

Pennsylvania Coverlets, Related Manuscripts and their Connection with Maryland

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Family Coverlets



“If these objects could talk.”

- ❖ Exploring 19th century Pennsylvania German extant coverlets as well as handwritten pattern and account manuscripts.
- ❖ In order to learn from these objects, we need to decipher the codes.

Codes

- ❖ Design elements of a coverlet
- ❖ Understanding number systems for threading drafts, tie-up, and treadling drafts

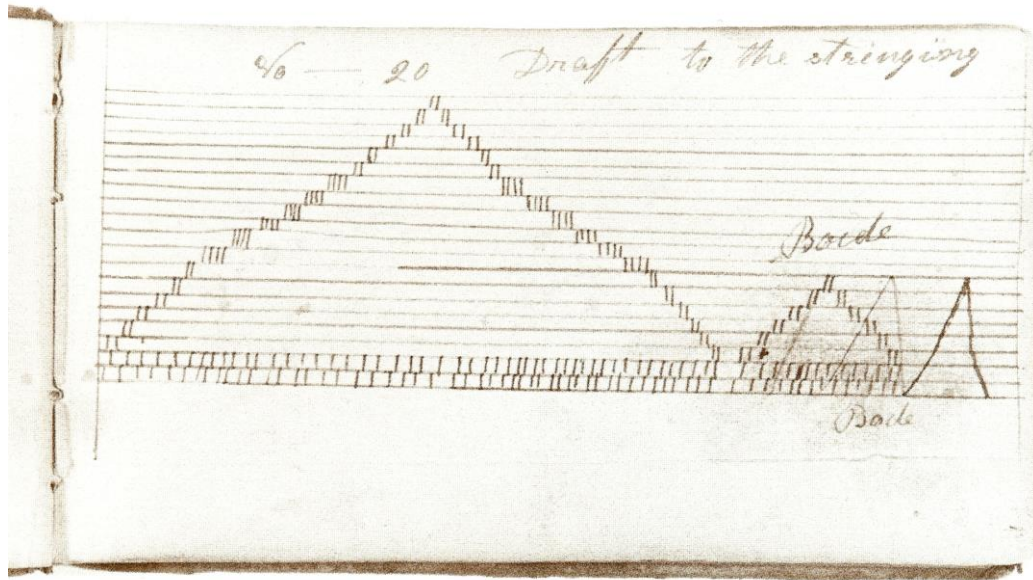
Extant Coverlets



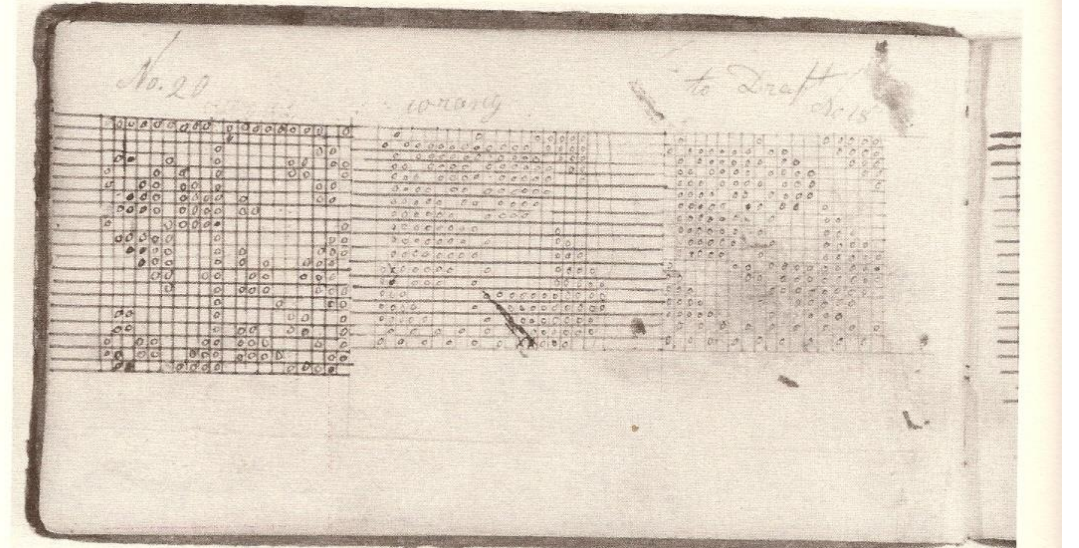
What was
woven

Pattern Manuscripts

Threading Draft



Tie-Up



Jacob Angstadt manuscript, reproduced in Ruth Holroyd's book *Jacob Angstadt His Diaber Book*

Drawdown – Graphic Representation



Match Coverlet to Drawdown/Draft

Coverlet



Drawdown



What have I learned

Coverlet

- What was woven
 - Yarn used
 - Motifs used for pattern
 - Weave structure

Pattern Manuscript

- Who might have woven it
- When it might have been woven
- Where it might have been woven

What have I learned

Coverlet

- This coverlet was woven
 - Cotton and wool
 - Star and Tulip motifs
 - Star Work weave structure

Pattern Manuscript

- David Bender – Westmoreland Co., moved to Iowa
- Jacob Angstadt – Union Co., moved to Ohio
- Benjamin Delong – Berks Co.
- Jesse Marstellar - ? Co.

What is a Coverlet

- a bed covering
- woven on a hand loom
- by a weaver in the 18th and 19th century.



