**Beatrice Taylor Sewing**

I have been sewing for more than 60 years.  I learned sewing from my mother.  I was about 8, I think.  I used to watch her.  People would hire her to make fancy buckskin mittens for them.

She couldn’t afford to buy mittens for all of us kids, so she’d take an old coat or something and cut out a pair of mittens.  My sister and I learned from watching her how to make our own mittens.

One time, I couldn’t make my mittens come out even, so I started cutting.  And then I cut too much, but my mother wouldn’t cut out another pair for me to sew.  I remember I sat there and cried because I couldn’t make my thumb fit in the thumb hole – I’d cut it too small!  Finally, my mother broke down and cut out another pair for me to sew, and I didn’t cut any more on the pieces – I just sewed them together the way she said to.

My mother also taught us how to make moccasins and how to sew blocks together for quilts.  We had good times sewing together.  In the wintertime, with the snow piled up outside, we sat inside and sewed.  She’d scrub the floor and say, now don’t track anything in on my floor.  Then she’d stretch out a blanket on the floor so she could work on sewing it.

My mother even taught my sisters and I how to sew some of our own underwear.  She’d cut it out, and we’d do the sewing.  Kids at school used to make fun of us, but we didn’t care.

My sister Mary, who is also an Elder, still sews, too.  Her quilts are beautiful.  She’s got a lot of patience.  Sometimes I sit and watch her and I think, how can you sew a quilt with all of those tiny little blocks of fabric?  For me, the bigger the better when it comes to quilt pieces – then I can get done quicker!

Mary and I go through pattern books together and try to find something new, but we still pretty much tend to stick to the same designs.  I like the shoo-fly pattern and the Ohio star.  I’ve improved my sewing in the last 10 to 15 years.  The last quilt I did was marvelous – it came out completely even!

My granddaughters are a little small yet to show any interest in sewing, but if I can cut out mittens for them and they can sew them – like the way I started – I think maybe they will get a knack for it.