

Suzanne Delage:Quilts & smallpox

The Urth list — 1 messages, 1 voices, 13 May 1998

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Michael Doolittle — 13 May 1998, 19:26

William: the smallpox bit won't wash, not in a quilt from American Revolution times. While the idea of leprosy coming through infected items might have occurred to some colonists (via the Biblical precepts thereon), it's unlikely that anyone would have tried to pass smallpox on through germ warfare in those pre-van-Leewenhoek days.

Actually the smallpox is possible. I've read several accounts of European colonists and/or soldiers giving clothes/bedclothes from smallpox victims to Native Americans *specifically* in the hope that they would catch the disease.

Mike