Stay At Home and Use Me Well Exhibit, National Museum of the
American Coverlet, Bedford, Pennsylvania

Classification of Coverlets

- Geometric
- Figured & Fancy

Geometric

Packwood Coverlet Show 2007



Figured & Fancy

Packwood Coverlet Show 2007



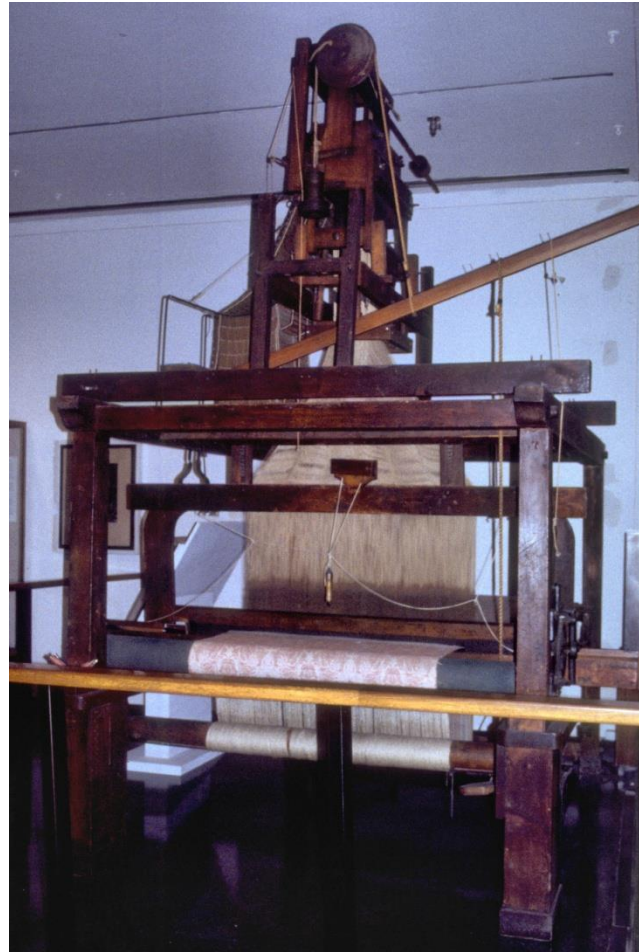
Loom for Geometric Coverlets

Loom at the National Museum of the American Coverlet

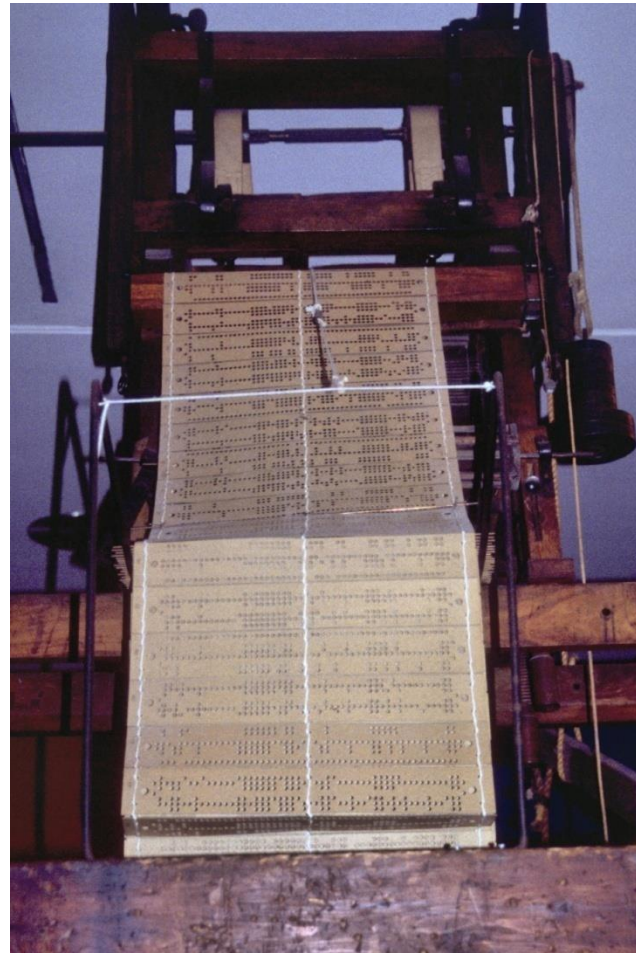


Loom for Figured Coverlets

at the Smithsonian Museum



Close-up Jacquard Attachment



Legacy of Early Weavers

- Handwoven coverlets:
 - What was woven.
- Handwritten pattern manuscripts:
 - Who was weaving.
 - Where they weaving.
 - When they might have been weaving.
- Handwritten weaver's account book:
 - What was woven, when, and for how much.

