

# “Trifles”

## General Information

- Set in 1916 Nebraska
- Originally performed April 25th, 1916

## Susan Glaspell

- Born 1876 Davenport, IA. Died 1948.
- Attended undergraduate and graduate college
  - Drake University, Des Moines, IA
- Relocation to Greenwich Village
- Married George “Jig” Cram Cook
  - Evidence of difficult marriage
  - Miscarriage/no children



## Provincetown Players

- Founded 1916
- Sustain unknown American playwrights
- Strict regulations for accepting plays

## The Times

- World War I
  - Amusement and the war effort
  - Armistice signed on November 11th, 1918
- Gender
  - Marriage was binding
    - Divorce reflected poorly on the women
  - Jobs for women were restricted
  - 19th Amendment ratified August 18th, 1920

## How Did They Act?

- “True Woman” vs “New Woman”
  - True: domesticity, motherhood, submission, morality.
  - New: Clever, interesting, resourceful, self-determined.
    - Strong and comic



- Sitting
  - Women cross at ankle or knee
  - Men spread or cross at knee

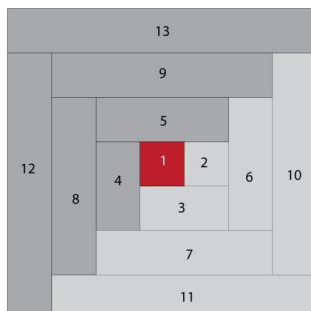


## Glossary

- Queer (980): Strange, odd, peculiar, eccentric.
- Red-Up (984): An act of clearing away or tidying up.
- Red (987): Likely referring to red fabric on table.
- Fur Tippet (985): A garment covering the shoulders and neck.

## Quilting and Sewing

- Log Cabin Pattern
- Quilting vs. Knotting



### Hossack Case

- Glaspell reported. Filed 23 stories.
- A man murdered in the night with an axe
- Mrs. Margaret Hossack arrested at funeral
- Glaspell visited the Hossack farm

### Nebraska Accents

- Dialect Survey: [https://www4.uwm.edu/FLL/linguistics/dialect/staticmaps/state\\_NE.html](https://www4.uwm.edu/FLL/linguistics/dialect/staticmaps/state_NE.html)

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