Dolley Payne Todd Madison (May 20, 1768 – July 12, 1849) was the spouse of the fourth President of the United States, James Madison. During the previous administration of Thomas Jefferson, a widow and their friend, she occasionally acted as hostess for him to fulfill the ceremonial functions more usually associated with the President’s wife. Thomas Jefferson gave her the moniker “First Lady” of the United States, (better than “Presidentress” which had been considered) and our first “First Lady” continued that role with her husband from 1809 to 1817. She was well known for her social gifts and helped define the role of the First Lady. Her success as a hostess contributed to increasing the popularity of Madison as president. She also aided in the completion and furnishing the interior of the newly constructed White House, and was responsible for saving many of the White House treasures when the British burned it down during the War of 1812.

We dedicate this month’s Block of the Month to the memory of all women who played such a vital role in the creation of our country.

Finished block is 12-1/2” square, unfinished; 12” square finished. Sew scant 1/4” seams.

Fabric:

Fabric #1: white tone-on-tone -
A. 4-1/2” squares (4)
B. 5-1/2” square (1)
F. (optional) 1-7/8” squares (5)

See Fabric #4

Fabric #2: red -
C. 1-7/8” squares (4)
D. 5-1/2” squares (2)

Fabric #3: blue -
E. 5-1/2” square (1)

Fabric #4 - same as #1 or white print
F. 1-7/8” squares (5)
Assembly (contd.):

**Nine patch center:**
1. Sew the 1-7/8” pieces as shown on the right. Press to red.
2. Sew the rows together as shown. Trim block to 4-1/2” square.

**Quarter square triangles (QST):**
3. Place one red 5-1/2” square right sides together with one blue and one white 5-1/2” square.
4. Draw diagonal (green line at right) and sew scant 1/4” on either side of diagonal (dashed line).
5. Cut on green lines, diagonally in both directions.
6. Press to red. You will have 4 of each of these triangles.
7. Set the resulting triangles with the reds opposite each other. Lock the seams; sew together.
8. Centering on the intersection of the triangles, trim blocks to 4-1/2”

**Assembling the block:**
9. Sew one 4-1/2” white square on each side of a QST for top and bottom row. Sew one QST on each side of the 9-patch. Follow the layout at the right.
10. Sew three rows together; press to QST’s.

"Dolley Madison Star" is a quick block to assemble, and lends itself to many combinations of patriotic and other fabrics.

If you win the blocks, you might consider a layout like #11, combining it with "Churn Dash" blocks which creates an interesting secondary pattern.