The 1892 signature quilt on display in the library was created by the Ladies Aid Society of the Old Mission Methodist Episcopal (M.E) Church of Old Mission.

Ladies Aid societies have an interesting history in the United States, as well as in Michigan, and there were several of these in the Grand Traverse region. Many were organized by churches after the Civil War, to help widows and children of dead or badly injured soldiers. Later, since this was well before government welfare programs, these societies began giving help to needy families in general.

On October 13, 1895, an organizational meeting was held at the Methodist Episcopal Church in Midland, MI to organize what was then called The Ladies Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. (Midland News, 5-28-2008)

According to an article from the Grand Traverse Herald, A Ladies Aid Society meeting in Northport in 1899, was followed by an oyster dinner.

By 1910, there were enough Ladies Aid societies around northern Michigan that the Grand Traverse Association of Ladies Aid Societies met together at a church in the Fernwood neighborhood in Traverse City. Fernwood is the area south of 14th Street, between Boardman Lake and Division. These societies did not always meet in churches, as when in December 1919 Ernest Hemingway spoke at the Petoskey Public Library to a Ladies Aid Society about his experiences in World War I.

The Library of Michigan in Lansing even has a copy of *The Old Mission Cook Book*, published in 1922 by the Old Mission Congregational Church Ladies Aid Society. This particular Ladies Aid Society is still going strong and is mentioned on the church’s current website, <https://www.oldmissionchurch.com/>