

Overshot Coverlet c 1875

Samuel Fry - weaver.  
Ontario, Vineland  
Lincoln County

Ref. Burnhams Keep The Warm One Night #238

For textile collectors, overshot coverlets are the usually the most common type of handweaving found in Ontario. They were usually created on four harness looms as known from Cape Breton Nova Scotia to the Detroit River in Ontario. Many fine examples have been found in communities settled by Scottish immigrants in the 19th century. The strongest design and construction links come from the Highlands of Scotland.

An overshot coverlet is seen in a wide variety of patterns (drafts) and colours. By the end of the 19th century industrial weaving/textile mills displaced the local weavers and totally disappeared by WWI.

This is a very dramatic overshot in a simple patch pattern woven by Vineland farmer and winter weaver Samuel Fry. Both visually and technically, a dramatic and appealing example made about 1870.

It is expertly woven in two sections and joined with a near invisible centre seam. It is woven with cadmium red and indigo blue woollen weft on a natural white cotton warp. It is identical to another Fry coverlet in the ROM. Well matched centre seam.

Condition: Very good some loss to indigo blue tubles

Source: Rick Traynor, Adam Haynes/Anthea, Niagara Falls  
c 1975 - 400-500. One of the first major purchases.

Dimensions: 89 1/2 (227) L. with fringe. 86 1/2 (220cm) L. with fringe.  
72" (183cm) W.

The dealer had purchased it from a descendant of the Moses Bush related to Fry



