



The **NATIONAL MUSEUM** of the **AMERICAN COVERLET**, Inc.

322 South Juliana Street
Bedford, Pennsylvania 15522

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www.coverletmuseum.org

Coverlet College 2022

Friday Afternoon - September 23

1:00 – 3:30

Workshop 111: Penny Rugs (optional)

Cassie Dickson

Homemakers in the past were known to be thrifty, never throwing away a useable scrap of fabric. Penny rugs were thought to have originated during the mid-1800's or around the time of the Civil War. They were designed using pennies as templates. The circles of wool cloth were layered and stitched together using a decorative blanket stitch. In this workshop, we will create a small project using natural dyed wool fabric and natural dyed cotton embroidery floss. Join me in learning this creative and decorative art form.

Number of students: Minimum: 4, Maximum: 12

about 2:10

Short Break

1:00 – 3:30

Workshop 112: Coverlet Weave Structures (optional)

Ron Walter

Get a chance to examine geometric and fancy coverlets woven in the home and by the professional weaver in their workshops. Many different weave structures will be available to examine and compare.

Number of students: Minimum: 4, Maximum: 16

about 2:10

Short Break

4:00

NEW THIS YEAR -- Coverlet Market Opens – NEW THIS YEAR

Attendees can offer coverlet and weaving related objects for sale in the classroom opposite the entrance to the all-purpose room. This room will be locked during presentations and off hours.

Friday Evening - September 23

Coverlets 110 – Keynote Address and Day 1 Sessions

Hand-Outs of Summary Information and a Bibliography will be provided.

6:30 – 7:00

Registration

New-to-Coverlets Attendees Register Coverlets for the Discovery Session

7:00 – 7:45

Keynote Address

John Gamble: Celebrated Coverlet Weaver of the Year

Ron Walter

Learn about John Gamble, a fancy coverlet weaver who wove in Cecil County, Maryland, from 1833 to 1849. In the 1850 U. S. Census of Cecil County, he is a 50 year-old Woolen Manufacturer born in Ireland.

7:45 – 8:30

Reception

Meet our presenters and other attendees.

Saturday Morning - September 24

8:30

Registration and Continental Breakfast (fruit, Danish, coffee and juices)

9:00

Opening Remarks and Introduction of Attendees

Melinda Zongor

9:20

#1 – Can't See the Forest for the (Pine) Trees

Bonnie Weidert & Kathy Rug

Take a whimsical journey through the forest with Kathy and Bonnie. Learn how weavers created pine trees in the borders of geometric and figured-and fancy coverlets. Discover what weavers were creating pine trees from their manuscripts. Bask in a myriad of pine trees in extant coverlets in Kathy's collection as well as books. How do people perceive trees and how do you perceive trees?

10:00

Short Break

10:10	#2 – Chattahoochee Coverlets <i>In 1985, the Birmingham Museum of Art initiated The Alabama Decorative Arts Survey which documented pre-1930 ceramics, furniture, metals, paintings and textiles made in Alabama. The textile portion of this project, documented by Pat Jemian in the book Chattahoochee Coverlets, researched and recorded textiles in counties from the eastern part of the state along the Chattahoochee River Valley. We will take a look at some of these woven beauties with additional references on the lives of the early weavers in Alabama from these two books: A Blockaded Family, Life in Southern Alabama During the Civil War and Made in Alabama.</i>	Cassie Dickson
10:50	Long Break (fruit and juices)	
11:10	#3 – Geometric Coverlets in the Here, There, and Everywhere Exhibition <i>Learn how Gay McGeary describes the characteristics of the geometric coverlets in the Here, There, and Everywhere Exhibition. She will define the various weave structures, block patterns (centerfield and borders), and fringe techniques along with the colors and yarns chosen by the early weavers to create their woven treasures.</i>	Gay McGeary
11:50	Short Break	
12:00	#4 – Here, There, and Everywhere Exhibition Highlights Part 1 <i>Highlights of coverlets in Part 1 of the Here, There, and Everywhere exhibition will be presented. This part includes the coverlets displayed in the Red Room, Room 1 and Room 2.</i>	Ron Walter
12:30	Catered Lunch	
1:20	#5 – Attendees Tour Part 1 of the Here, There, and Everywhere Exhibition	self-guided
1:50	Short Break	
2:00	#6 – Cotton Textile Availability: 16th Century Forward <i>Rabbit Goody will provide an overview of cotton availability and provide documentation breaking the myth about cotton availability in early rural America.</i>	Rabbit Goody via Zoom
2:40	Long Break (fruit, cookies and drinks)	
3:00	#7 – Kentucky Coverlets <i>While Kentucky only has a few early coverlet makers it has an interesting history of coverlets made at Berea College and settlements schools. From that sprang Fireside Industries and Churchill Weavers, and finally coverlets made by Lou Tate.</i>	Sheryl DeJong
3:40	Short Break	
3:50	#8 – Discovery Session for Coverlets brought by Attendees New to Coverlets <i>Learn information about coverlets brought in by attendees new to coverlets.</i>	all
4:30	Closing Remarks and Graduation Dinner on your own.	Melinda Zongor

Saturday Evening - September 24

7:00 – 9:00	Combined Coverlet Show and Tell for Day 1 and Day 2 <i>Bring one or two of your favorite coverlets to show and discuss.</i>	all
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Coverlets 210 – Day 2 Sessions

Hand-Outs of Summary Information and a Bibliography will be provided.