Design Elements

- Pattern
 - Main
 - Border
- Weave Structure
- Yarn
- Fringe



Walter Collection, Photographed by Ron Walter

What: Rose & Star – Point Twill Coverlet

Tree border



Main pattern
Rose motif
Star motif

Walter Collection, Photographed by Ron Walter

More info

Wool pattern fringe
on two sides



Cotton warp fringe at bottom

Walter Collection, Photographed by Ron Walter

Jacob Biesecker - Biography



- Born in 1806
- Son of Jacob (1782-1870) and his wife Catherine Mickely (1777-1874)
- Cashtown, Adams Co., Pennsylvania
- Listed as weaver in 1850 Pennsylvania Census, Adams Co. Franklin Twp.
- Died 1865

Jacob Biesecker

Geometric Coverlets



Figured & Fancy Coverlets



Courtesy Winterthur Museum

Biesecker – Figured & Fancy Coverlets

Double Weave



Courtesy Winterthur Museum

Tied Weave/Beiderwand



McClain Collection

Biesecker Manuscript Star Work



Biesecker: Point Twill – Nine Star



Courtesy, The Winterthur Library: Joseph Downs Collection

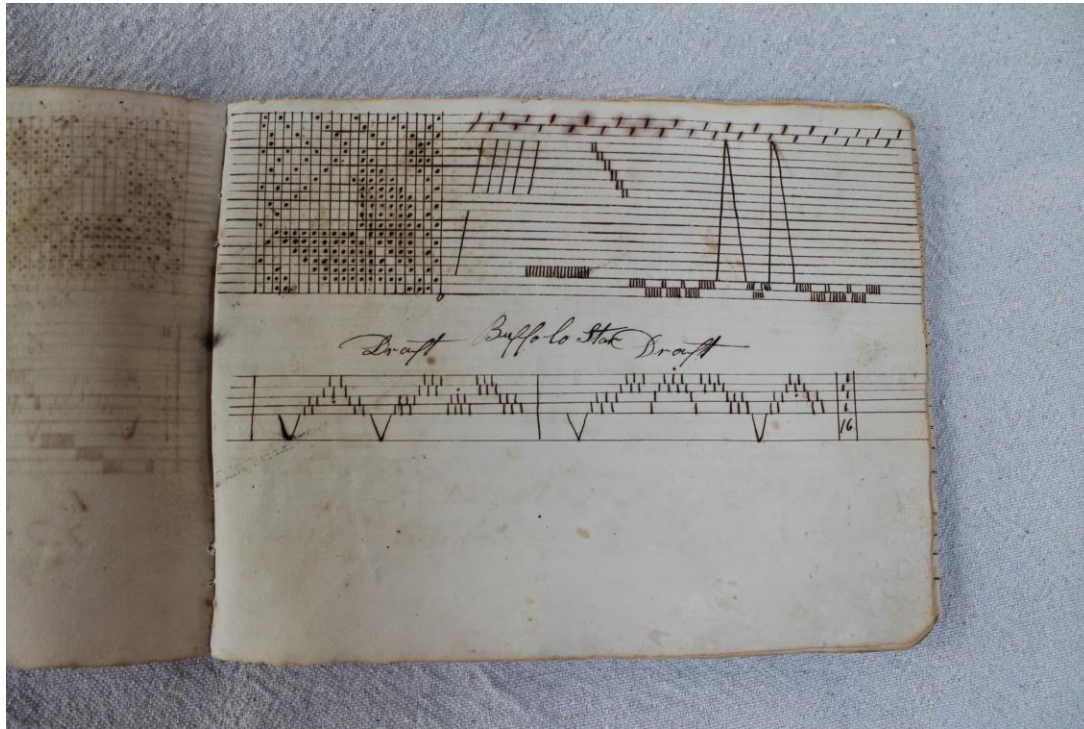
Similar Coverlet



What can I hypothesize ??

- Nine star pattern in point twill weave in the PA German style
- Woven in 1830-1850s
- Possibly by Biesecker

