

Biggs Museum of American Art

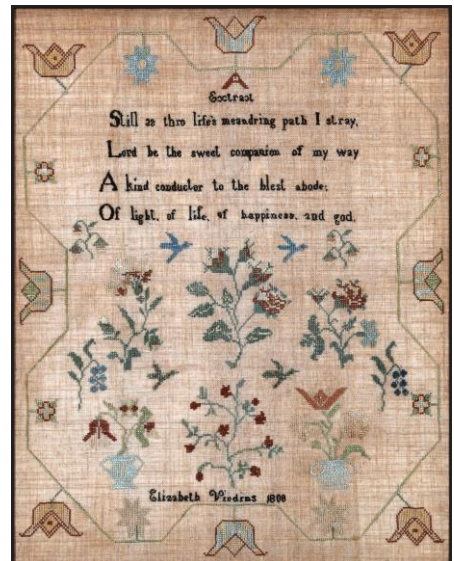
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SAMPLER ID DAYS TO BE HELD AT THE BIGGS MUSEUM IN DOVER AND AT THE HISTORIC ODESSA FOUNDATION

Dover, DE (August 20, 2014) – This fall, the Sampler Consortium and the Sampler Archive Project will host two Delaware Sampler Identification Days – one at the Biggs Museum in Dover on September 21, 2014 and one at the Historic Odessa Foundation in Odessa on November 22, 2014.

The public is invited to bring their samplers and other schoolgirl embroideries to be photographed and documented for the Sampler Archive Project, a national online database of schoolgirl needlework. If you have more than two objects to be documented, please make an appointment by contacting Ryan Grover at (302) 674-2111 ext. 108 or rgrover@biggsmuseum.org.



Elizabeth Virdin (1795-1842)
Kent County, Delaware 1808
Collection of Col. Kenneth P.
and Regina I. Brown

Both Sampler ID Days are sponsored by the Sampler Consortium and the Sampler Archive Project.

Available for purchase at both events will be a newly published exhibition catalog on historic genealogical samplers from Delaware entitled *Wrought with Careful Hand: Ties of Kinship on Delaware Samplers*. The catalog can

also be purchased in the Biggs Museum gift shop, online at www.BiggsMuseum.org, or by calling (302) 674-2111.



About Delaware Needlework Samplers

A needlework sampler is a piece of embroidery produced as a demonstration or test of skill in needlework, and was usually stitched by girls while attending school. Samplers and related schoolgirl embroideries frequently include alphabets, figures, motifs, verses, pictorial scenes, and decorative borders. In addition, they often include the name of the girl who stitched the sampler, the date when it was created, as well as names of family members and perhaps even a teacher. Most importantly, samplers provide an extremely rare window into the lives of girls and young women of early America.

Background

The Biggs Museum is partnering with the University of Delaware's Sampler Archive Project and the international Sampler Consortium on a statewide initiative to locate, document, and photograph schoolgirl samplers in Delaware's public and private collections. Three Sampler ID Days were held last summer, with funds provided by the Delaware Humanities Forum, leading to the discovery of many new samplers in private collections. In March 2014 the Biggs Museum hosted an exhibition and three-day symposium on Delaware Samplers entitled *Wrought with Careful Hand: Ties of Kinship on Delaware Samplers*. The Biggs Museum and the Sampler Archive Project are continuing their search for American samplers in Delaware's public and private collections. In addition, future discoveries

will be researched by Dr. Gloria Seaman Allen for a comprehensive study of Delaware girlhood embroideries.

Event Quick Facts:

Sunday, September 21, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Biggs Museum, 406 Federal Street, Dover, DE

Saturday, November 22, 2014

10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

Historic Odessa Foundation, 201 Main Street, Odessa, DE

Please bring your samplers to one of the two fall Sampler ID Days to be photographed and documented for the Sampler Archive Project, a national online sampler database. If you have more than two samplers, please make an appointment by contacting Ryan Grover at (302) 674-2111 ext. 108 or rgrover@biggsmuseum.org. Sponsored by the Sampler Consortium and the Sampler Archive Project.

Related Links:

Biggs Museum of American Art

<http://www.biggsmuseum.org/index.html>

Sampler Archive Project

<http://samplerarchive.org>

Sampler Consortium

<http://samplerconsortium.org>

About the Museum

The Biggs Museum seeks to serve a diverse public as a regional museum of fine and decorative arts, made from 1700 to present, representing the State of Delaware and the surrounding Mid-Atlantic region. The Biggs Museum engages audiences through a compelling program of temporary exhibitions and programming. The Biggs Museum

encourages the development of creativity and an appreciation for art by offering a comprehensive slate of educational programming for all ages. The Biggs Museum of American Art is a private, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization.

Hours of Operation: Tuesday through Saturday; 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Sunday; 1:30 p.m. until 4: 30 p.m.

Admission: Biggs Museum is free to the public year-round. Fees may apply to certain programs and special events.

The Biggs Museum of American Art

406 Federal Street

Dover, DE 19901

302.674.2111

www.biggsmuseum.org

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