

Overshot Coverlet.

1860-75

Unknown weaver,
probably Lincoln Co.
"Sea Star" pattern.

This is a visually striking optical pattern in red wool weft on a white cotton ground. It is unusual since it does not have the expected centre seam. This weaver had a wide loom perhaps with a flying shuttle or partner to create the uninterrupted full width coverlet. It is a real beauty!!

Ref. #350 Keep Me Warm One Night, Burnham 1972, 964, 19,
p. 257. in the ROM collection. clearly the work of the same weaver with a wide double loom. The pattern is identical but the colours are different, also Quilts and other Bedcoverings - R. McKendry #92.

Condition: Excellent, in every way.

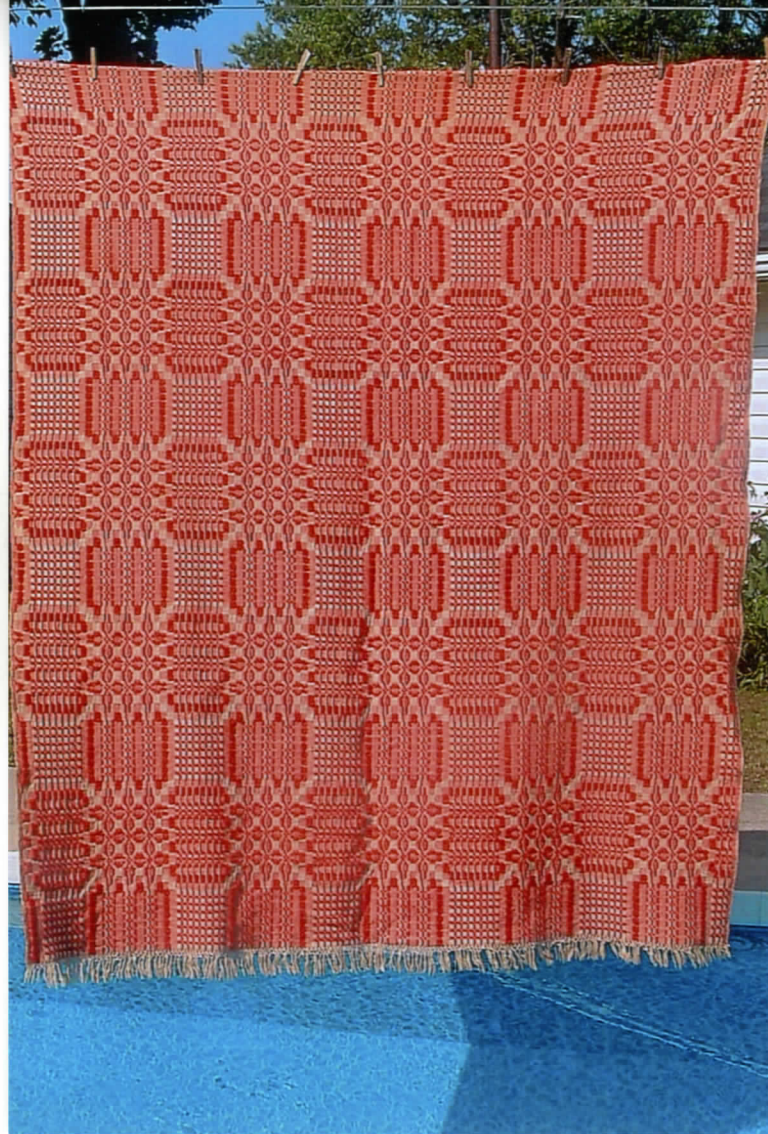
Source: Odessa Antiques Show Aug 11, 2018,