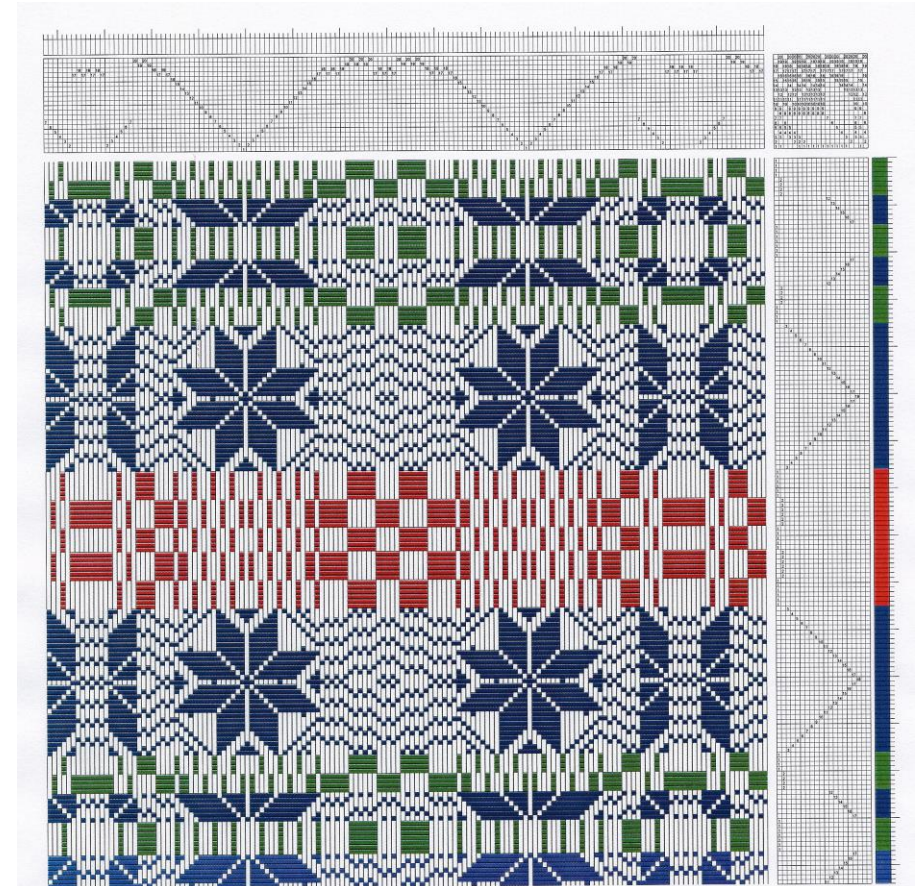
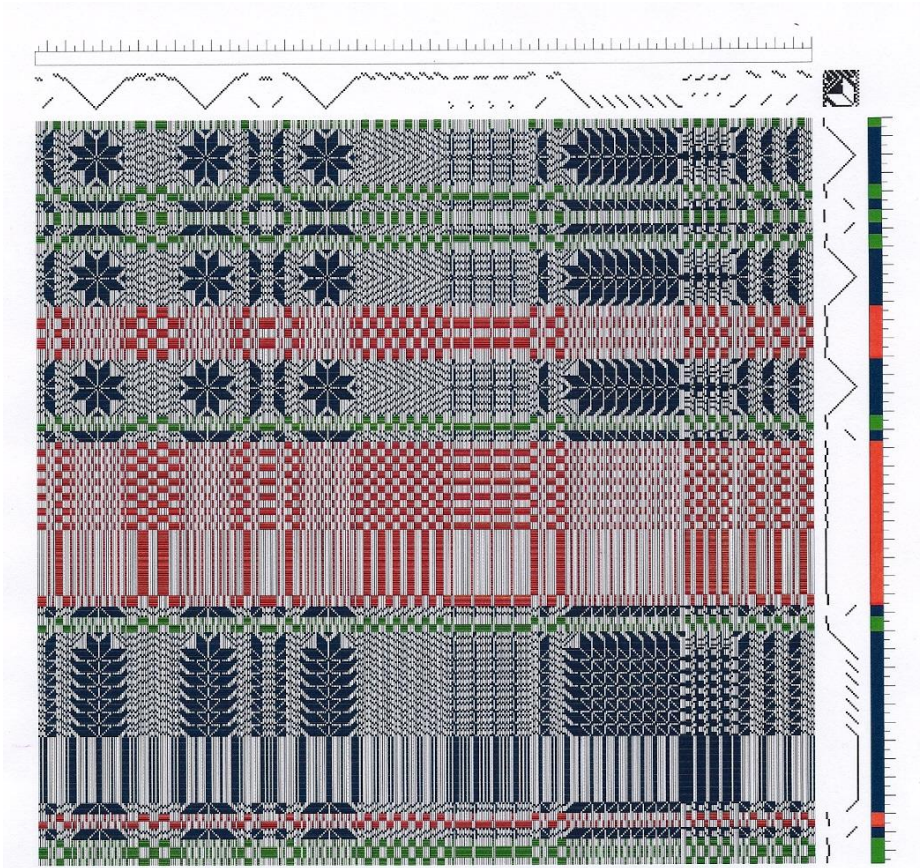
Biesecker's "Buffalo Star"



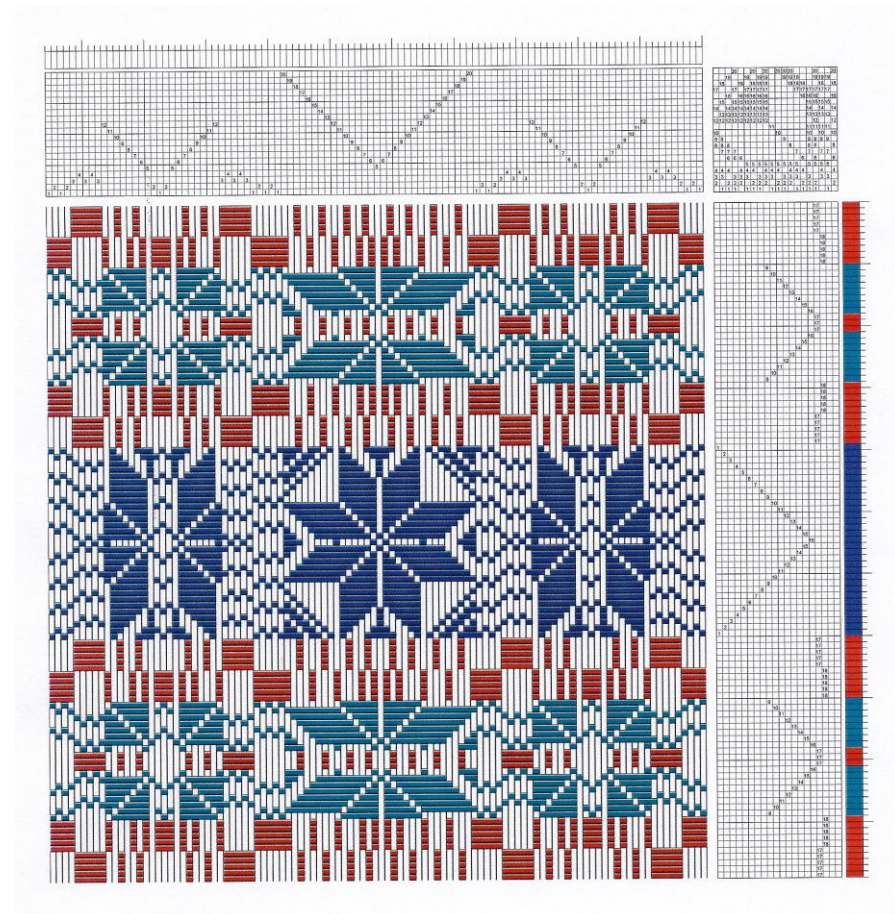
Courtesy, The Winterthur Library: Joseph Downs Collection



