

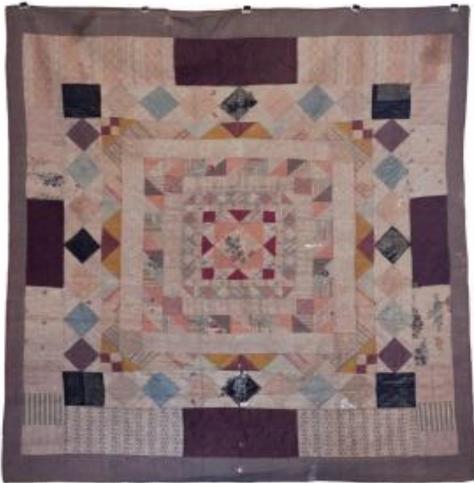


**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 2 FEBRUARY 2015**  
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## A QUILT FULL OF POSEYS AND PROVENANCE

*One quilt, nine dresses, and a tradition spanning time and place.*

In 2015 from April to Labor Day, Dumbarton House will display the “Posey Quilt,” an early 19<sup>th</sup> century American pieced quilt made of silk dress fabrics from a variety of early American women and Posey family members. On public view for the first time in a dedicated exhibition, the quilt includes fabric squares from the dresses of Martha Washington, Nelly Custis, and the quilt’s creator, Mary Alexander Posey, who married Thomas Posey in 1784.



Posey Quilt, early 19<sup>th</sup> century  
Dumbarton House Collection, #64.6

The exhibition will highlight the eight women believed to have owned the dresses used in the quilt, as well as the Posey family and its long tradition of passing the quilt down from mother to oldest daughter; a tradition which moved the quilt across North America for generations until it was donated to Dumbarton House in the early 1960’s. The quilt has small numbers on various squares which correspond to the fabrics of the women’s dresses. A muslin key on the lower left corner of the backing matches the numbers of the fabrics with their owners. According to the key, the quilt includes fabric from the dresses of “Betty Washington Lewis, Nellie Custis, Mary Alexander (Thornton) Posey, Martha Washington, Lucy Posey,” and a “Mrs. Beverly, Mrs. Fairfax, and Mrs. William Thornton.” The exhibition will also examine historical uses of silk and textiles in Federal America and is scheduled to open to the public with a reception in early April.

Dumbarton House is located in Georgetown at 2715 Q Street, NW, Washington, DC 20007. Limited parking and ADA-access is available behind the Museum via 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Metrorail: Red Line, DuPont Circle. For additional information, visit [www.dumbartonhouse.org](http://www.dumbartonhouse.org) or call 202-337-2288.

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**Dumbarton House** is a Federal period historic house museum, ca. 1800, whose preserved historic structure and collection serve to educate the public about life in Washington, D.C, during the early years of the Republic. Dumbarton House serves as the headquarters of *The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America* ([www.nscda.org](http://www.nscda.org)), a women’s organization that actively promotes our national heritage through historic preservation, patriotic service and educational projects. Dumbarton House is accredited by the *American Alliance of Museums*. The museum hosts a variety of public events and programs, as well as private rental events. [www.DumbartonHouse.org](http://www.DumbartonHouse.org)

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