm Security Administration
Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Washington, D.C.
Item number LC-USF34- 025232-D
www.loc.gov/pictures

Courtesy of Shelly Zegart
Photo by Focal Point

Bricklayer – sampler variation
Loretta Pettway
1958
Cotton and corduroy
82" x 78"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio
Bricklayer variation
Linda Diane Bennett
c. 1970
Denim
80" x 62"
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Pitkin Studio

Gee's Bend Ferry sign
Courtesy Joe Cunningham and Julie Silber

Woman on porch
Courtesy of Joe Cunningham and Julie Silber

Gee's Bend Quilters sign
Courtesy of Joe Cunningham and Julie Silber

*The Quilts of Gee's Bend* exhibition
B-roll from *The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend*
Alabama Public Television, 2004
B-roll from *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Courtesy of Matt Arnett and Vanessa Vadim
Tinwood Media Production, 2002
Atlanta, Georgia

Bringing home feed and fertilizer from store,
Gee's Bend, Alabama
May 1939
Photo by Marion Post Wolcott
Library of Congress
Prints & Photographs Division
Office of War Information Collection
Washington, D.C.
Farm Security Administration
Item number LC-USF34-051516-D
www.loc.gov/pictures

Quilts on clothesline at Polly Bennett's house,
Alabama Route 5, Near Alberta
2001
From *Gee's Bend: The Women and Their Quilts*
Tinwood Books, 2002
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Matthew Arnett

African American quilts, vicinity of the Alabama River
(possibly Gee's Bend), Wilcox County, Alabama
C. 1900
From *Gee's Bend: The Architecture of the Quilt*
Paul Arnett, Tinwood Books, 2006
Courtesy of Matt Arnett
Photo by Edith Morgan

B-roll from *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Courtesy of Matt Arnett and Vanessa Vadim
Tinwood Media Production, 2002
Atlanta, Georgia

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So Profound It’s Subversive
By Catherine Fox
*The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*
Arts
February 17, 2002

*Quilt show has the art world buzzing*
By Maria Puente
*USA Today*
Arts & Culture
February 21, 2003

Bill Arnett with women quilting
Courtesy of Matt Arnett

Bill Arnett with Gee's Bend quilters
Courtesy of Matt Arnett

*The Quilts of Gee's Bend* exhibition
B-roll from *The Quiltmakers of Gee's Bend*
Alabama Public Television, 2004
Sewing a quilt; Gee's Bend, Alabama
April 1937
Photo by Arthur Rothstein
Library of Congress
Prints & Photographs Division
Farm Security Administration
Office of War Information Photograph Collection
Washington, D.C.
Item number LC-USF34-T01-025363-D
www.loc.gov/pictures

B-roll from *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Courtesy of Matt Arnett and Vanessa Vadim
Tinwood Media Production, 2002
Atlanta, Georgia

*Pinwheel* variation
Essie Bendolph Pettway
2000
Cotton, cotton and polyester blends
88" x 85"
From *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Tinwood Books, 2002
Courtesy of Matt Arnett

Multiple columns of rectangles, blocks and bars
Essie Bendolph Pettway
1980
Corduroy
93" x 75"
From *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Tinwood Books, 2002
Courtesy of Matt Arnett

*Blocks* and *One Patch*, two-sided quilt
Essie Bendolph Pettway
1973
Cotton, polyester knit, denim
88" x 80"
From *The Quilts of Gee's Bend*
Tinwood Books, 2002
Courtesy of Matt Arnett