Sunday Morning - September 25

8:30	Registration and Continental Breakfast (fruit, Danish, coffee, and juices)	
9:00	Opening Remarks and Introduction of Attendees	Melinda Zongor
9:15	#1 – An American Conflict: Image and Materials in American Coverlets <i>This talk will focus on coverlets from my perspective as a contemporary artist. In addition to presenting the work of other contemporary artists who take inspiration from coverlets, I will focus on my own coverlet-based works that explore ideas of American identity as shaped through historicization, memory and nostalgia.</i>	Roland Ricketts
9:55	Short Break	

10:05	#2 – Several Coverlet Weavers of Schuyler County, New York <i>Though Schuyler County NY did not yet exist in the 1830s & 1840s, several of the towns that currently make up Schuyler County hosted fancy weavers during that time period. Of particular note are David and Henry LaTourette, brothers of John LaTourette, the head of the LaTourette family of weavers in Indiana. Paul Goltry also wove in Schuyler County.</i>	Marty Schlabach
10:45	Long Break (fruit and juices)	
11:05	#3 – Hannah Leathers Wilson: The Warp and Weft of a Lifetime <i>Learn how Donna-Belle Garvin identified Hannah Leathers Wilson as the weaver of New Hampshire's unique weft faced three panel coverlets that were woven from about 1830 to 1860. Research and presentation prepared by Donna-Belle Garvin will be presented by Craig Evans.</i>	Donna- Belle Garvin Craig Evans
11:45	Short Break	
11:55	#4 - Here, There, and Everywhere Exhibition Highlights Part 2 <i>Highlights of coverlets in Part 2 of the Here, There, and Everywhere exhibition will be presented. This part includes the coverlets displayed in the Room 3 and the Hallway from Room 3 to the Gift Shop.</i>	Ron Walter
12:25	Catered Lunch	
1:15	#5 – Attendees Tour Part 2 of the Here, There, and Everywhere Exhibition	self-guided
1:45	Short Break	
1:55	#6 – The Black Family Weaving Shop, West Barnstable, MA, 1954 <i>Ron Walter will discuss information that recently came available about coverlet weaving in West Barnstable, Massachusetts by Robert Black and his son Robert Black, Jr, from 1954 to about 1999. Examples of their coverlets will be presented.</i>	Ron Walter
3:00	Closing Remarks and Graduation <i>Class Schedule Subject to Change.</i>	Melinda Zongor

New at Coverlet College this year: Coverlet Marketplace!

Attendees are encouraged to bring antique coverlets or related items to sell during Coverlet College weekend. Sellers will be responsible for tagging individual items with relevant details (NMAC will provide tags) and arranging sales directly with buyers prior to our closing session on Sunday. Although not required, we hope you will consider donating a portion and/or the proceeds of your sale to support the Museum's mission. Donations can be made upon the conclusion of the conference via the Donate button on our website or by cash, credit card, or personal check at the event.

Sheryl DeJong has been a volunteer in the Textile Collection of the National Museum of American History since 1998. That involves doing research, data entry, behind the scenes tours, and assisting the curator as needed. She has also been writing about and giving lectures on objects in the collection.

Cassie Dickson of Whittier, NC, is a member of the Southern Highland Craft Guild and a traditional pattern weaver who specializes in the weaving of coverlets and the processing of the flax plant to linen cloth. She has been spinning, weaving, and natural dyeing for over 40 years. She has raised silk worms for the past 28 years and processes silk cocoons to silk fabric. Cassie presents to museums, colleges, guilds, and regional fiber events.

Rabbit Goody of Cherry Valley, NY, is a textile historian who owns a small custom and commission weaving business, Thistle Hill Weavers, in Cherry Valley, NY. "The understanding of process – how things come into being – is the guiding question in all my work." Her area of interest for historic textiles is the period between 1600 and 1870, a time when the textile industry went through changes from hand production to powered process in Europe and the United States. Woven coverlets and ingrain carpet are her most deeply researched textiles.

Gay McGeary of Carlisle, PA, has been weaving, collecting, and researching early coverlet patterns, weave structures and fringe techniques for over 30 years. In recent years she has added southern counterpanes to her research and weaving endeavors. While her weaving is inspired by her research, her research is enhanced by her weaving explorations of the early craftsmen.

