

Chesham Coverlet (1860)

"Freemason's Felicity"

Unknown Weaver

Peterborough City?

At first glance this attractive high contrast coverlet appears to be a variation on the frequently seen pattern draft for "Freemason's Felicity" but interesting variations appear.

The warp threads are white cotton (bleached) with dark contrasting indigo blue weft. Some variation in the depth of the blue suggest two different dye batches of soft wool were used.

The traditional block tables in this sample are reduced in scale. The wheels at each corner transition to larger more intricate tables with lozenges that become less defined at the centre of the block. Overall it appears a little confused and not seen previously in other examples making the wheels less obvious. There are some threading and knitting errors but the final result is very good.

The weight is very good and the two woven panels are well matched at the centre seam. Along the centre seam the variation in indigo dye baths become more obvious.

The previous owner(s) purchased it with another red & blue coverlet in Harwood, Ontario. It is south Peterborough County close to Hastings and Northumberland Counties where fine examples have been collected previously. It is likely that the coverlet was woven in this area of Ontario.

Condition: Excellent. Bottom fringe all intact: no indication of wear through use.

Source: Brad Smith Auctions, Napanee, ON 27-01-2024 #40390

Dimensions: 80" (223 cm) L x 63 1/2" (161 cm) W
Many bidders!

The reverse is equally attractive featuring white blue contrast.