Christian Frey, Adams Co. PA Weaver “Rose & Star”



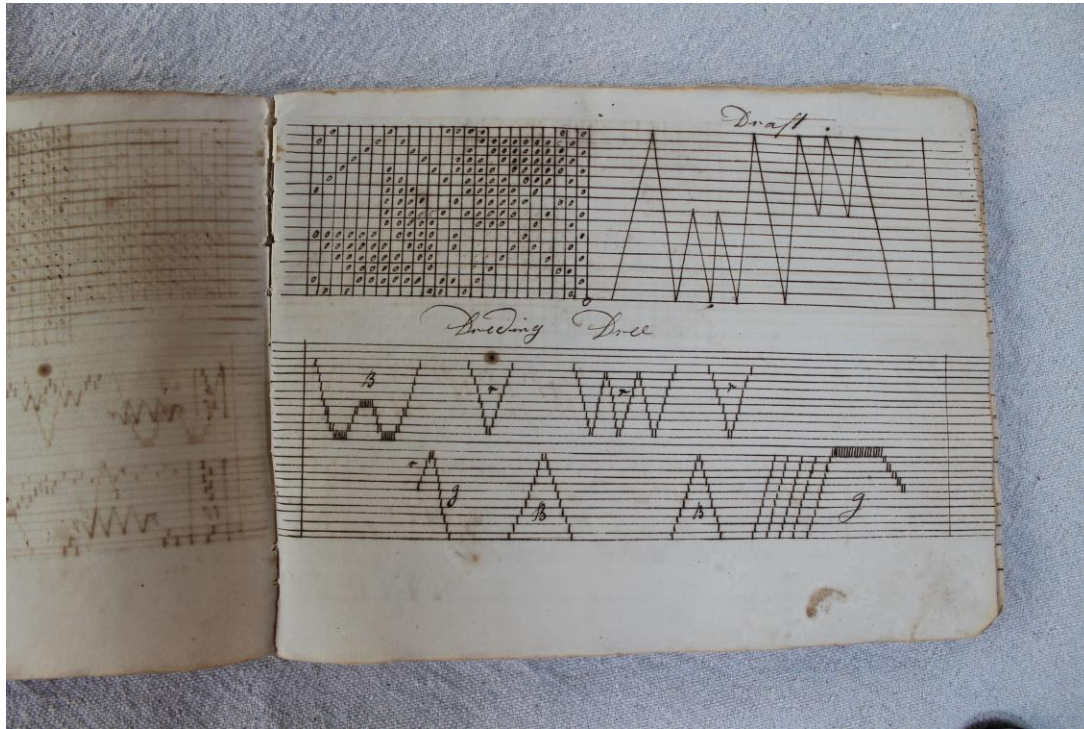
David Bender's Pattern



An Extant Coverlet



Biesecker: Point Twill, Star & Flower

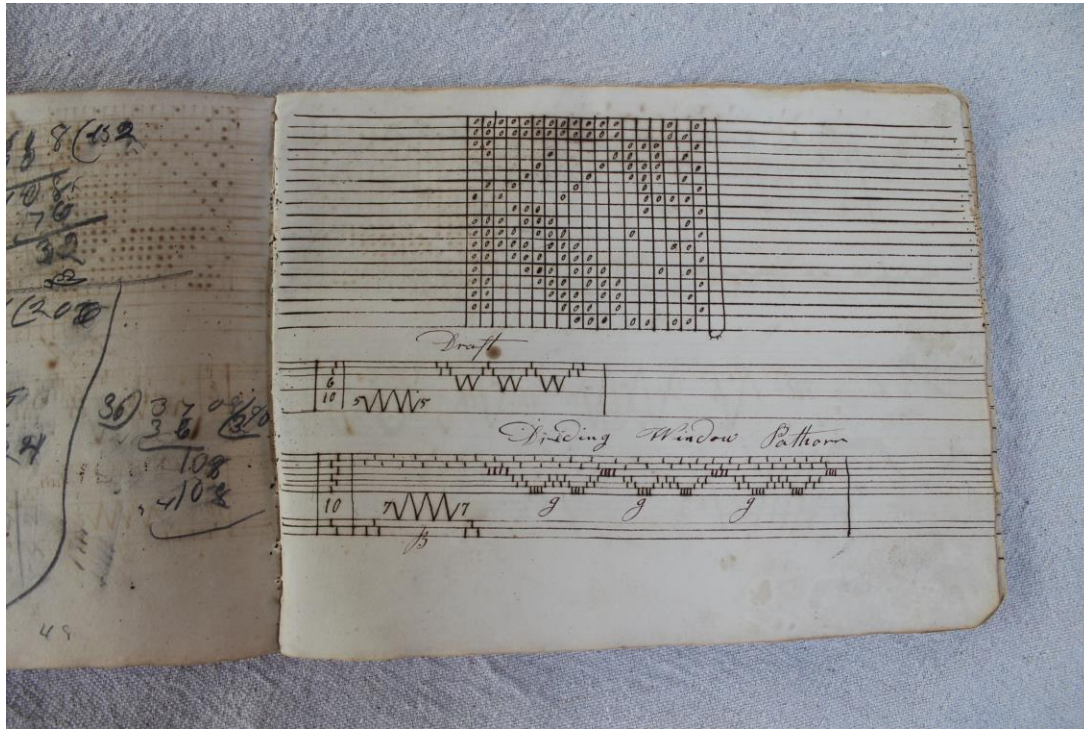


Courtesy, The Winterthur Library: Joseph Downs Collection