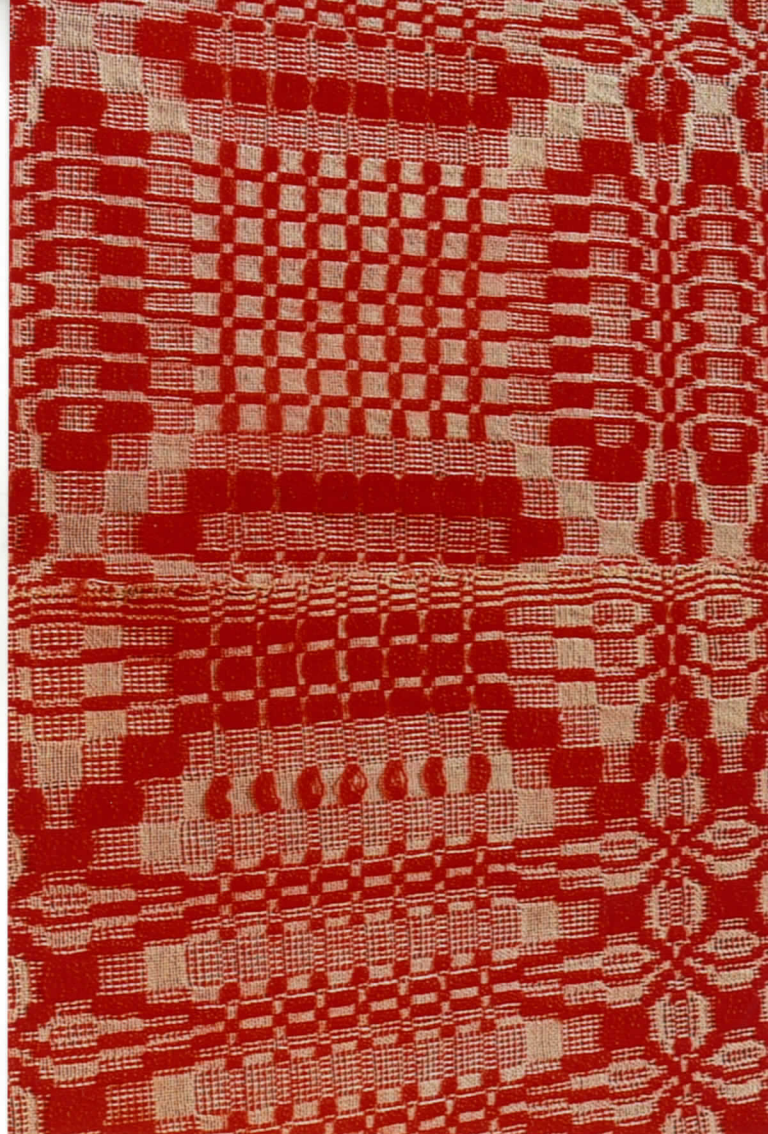
R. Caruth Antiques Fenelon Falls Ontario #133 same box