Rowland Ricketts of Bloomington, IN, utilizes natural dyes and historical processes to create contemporary textiles that span art and design. His work has been exhibited at Cavin-Morris Gallery, Douglas Dawson Gallery, the Textile Museum in Washington, DC, and the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. He is an Associate Professor of Textiles at the Indiana University School of Fine Art.

Marty Schlabach of Interlaken, NY, came to coverlets through his wife, Mary Jean Welser. She has been interested in and collected textiles for many years, with a particular interest in quilts. Something more than 10 years ago, while pawing through a pile of textiles at a local estate sale, Mary Jean came across two whole cloth, early 19th century quilts and one geometric overshot coverlet fragment. Thus started their interest in, exploration and collection of, coverlets. As a retired librarian, Marty particularly enjoys the historical research associated with learning about coverlets. Marty and Mary Jean live in the Finger Lakes area of New York and spend substantial time gardening and working on their 1840s Greek Revival farmhouse.

Donna-Belle Garvin of Pembroke, NH recently retired from her position at the New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. She originally presented her research about how she identified the weaver of these unique New Hampshire coverlets at the 1997 **Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife**. She continues to track Hannah Leathers Wilson coverlets.

Craig Evans of Brookfield, NH began as an apprenticeship in 1979 with Norman Kennedy at the Marshfield School of Weaving in Marshfield, Vermont, and has spun, dyed and woven since that time using primarily traditional equipment, fibers and patterns. He has been an Artist in Residence for the Vermont Council on the Arts. In 1982, he received a Vermont statewide juried Award in Technical Excellence.

Kathy Rug of Getzville, NY has been collecting and rescuing coverlets as well as teaching classes about them for over 30 years. She documents coverlets to preserve the information for future weavers.

Bonnie Weidert of Henrietta, NY, has been weaving and spinning for over 30 years. She has been giving lectures and workshops on tape weaving and in 1999 self-published her research into a book, ***Tape Looms: Past and Present***. She is not only a coverlet collector but has woven eight coverlets.

Ron Walter of Hilltown, PA, is a respected coverlet historian with broad experience in early textile tools and techniques. He researches American textiles and textile related tools used in the home and on the farm from about 1750 to 1875. His special interests are fiber processing tools including decorated and dated hetchels and their makers, spinning wheels and their makers, and coverlets both geometric and fancy as well as the weavers who produced them. He is the NMAC Board of Directors president, CCGA (Colonial Coverlet Guild of America) president and the CCGA Newsletter editor.

Melinda Zongor of Bedford PA, NMAC Director/Curator, has been “hanging around” coverlets for nearly 40 years. As a former collector, weaver and antiques dealer specializing in coverlets, she has authored books on the subject and has worked with collectors, the antiques trade, the feature film industry, print media and a variety of groups, large and small. She and her husband Laszlo are co-founders of the Coverlet Museum.

SCROLL DOWN FOR REGISTRATION FORM

**The National Museum of the American
Coverlet College - Sept 23/24/25, 2022**

Sign-Up Sheet – Print / Complete and Mail To
The National Museum of the American Coverlet
322 South Juliana Street, Bedford, PA 15522
(814) 623-1588

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City / State / Zip Code: _____

Telephone home / work /cell (circle one): _____ Email: _____

Dietary Restriction: _____

Experience with Coverlets

New to Coverlets: ___ and **Yes / No** (circle one) I have a coverlet to learn more about in the Day 1 Special Coverlet Discovery Session. Note: The first 16 qualified applicants based on order of registration date must bring their coverlet to the Museum before the Friday Night Keynote Address and their coverlets will be returned to them during the Saturday Discovery Session.

Collector of Coverlets: ___ for ___ years

Describe Coverlet Interest: _____

Fees

Course	Museum Member	Museum Non-Member	Number Attending	Total Fee
Friday September 23, 2022 Workshops (optional) Concurrent Workshop 111 Penny Rugs with Cassie Dickson	\$45	\$50	___	_____
Concurrent Workshop 112 Coverlet Weave Structures with Ron Walter	\$45	\$50	___	_____
Friday Keynote Address & Reception plus Saturday Presentations September 23 & 24, 2022 Coverlets 111*	\$145	\$160	___	_____
Saturday Dinner (on your own)				
Sunday September 25, 2022 Coverlets 211*	\$90	\$105	___	_____
Friday, Saturday & Sunday Sept 23-24-25, 2022 Coverlets 111* & 211*	\$195	\$235	___	_____
NMAC Dues (circle one) Individual Family	New / Renewal \$40 \$50		___ ___	_____
Donation to NMAC General Fund				_____
* Coverlets 111 and 211 fees include lunch and snacks.			Total =	_____

Please find my check payable to **NMAC** in the amount of \$_____ for _____ registrations.

To use your credit card, please call the Museum at (814) 623-1588.

For PayPal, send to info@coverletmuseum.org.