Extant Coverlets



Biesecker – Window Pattern, Point Twill



Courtesy, The Winterthur Library: Joseph Downs Collection



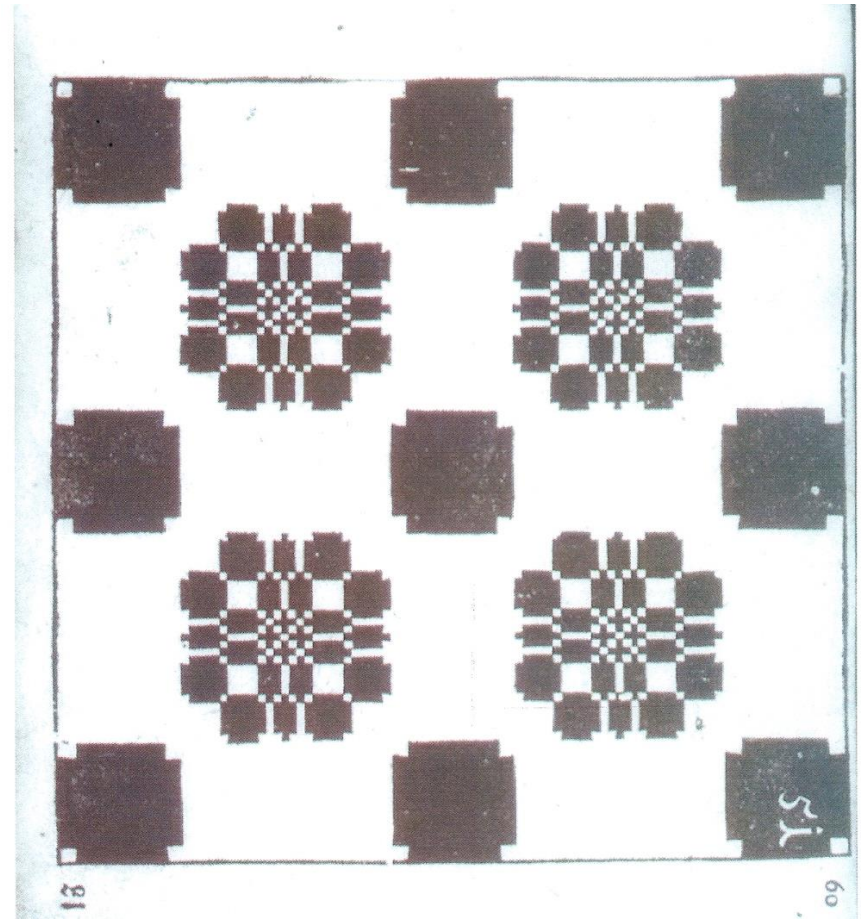
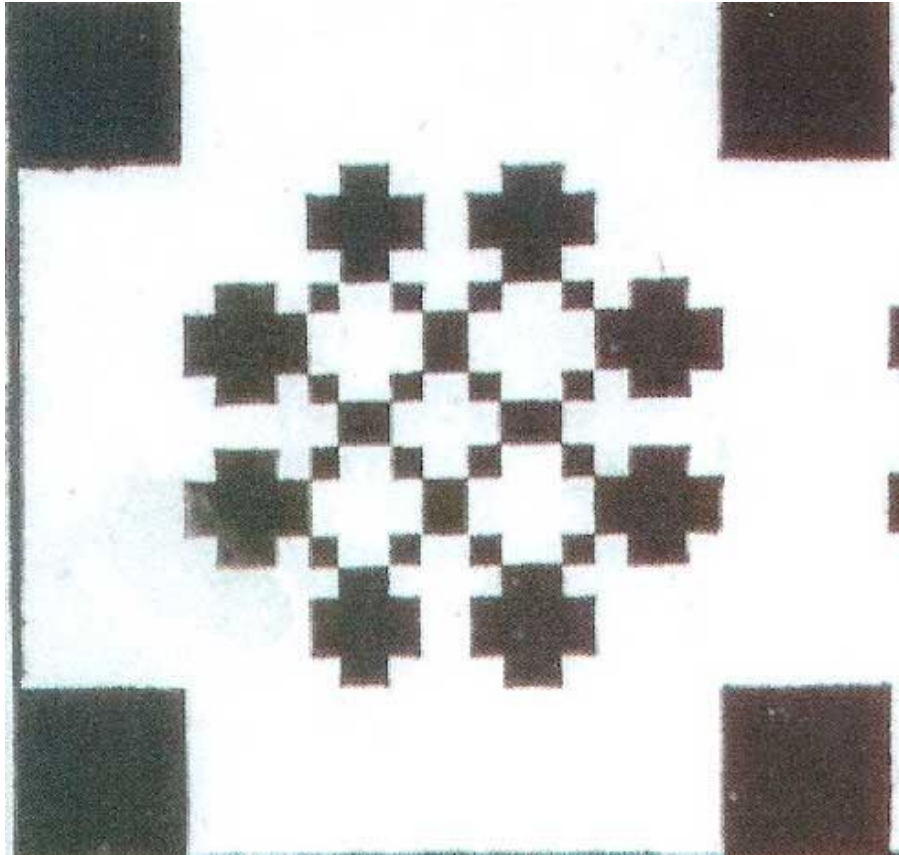
Similar Coverlets



