

Overshot Coverlet c 1850

unidentified Weaver

Prob. Hastings County

"Freemason's Coat of Arms"
Variation 1

Ref: Keep Me Warm One Night, Burnhams #290

This black and white coverlet is expertly woven in a draft pattern variation of "Freemason's coat of arms". The variation has blocks "on opposites," making a distinct break between the table and the stars. The contrast is further enhanced by the use of the solid black wool weft and the bleached white cotton warp. The coverlet was woven by the unidentified weaver who wove the ROM example 969.220.4 because of the unusual variation of the pattern. The ROM example was found in Prince Edward County, nearby Hastings County where this example was purchased (in Roslin north of Belleville).

Ruth McKendry writes in Quilts and Bedcovering of. That the use of black (and sometimes purple) was linked to the Victorian custom of associating the colours with mourning. It could be a deliberate statement by a family purchasing the coverlet after a family loss.

Condition: Very good with tiny holes in two spots.

The top and bottom salvage warp threads have been turned and bound. It has an excellent joined centre seam - expertly matched.

Source: Sullivan Auctions. 05-09-16. Sale of Steve and Glenda Brown, 322 Boundary Road, Roslin. \$56.50!

They told me that it was a wedding gift to them by well-known local collector Wally Beaver in 1978.

(See Old Ontario Furniture by Phillip Shakkleton. Wally Beaver lived in Sterling Hastings Co. and had found it in the area.

Dimensions: 86 1/2" (220cm) L x 66 1/2" (169cm) W.

This is a rare draft I have not seen on the market before or since.



