

Overshot Coverlet c 1840 -

unidentified Weaver
found in Ballenafad Halton Co

Ref. Keep Me Warm One Night, Bunkans #258 "Monmouth" pattern

This coverlet has special meaning for me since it was the second coverlet I collected in 1973. I was visiting my parents in Georgetown Ont and attended a local clearance auction in nearby Ballenafad, a village close by. The colour and pattern caught my attention. I have owned it for over fifty years!

It is woven in the popular Monmouth pattern which is seen throughout Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces. (The pattern was probably used and named after the Duke of Monmouth, executed by the British after his execution in 1685.

The warp is a natural white cotton with dramatic use of orange, green (dye) and black wool for the weft. It is expertly woven without a centre seam. A local weaver had a double width loom with a flying shuttle or assistant. A special feature is the gathered warp fringe on the two sides and the bottom. The top edge is bound in a black stitched red wool.

The coverlet was found in Halton County very close to the similar example in the ROM #258 found just across the County line up the road in Hullettsburgh. Could this have been one of the nine coverlets woven for the McKinnon family? Rom info p 260.

Condition: Very good - some minor loss to bottom fringe

Source: Brownridge Auction on site, in Ballenafad
Halton County c 1973

Dimensions: 80" (203cm) L. x 63" (150cm) W.

The coverlet has the density and weight of an early piece
the decorative fringe began to appear from 1840 on -



