

Emma's Quilt

This letter was written by Nellie Bacon and sent to Effie Load, a cousin and good friend of Emma's who could not attend the wedding.



San Francisco, March 3, 1884

" My Dear Effie,

I promised you a description of the quilt when finished and while the events of the last few days are freshest in my mind I will endeavor to give you a glimpse of them for I know you will be glad to hear.



The quilt was completed and sent over the 23rd going to Miss Templeton's there to await my coming.

It is an elegant thing and equal to our greatest expectations. The center one with the monogram EB and a crackle work design in tinsel about it thusly (drawing) The other squares were each one different and yet all handsome. Some have ribbon work, three painted and most of the rest embroidered.

Laura Requa's had a few bars of 'Home Sweet Home', Julie's had circles of plush, and Mabel's, blue fans. Her monogram being on one of them. Mine has a spray of sumac and goldenrod embroidered on pail blue moiré silk. Some were edged with light colored plush some were nearly all plush and others had two or three shades of plush. The whole was edged with a six inch border of the plush that I enclose lined with the silk, and finally finished with a large cord exactly matching the plush. The quilt was nearly two yards square.



Well, Monday morning I went to Fruitvale and got the quilt and took it to Emma and Effie, every stitch that we put into that quilt paid off. It was a joy to see the girl's delight in receiving it. She got down upon the floor and discovered and deciphered everyone's name herself. She screamed out 'Effie' and thanked me over and over for asking you as I knew she would. She hugged and kissed me and laughed and cried.

She has spoken of it since and everybody who has seen it thinks it is so nice. I am more than glad that we thought of and carried it through. I thank you again and your sister too for your ready response. Yours was one of the handsomest in it. She never suspected it in the least so it was a complete surprise making it all the more delightful.



Thurs AM I again set out for Fruitvale this time to remain until Emma should have become Mr. Alfred Henry Cohen. I was to stay at Mr. Templeton's with Mary and Mamie Beans.

The florist decorated the house, the girls waiting upon him and doing what we could to fill vases, baskets etc. There were garlands of evergreen everywhere. These filled with flowers to about six feet from the ground. The mantel banked and flowered in every conceivable place.



About quarter of eight it was announced that she was dressed and I slipped in to her room to have just one more kiss. Oh Effie, if you could have seen her as she stood there, her lovely long white dress simple but elegant in its simplicity and her veil falling over her face. I buttoned her gloves for her, having ripped the seams of the finger that was to receive that plain gold band that changed her life forever. I then raised her veil and kissed her. She looked radiantly happy.

Alfred's present was a beautiful pair of earrings, a pearl surrounded by little diamonds to rest on her ears, these and the pin he gave her a year ago she wore.

At promptly 8 they came down stairs and soon they were receiving the warm congratulations of the assembly. It was a lovely wedding in every way, everyone seemed to feel at home and though the house was very crowded all seemed friends. I think the outside decorations almost surpassed those of the interior for there were 350 Chinese lanterns suspended from the trees on the lawn and a double row on the house and on the fountain.

Of course the supper was perfect in its way. The table looking most inviting. I did not go into the dining room to eat but sat with some of the girls at a small table outside in the sitting room. At half past 11 Emma went up stairs to get ready to go to the city as all supposed, they having given every one to understand that they were going to the Palace Hotel, their destination the next day being a mystery.



Three things that Emma told me in the afternoon and other things I observed I inwardly decided that the new house was to be their abiding place for the night but of course said nothing. Emma had told me before that she wanted to go there if it were not for being seen the next morning so I supposed they thought to obviate that difficulty by keeping their own council. Wasn't that cute of them?

They drove away the next morning before anyone was out. I went over to the house in the morning and Julie greeted me with the news saying not one of them suspected it. Pauline alone being let into the secret. We think they are at Monterey today and what lovely weather. They have had a warm and sunny week. I shall be anxious to see them in the new house.



It is a lovely home which looks already inhabited so homelike in every way. Of Emma's presents I cannot give any adequate description. They were numerous, elegant and useful and it seemed as if there was nothing more to be asked for. I saw most of them but they were not displayed, in accordance with Emma's good sense and shrinking from ostentation .

Now Effie have I given you any idea of this lovely occasion to which you would have been so gladly welcomed and whose absence was as deeply regretted as that of anyone? I know there are many questions which you would love to have answered and perhaps among all the descriptions you will receive you may feel satisfied

It seems as if things could always remain the same between us as there is so little change outwardly in dear Emma's life but alas change is inevitable and though the love is still there other cares and other interests will push its manifestation to one side and we shall have to content ourselves with a memory. Only let us hope that the life that has opened so full of sunshine for them may extend far in the future without the clouds that sometimes darken every life. Goodnight to friend Effie from her friend Nellie L Bacon "