16 Pennsylvania German Pattern Manuscripts with “Window”

- Western Pennsylvania
 - David Bender - Westmoreland County
- Central Pennsylvania
 - Henry Small - Franklin County
 - Christian Frey - Adam County
 - Jacob Biesecker - Adams County
 - Abraham Serff - York County
 - Adam Minich - York County
 - Heinrich Leisey - Lancaster County
 - Joseph Capp - Lebanon County
 - Johannes Schmidt - Lebanon County
- Eastern Pennsylvania
 - Benjamin Delong - Berks County
 - Benjamin Endy - Berks County
 - Samuel Hunsberger - Montgomery County
 - Jacob Schmidt - Bucks County
- Dilman Kulp, Robert Dunham and Christian Haske included a window type draft in their manuscripts.

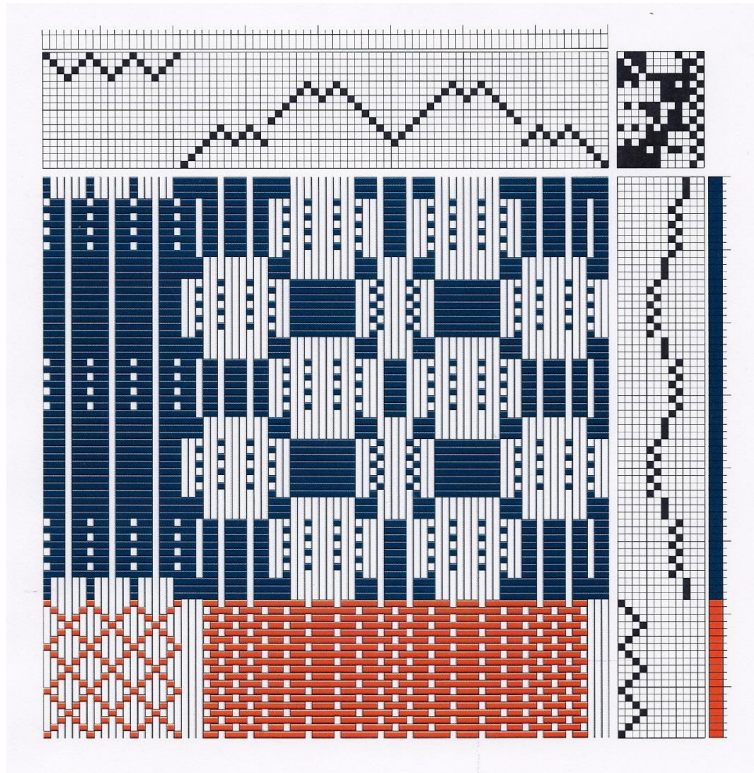
German Linen Block Pattern



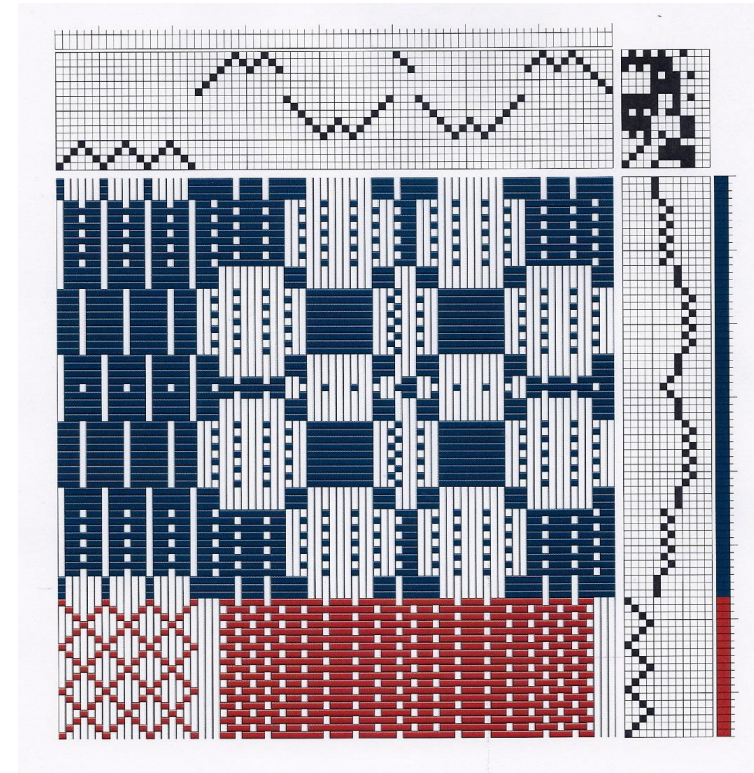
Johanne Michaels Frickingers' German linen book entitled *Nutziliches Weber-Bild-Buch* (*Useful Weaves Tie-Up Book*) published in 1767

PA German Point Twill/Tied Beiderwand - Dog Paw

Joseph Capp, Lebanon County



Heinrich Leisey – Lancaster County



Dog Paw Coverlets



Tied Beiderwand



Double Weave



Tied Beiderwand: Figured & Fancy Coverlets



Frederick County, Maryland Figured & Fancy Coverlets

Source of information:

- Anderson, Clarita. *Maryland Coverlets: The Artifacts, Technology, and the Weaver*. Ph.d diss., University of Maryland, 1985.
- Anderson, Clarita. *American Coverlets and Their Weavers.*, Williamsburg, Virginia: The Colonia Williamsburg Foundation, 2002.