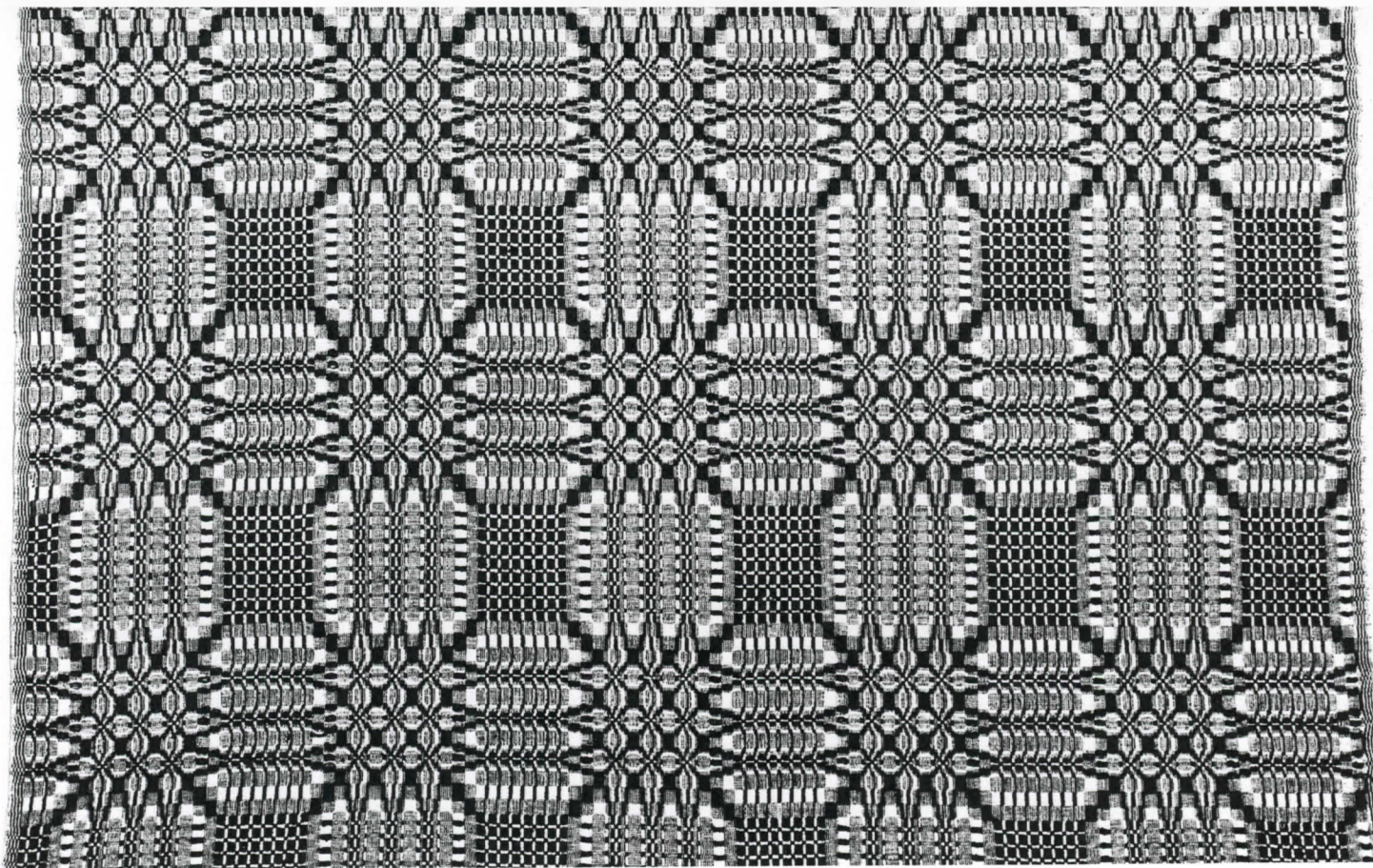
Dimensions: $81\frac{1}{2}"$ (207cm) l. x $72"$ (183cm) w.

Where were these coverlets woven. My red example was found in a Staffordshire auction, c. 2017 and the ROM example was found in Louth or Clinton Counties, Lincoln County. My guess is they both were made in Lincoln and my example travelled over time. It is one of a rare group of no seam full width overshots in the collection.

This is clearly an early example with intricate knotted fringe and the "feel" of an early coverlet. Could be even earlier than 1860.







350 / Ontario. Lincoln County, Louth or Clinton
Townships. 1860-75
ROM 964.19. Gift of Mrs J.H. Crang
Overshot coverlet. L. 214cm, plus fringe; w. 181cm

Indigo blue wool on natural white cotton (main weft, z, 2s).
This has a draft almost identical to that of no. 348, but is
woven in one width. The centre seam that occurs in almost
all old coverlets is due to the limited reach of the weaver who

threw the shuttle with one hand and caught it with the other.
Depending on skill and stature, this distance varies with a
maximum of about four feet. This is often taken as the only
infallible proof of handweaving, but nothing is so simple. A
few professional weavers had wide looms in regular use,
equipped with either a flying shuttle with drop box, or
operated by two weavers, one at each side. This coverlet was
handwoven on such a loom.

Keep Me Warm One Night. Burnham