

Basic Detail Report

Title Memorial Sampler

Date 1841

Primary Maker Martha Street

Medium Embroidery; silk thread on a plain-woven, undyed linen ground; glass and wood

Description Memorial sampler worked in medium greens, medium browns, medium blue, light blue, dark blues, dark green, cream, gray, pink and red silk threads on a plain-woven linen ground using cross stitches over one thread. The sampler is squarish, oriented horizontally. It is laid out with one row of one alphabet, over two inscriptions flanking a memorial scene encased in an oval, over an inscription, over a realistic townscape, over an inscription at the bottom. The first inscription is "They are like/ grass: - In the/ morning it flour-/ isheth and grow-/ est up: in the/ evening it is cut/ down and/ withereth". The second inscription is "But the mercy/ of the Lord is/ from everlasting/ to everlasting/ upon them that/ fear him and/ his righteousness/ unto children,s/ children". The third inscription is "There is a voice by sorrow heard/ When heaviest weighs life,s galling chain/ That voice is the Almighty,s word/ The pure in heart shall meet again". The fourth inscription is "Wrought by Martha Street at 12 years of age under the instruction of Mary C Street AD [one character] 1841". The realistic townscape scene includes, from left to right, a church, a tree, a house, a church, and a tree. The memorial scene includes, from left to right, a tree, a right-facing woman with her left hand touching a monument, and a tree, all atop a pastoral

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landscape. The inscription on the monument reads, "BETSEY/ wife of/ James Street/ died/ Aug. 29/ 1834". There are several pictorial motifs throughout the sampler, including a bird in flight, an angel, a peacock at rest, a butterfly or moth, and a bird sitting in a branch. There is a three-sided floral border at the top and both sides. The edges of the sampler are not visible. The sampler may have selvages at its left and right edges. The sampler is in an old frame. Letters and Numbers: There is one alphabet plus six additional letters. The letters in the alphabet are uppercase script. The additional letters are in uppercase script: BCSSJO. Apostrophes are placed as commas. Stitches: The sampler is worked entirely in cross stitch over one thread. Condition: The sampler had darkened with age. It is in an old frame; the backing is replaced.

Dimensions Primary Dimensions (height x width of frame): 20 $\frac{3}{16}$ x 21 $\frac{3}{16}$ in. (51.3 x 53.8cm) Primary Dimensions (height x width of visible ground): 16 $\frac{7}{8}$ x 17 $\frac{7}{8}$ in. (42.9 x 45.4cm)