

The Patriotic Elizabeth Hargrave Harris

Red, White, and Blue Hand Sewn Cape

Women's cape in cream, red, and blue with 34 stars embroidered in white on a blue collar. The fabric is all cotton. The cape is hand sewn.

This cape likely dates to 1862-1863 of Civil War era, as Kansas became the 34th state in 1861 and West Virginia in 1863. Cape is believed to be made by Elizabeth Hargrave Harris of Ripon.

Elizabeth is the daughter of Walter Hargrave, 1st and sister of Walter O. Hargrave, 2nd. In the Civil War, her brother enlisted in Company M, 1st Regiment, Wisconsin Volunteer Cavalry. She married Thomas Harris who enlisted in the Union Army during the Civil War in 1862.

Elizabeth accompanied her husband while he served as Commandant of the post at Sauk Center in 1864, where she became a friend to soldiers and families. She likely wore the cape for special events.



Right: Elizabeth Hargrave Harris, 1829-1917