

Coverlets in the Pioneers Museum

217 S. Tejon, Colorado Springs, CO 80903 USA

719-385-5990 - www.Springsgov.com

(Documentation completed by members of Pikes Peak Weavers Guild, May, 2008)

Coverlet Catalogue # 61-212

Date of Documentation: January 8, 2007

Weave Structure: Double Weave

Type: Figured and fancy

Grid: Horizontal/vertical

Size: 86" length x 72.5" width. (Dimensions are an average of at least three measurements in both directions.)

Number of Panels: 2

Probable Loom Type: Jacquard

Warp Yarn 1: Fiber Content: Wool

Estimated Yarn Size: 64/4

Spun: Z, Loose twist, Ply S, Hand spun 4 ply (two 2-ply yarns plied together) Handspun

Dye: None, Natural

Pantone Color: White Cap Grey, #12-0304 tpx

Ends/Inch: 34-36

Warp Yarn 2: Fiber Content: Wool

Estimated Yarn Size: 2/18

Spun: Z, Medium-tight twist, Ply S, Commercial

Dye: Commercially dyed, natural dyes

Pantone Color: Black Iris, #19-3921 tpx

Ends/Inch: 34-36

Weft Yarn 1: Fiber Content: Wool

Estimated Yarn Size: 64/4

Spun: Z, Loose twist, Ply S, Hand spun 4 ply (two 2-ply yarns plied together) Handspun

Dye: None, Natural

Pantone Color: White Cap Grey, #12-0304 tpx

Ends/Inch: 34-36

Weft Yarn 2: Fiber Content: Wool

Estimated Yarn Size: 2/18

Spun: Z, Medium-tight twist, Ply S, Commercial

Dye: Commercially dyed, natural dyes

Pantone Color: Black Iris, #19-3921 tpx

Ends/Inch: 34-36

Edge: Sides selvages, Top fringed, Other whip stitched, Bottom cut unevenly and hemmed due to wear.

Border: Integrated, not the same motif, Top motif different from sides, Separate corner motif. Corner motif identification of Muir family of weavers and has woven in date of 1850.

Weaving: Pattern squared: Yes
Borders mitered: No
Threading errors: No
Treadling errors: No
Even beat : Yes
Panels match: Yes, hand sewn
Condition: Shows much wear, blue patches

Place of Origin: New Castle Indiana
Circa: 1850

Date Received by museum: September 30, 1961, Gift
Donor: Mrs. Eugene Gammon
City: Colorado Springs
State: Colorado
County: El Paso

Weaver: John Muir family

Inscription: Corner motif identification of Muir family of weavers and has woven-in date of 1850.

Museum Note: (includes history prior to museum ownership and other information in museum files):

“Blue and white coverlid woven by sisters of Mrs. Geo. Washington Gammon, New Castle, Ind. Date in corner is 1850. Wool spun and dyed by them. Brought to Colo. by younger brother, Lem, in May 1880. He drove through with a team and buckboard. Left to Eugene, son of oldest son.”

Museum History: Storage: 3-5 bin 5

Analysis Speculation: Someone in the Gammon family probably ordered this Jacquard woven by the well known Muir weaving family. The white warp yarn may have been spun and plied by the Gammon family and given to the weaver to use. Most likely the indigo yarn was purchased. The current “top edge” was most likely the original “bottom edge”.

For further information on the weaver or coverlets with similar motifs or design features see:

Anderson, C.S. *American Coverlets and Their Weavers: Coverlets from the Collection of Foster & Muriel McCarl*. Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. 2002. ISBN 0-87935-215-9. pp. 195, 197

Heisey, J.W. *A Checklist of American Coverlet Weavers*. Williamsburg, VA: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. 1978. ISBN 0-87935-048-2. p. 128

Montgomery, P. *Indiana Coverlet Weavers and Their Coverlets*. Indianapolis: Hoosier Heritage Press. 1974. pp. 77-80, Plates 12, 13, & 14