



## CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

**Bid Number:**  
2025.07.01



(For more condition photographs, please see object file)

**Date:** October 24, 2025

**Contact:**

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**Object:**

Embroidered Cloth Fabric  
(Revolutionary War era—1787)

**Object ID:**

2025.03.11.02

**Description:**

A fragment of 18th-century bed curtains made of coarse plain weave cotton and embroidered with wool crewelwork. Various shades of green, pink, yellow, brown, and black are used to create a meandering vine-and-flower motif. The crewelwork was stitched over a series of ink markings that served as a guide for the embroiderer to ensure the various panels matched.

A note accompanies the embroidery stating, "Worked by Hannah Gay of Warren during the Revolutionary War and some years before her marriage. She married Col. Peter Church November 1787. The embroidery was worked on India cotton before cotton cloth was made in this country. She worked a full set of long bed curtains, a bed quilt, chair cushions, and window curtains all the same pattern."

**Measurements:**

Height- 11 ½" (widest point)

Width- 36 ¾"

**Category:**

Textile

Furnishing/Textile Furnishing/Bed Hanging

Textile Art/Needlework/Crewelwork

**Location:**

Box 21

Display Case 104

Charles Whipple Greene Historical Collection

George Hail Free Library

**Condition Analysis:**

Overall, poor condition. This item exhibits extreme embrittlement and fiber desiccation, with large areas of the crewelwork yarns missing or actively breaking. Several areas also display dye drop-out due to the use of iron gall or an iron mordant. This is evident by dark brown areas of substrate where ink was used to trace the pattern or a black yarn used to trace edges of the embroidery. Additional areas of loss could be due to insect damage. The back of item is discolored throughout with a blue hue. This is likely a result of dye crocking from a backing fabric such as an indigo textile.

**Recommended Treatments:**

This item should be mounted on a board for stabilization. It is also recommended that the item be gently vacuumed with a screen to eliminate any surface accretions or dust.