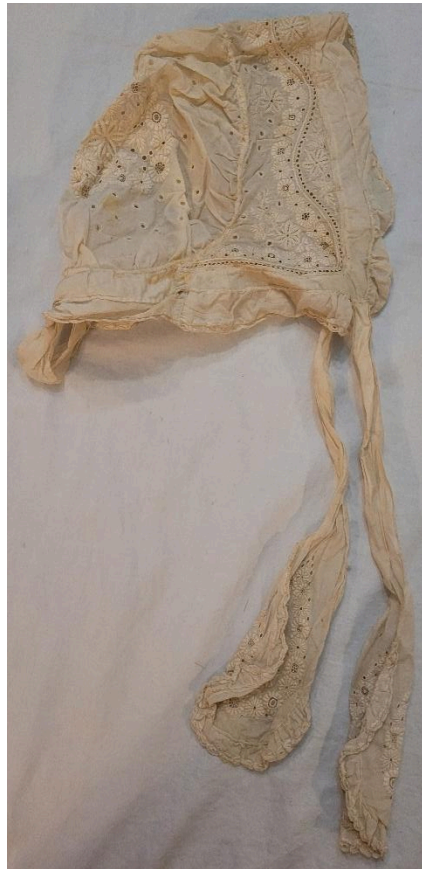




CONSERVATION ASSESSMENT

Bid Number:
2025.07.01



(For more condition photographs, please see object file)

Date: October 24, 2025

Contact:

Chris Matos
George Hail Free Library
530 Main St.
Warren, RI 02885
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Object: Nightcap/Bonnet (Wedding night cap)
Object ID: 2024.09.09.01

Description:

A white linen nightcap with hand-sewn embroidery in eyelets and floral motifs. The crown of the cap consists of radiating circles of embroidery with a six-petaled flower at the center surrounded by maple leaves, followed by a circle of daisies or pincushion flowers. Eyelet embroidery is speckled throughout. The crown is attached to a rectangular piece that circles $\frac{3}{4}$ of the crown, creating the front brim. Two layers of gathered ruffles are sewn to the brim as a frill. Ties hang from the corners of the brim and are embroidered to match the crown. Additionally, there is a drawstring at the back along the neckline that could be pulled to make it tighter.

Women wore nightcaps to prevent their hair from tangling while sleeping. They also served to protect hairstyles overnight, keeping curls and pins in place. Additional benefits from wearing a nightcap include warmth for the wearer and the protection of pillows from hair oils.

This nightcap is marked as belonging to a Warren church member who wore it on her wedding night in 1830.

Measurements:

Height- 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Depth- 8"
Tie lengths- 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Category:

Textile
Clothing/Headwear/Bonnet
Dress accessories/hair covering
Clothing Sex: Female

Location:

Box 12
Display Case 102
Charles Whipple Greene Historical Collection
George Hail Free Library

Condition Analysis:

Overall good condition with yellowing and small scattered stains throughout. Fibers are dry, and the bonnet has extensive creasing and wrinkling due to improper storage.

Recommended Treatments:

This item is a good candidate for aqueous cleaning with a reduction bleach. This will alleviate the yellowing of the cellulosic fibers and adjust the pH to neutral. One washed, the item can be blocked on a head form to reduce creases. The bonnet should be stored with tissue in the crown and the ties flattened.