Frederick County, Maryland Figured & Fancy Coverlet Weavers

Middletown

- ❖ Andrew Corick (Father)
- ❖ Joshua Corick (Son)
- ❖ Frederick Uber (Son-in-law)

Beaver Dams

- ❖ Jonathan Garber

Graceham & Creagertown Election District 4

- ❖ Jacob Gernand

Corick Family Coverlets

Andrew Corrick (Father)



Joshua Corick (Son)



Photographed by Ron Walter

Andrew Corick

- Born in Germany in 1791
- Married Catherine
- Died: 1863, buried in Middletown Reformed Cemetery
- Where: Middletown
- When: Approximately from mid-1830 to mid-1840s
- Patterns: Centerfields always included “Double Lily and Sunburst” or “Double Rose” with “Bird and Rose Bush” border for both
- Weave structure: 2:1 Tied Beiderwand
- Corner block: name & location

Andrew Corrick Coverlets

“Lily and Sunburst” centerfield with “Bird and Rose Bush” border



Owned & photographed by the Historical Society of Frederick County, Maryland

Andrew Corick

“Double Lilly and Sunburst” with “Bird and Rose Bush”



Owned & photographed by the Historical Society of Frederick County, Maryland

Another “Double Lily and Sunburst” with “Bird and Rose Bush” border



Photographed by Ron Walter

Still Another Andrew Corick



Photographed by Ron Walter

Joshua Corick

- Born: 1820 in Maryland
- Married: 1843 married Lucinda Messler
- Died: ??
- Where: Middletown
- When: Advertised in 1845-1848
- Patterns: Centerfields always included “Double Lily and Sunburst” or “Double Rose” with “Bird and Rose Bush” border for both
- Weave structure: 2:1 Tied Beiderwand
- Corner block: name & location
- Sold property to wife in 1871 and moved west

Joshua Corick

“Double Lilly and Sunburst” with “Bird and Rose Bush”



Photographed by Ron Walter

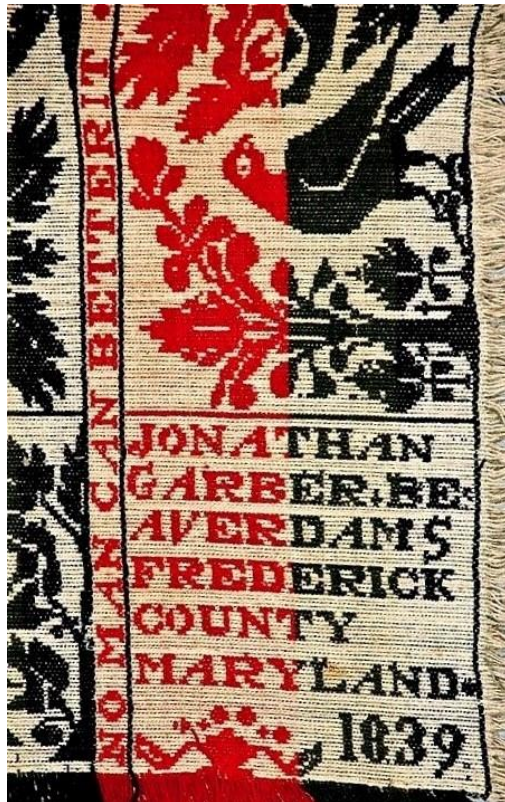
Frederick Uber

- Born: 1814 in Germany
- Married: Caroline Corick, Andrew Corick's daughter
- Died: ??
- Where: Middletown
- When: placed ads during summer & fall of 1846
- Pattern: "Tulip and Cornflower
- Weave Structure: ??
- Corner block: location, rarely client's name

Jonathan Garber

- Born: 1807 in Pennsylvania
- Married: 1833 - Lydia Sayler
- Died: ??
- Where: Beaversdam
- When: 1838-1850
- Pattern: variation of “Double Lily and Sunburst”
- Border: “Bird and Rose Bush”
- Weave Structure: 2:1 Tied Beiderwand

Jonathan Garber



Photographed by Ron Walter

Jonathan Garber



Photographed by Ron Walter

Jacob Gernand

- Born: 1797 in Frederick, Maryland
- Married: Elizabeth Willar; Anna Theordora Becker, 1823; Sybilla Wilhide
- Died: 1871
- Where: Graceham and Creagerstown Election District 4
- When: 1836-1839, most coverlets not dated
- Pattern: two centerfields: "Double Lily and Sunburst" and "Double Rose"
- Border: two borders: "Grapevine" & "Bird and Rose Bush"
- Corner Block: his name, location, rarely dates and client's name

Jacob Gernand

“Double Lily & Sunburst” pattern with “Bird & Rose Bush” border



Photographed by Ron Walter

Pennsylvania & Frederick Co., Maryland Coverlets

- Many of the early weavers wove both the geometric and figured & fancy coverlets.
- However, we can not know for sure who wove the geometric coverlets
- We do know they are woven by weavers who were influenced by the German linen patterns and weave structures.
- The figured and fancy coverlets are woven with two weave structures: double weave or tied weave/Beiderwand. There are some exceptions.

Contact Information

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For more information on Pennsylvania German coverlets

coverletweaver.com