

Overshot Coverlet c. 1840

Unidentified Weaver.

blue way
"Green Dye" variation

This is a very unusual coverlet that has required considerable time for examination. It is woven on a medium blue cotton warp; not common in Ontario but a few examples are known. White bleached or unbleached cotton was the norm for most Ontario weavers. The wool weft fibres are in dark indigo and soft red (salmon) dyes. This creates a pleasing and dramatic contrast which makes the design "pop". The weft has regular ^{but} long floats creating strong contrast. Conversely the back, although more subdued has some interconnects. Therefore the reds in the tables on the front have very few red connects on the reverse.

The pattern ^(draft) is also unusual. It is very geometric with very square tables and square stars in the repeating units. Burnham refers to these variations as patch designs. It does appear to have a link to some early Prince Edward County coverlets (Ref # 237, 287: KIMWON) with the use of strong squares and geometric star motifs.

The coverlet appears extremely well woven (dense + firm) with extra fringes in blue cotton attached to the sides. It is unusual that the centre seam on such a good sample are not well matched (offset). The fringes have some wear but the bottom shows the original small braided preference of many early coverlets.

Because it is atypical and rare for Ontario, it may be an import - I have not found a match elsewhere.

Condition: Very good - some fringe losses only.

Source: Brad Boudin Auctions, Niagara, 25-08-21 - McLean & John Brisley Auction, ^{cat #302} #466.13 - (Highly contested + denied price)
Found originally in Belleville.

Dimensions: 71" (180.5cm) w. x 86" (218.5cm) l. not including fringes

Brisley was told that it originally was found in Prince Edward Co. They purchased it at Belleville Antique Show (Mall Show)



