

Michigan Sampler Survey

Its Purpose: To document and preserve Michigan's needlework heritage.

Its Goal: To collect and inventory information showing Michigan's contribution to female education and needlework skills. The end product will be a publication and exhibit promoting the study of Michigan-made samplers, their makers and instructors.

A sampler is defined as: A sample piece of needlework or embroidery, of silk, cotton, or worsted, for the preservation of some pattern or as an example of the ability of a child or a beginner. In American museums and private collections there are samplers dating from as early as 1643. It was long the custom for each young girl to work her own sampler as soon as her little fingers could manipulate a needle with thread and her needlework showed a proper degree of skill. Certain features of the sampler remained constant

- the name of the maker,
- the date,
- the alphabet,
- texts from Scripture, proverbs or bits of verse, and
- a conventional border framing the whole.

The Michigan Sampler Survey is a non-profit organization. Its mission is to document, preserve and present Michigan's needlework heritage beginning with its first settlers to the year 1900.

In recent years an in depth study has been made of New England, Southern, Ohio and Maryland embroidered samplers. Greatly overlooked has been Michigan's contribution to needlework and its role in female education. Our desire is to bring the school-girl needlework to life by researching its maker, their teachers, their families and their contribution to Michigan's pioneer history. This survey will include samplers in museums, historical societies and private collections.

Two concerns often expressed with privately owned samplers are anonymity and confidentiality. Sampler scholars are not interested where an object is located, but in its existence. Privacy will be maintained.

Owners of Michigan Samplers are encouraged to contribute to this important survey and documented samplers will be presented with a certificate stating their inclusion in this important study. Please support and preserve Michigan's needlework heritage by filling in the attached form.

Any questions may be addressed to:
Eileen J. Bennett, Michigan Sampler Survey Coordinator
Phone: **(616) 457-8348** or
Email: **ebsamhou@iserv.net**

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Owner's Information

Owner's Name _____
Address _____
Phone # and E-mail address _____
Is this a family piece or was the sampler purchased? _____

Sampler Maker's Information

Sampler maker's age _____ Date on Sampler _____
Sampler Maker's Date of Birth _____ Place _____
Parents names _____
Marriage date _____ To whom _____
Date of death _____ Burial location _____
Children _____

Sampler Information

Measuring from stitch to stitch, what is the Sampler size?
Width _____ Height _____
Is there a verse or inscription(s)? Please include below or on back of this sheet:

Have alphabet(s) been stitched? _____
How many? _____ Are there numerals? _____
Is there an outside border? _____ Have other borders been included? _____
Stitches used (if known) _____
Was this Sampler made at a school? _____ Teacher's name _____
School name and location _____
What designs have been embroidered? _____
What thread colors are used? _____
Have the edges of the Sampler been hemmed? _____
Is the Sampler framed? _____ Is this the original frame? _____
Are there labels or inscriptions on back of frame? _____
What information is given? _____
Are there companion or other family pieces from this maker? _____
Would you lend your sampler for a Michigan exhibit? Yes No
Would you permit your sampler to be listed or photographed in a publication? Yes No
Would you like your name listed? Yes No

Signature _____

Please return this form (to the Michigan Sampler Survey Coordinator)
with a color photograph or digital image (if available) to:
Eileen J. Bennett - 8112 Weatherwax Drive - Jenison, MI 49428-8300
Phone: (616) 457-8348 Email: ebsamhou@iserv.net