

Rare and Important Agriculture and Manufacturers Early Double Weave Jacquard Coverlet Dated July 4 with American Eagles, Independence Hall and Masonic Symbols in the Border. In Exceptional, Virtually Unused Condition

Owner

This coverlet was made for Amelia (Ama) Preston of Wingdale NY in 1829, whose name appears along the border. The family were Quakers and the coverlet descended thru this Quaker family until 1980.

Maker

Although the maker's name is unknown, this coverlet was by a weaver from the Dutchess/Ulster County region of NY. For many years most of these so called "Agricultural Quote" coverlets were attributed to James Alexander (1770 – 1870) born of Scottish parents in Belfast Ireland and working in Little Britain, NY in Orange County. However later research has determined that this coverlet was by one of two other weavers who were probably trained by Alexander. There are 3 ways that we know that this coverlet was not woven by Alexander. The owner's name is woven along the end border (Alexander put the name in the signature block). The appearance of 3 small figures hidden in the border. A monkey and a deer at the foot of the eagle and a small man at the bottom of the Masonic columns. Lastly Alexander coverlets are woven in 2 strips and seamed together whereas this coverlet was woven in one piece.

Provenance of the Coverlet

The coverlet has descended down through the family of Amelia Preston until 1980. It was then acquired and owned by one collector until being acquired by us. The complete coverlet provenance is below.

Notes and Sources

Similar quilts are in the collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Henry Ford Museum, American Textile History Museum (Smithsonian), American Museum of Folk Art.

Provenance according to Marian Heaton, a member of the Poughkeepsie Friends Meeting (Quakers - established in Poughkeepsie in 1813) who inherited the quilt.

Amelia Preston (Hooker)

B: unknown

D: Sometime In the 1830's in Wingdale, NY

Married William Hooker Jr. (B: 1788 in Kensington CT) Moved to Wingdale NY in 1829. Son of William Hooker B: 1756 in Hartford CT. D: 1826 in Kensington CT.

Ann Hooker (Vincent)

B: 1830 in Wingdale NY

Married Edwin Vincent (B: 1820's in Dover Plains NY)

(Another coverlet is known to exist, comparable but 2 pieces seamed together, and signed Vincent 1840)

Mary Vincent (Moore)

B: 1860 in Dover Plains NY

Married David Moore (B: in Moore's Mills NY)

Edna Moore (Heaton)

B: 1888

Married Lawrence Heaton

Marian Heaton (McGinnis)

B: 1918

Married Joseph McGinnis in Poughkeepsie NY

Acquired by a private collector in Aug. 1980 and owned by him until acquired by us.