



## 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:**

Sampler made by Mary K Richards (embroidered)

**Object ID:**

2024.07.15.03

**Description:**

Sampler, coarse linen ground with black, brown, yellow, and green silk embroidery floss. Design consists of an outer border with floral vines surrounding alphabet sets and written passages. Written elements are as follows: a set of uppercase letters, a set of lowercase letters, the maker and date of manufacture "Mary K Richards wrought this in 1832 aged 18", followed by a description of the family lineage: "Family Register: Births Mr. Luther Richards was born Sep 19<sup>th</sup> 1783. Miss Sarah Kinnecutt was born Nov 30<sup>th</sup> 1783. Susanna Richards was born Dec 15<sup>th</sup> 1811. Mary K Richards was born July 10<sup>th</sup> 1813..... The last passage on the bottom PL side is illegible due to loss of fibers but may include references to Mr. Luther Richards or Miss Sarah Kinnecutt and their date of marriage. According to Ancestry.com, Mary K Richards was known as Polly, and birth years of the family vary between historical registers but denote that the family was from Warren, Rhode Island. Further research into the format of the sampler may lead to the identification of the governess or schooling of Mary Richards. See Betty Ring's *Let Virtue Be a Guide to Thee* (1983) or *Girlhood Embroidery, American Samplers & Pictorial Needlework 1650-1850* (1993).

**Measurements:**

Height- 17"  
Width- 15 ½"

**Category:**

Textile  
samplers (embroidery)

**Location:**

Box 4  
Display Case 102  
Charles Whipple Greene Historical Collection  
George Hail Free Library

**Condition Analysis:**

Fair

Overall fair condition with extreme discoloration and acidification of ground fabric, likely from being previously mounted on an acidic backing. Rust holes surrounding perimeter, likely from nails or mounting tacks. Acidification has caused dye-dropout in several areas of the embroidery, particularly the darkest color black/brown lettering which was likely colored with iron gall. Evidence of continuing fiber loss as shown by particles present in tissue wrapping.

**Recommended Treatments:**

Remount in a sink mat to avoid any further abrasion of the embroidery floss. Test for the possibility of aqueous spot cleaning under suction or aqueous siphoning with Paraprint OL60 to neutralize pH and reduce further deterioration of materials.