

# Restoration of Samplers Historical Society of Moorestown



Presentation of Grant by Questers  
At HSM Annual Meeting April  
2017

Restoration was funded by a Grant from the  
Indian Springs Questers Organization

Elizabeth Perkins Sampler 1818  
Martha Cowperthwaite Sampler 1818

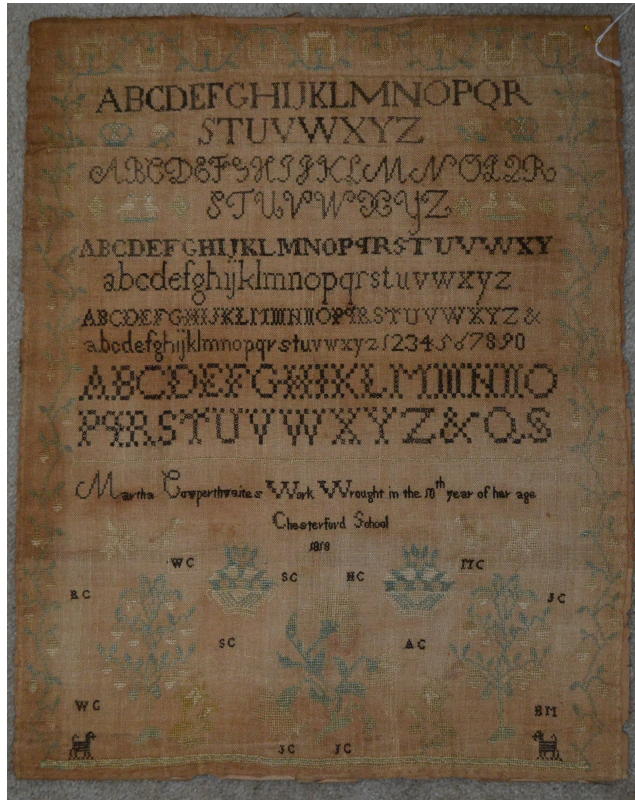
Elizabeth Perkins, Moorestown Burlington County New Jersey schoolgirl needlework sampler dated 1818 by Elizabeth Perkins age 14. Displays four full upper and lower case styles of alphabet in various examples of stitching. Demonstrates typical Burlington County border and known motifs. Descended through the family until gifted to the Historical Society of Moorestown. Currently, unframed. Requires possible cleaning, period frame and glass. 17 ¼ x 17 ¼.

Martha Cowperthwaite, Chesterford New Jersey schoolgirl needlework sampler dated 1818 by Martha Cowperthwaite age 10. Displays five full upper and lower case styles of alphabet and various motifs and stitching. Includes 12 pairs of initials /parents and 10 children. Currently unframed. Requires cleaning, removal of old backing, period frame and glass. 21 ½" x 17"

Restoration was carried out by Textile Conservator  
Ruth Van Tassel of  
Van Tassel Bauman  
American Antiques and Antique Samplers

VAN TASSEL  
BAUMANN

## Martha Cowperthwaite Sampler 1818



Martha was a ten-year-old student at the Chesterford School in Southern New Jersey in 1818... The intrigue comes from the twelve pairs of initials. Who were these people? Why did they all, except one pair, end with C? I decided to trace the family line first.

The Cowperthwaite line extends back to Hugh Cowperthwaite, Quaker minister, schoolteacher, and tailor, born in England. He and his wife Elizabeth immigrated to Flushing, New York in 1647. Their son John married Sara Adams and moved to Chester Township, Burlington County, New Jersey. John built a house on King's Highway atop a hill along the Pennsauken Creek. John and Sara had eight children. Their first son Thomas, born in 1703 married Mary Burden (Borden.) Thomas and Mary also had eight children. Their third son William, born in 1745, married Hope Shreve and they lived in Burlington City, New Jersey.

Here is where I cracked the code. William and Hope's son, William Cowperthwaite, Jr. married Martha Stratton, daughter of David Stratton and Rebecca Owen. Both William and Martha were born in 1770. They married in 1797 and had ten children, including a daughter named Martha. The names match the initials.

WC – William Cowperthwaite-father (born 1770 died 1812)

MC – Martha Cowperthwaite, mother (born 1770 died 1812)

SC- Sabilla Cowperthwaite 1st daughter (born 1797)

HC – Hannah Cowperthwaite – 2nd daughter (born 1799)

RC –Rebecca Cowperthwaite – 3rd daughter (born 1800)

JC – Job Cowperthwaite – 1st son (born 1801)

SC – Sarah Cowperthwaite- 4th daughter (born 1803)

AC – Ann Cowperthwaite -5th daughter ( born 1805)

WC – William Cowperthwaite – 2nd son (born 1807)

BM – Baby Martha – to distinguish from Mother Martha 6th daughter (born 1809)

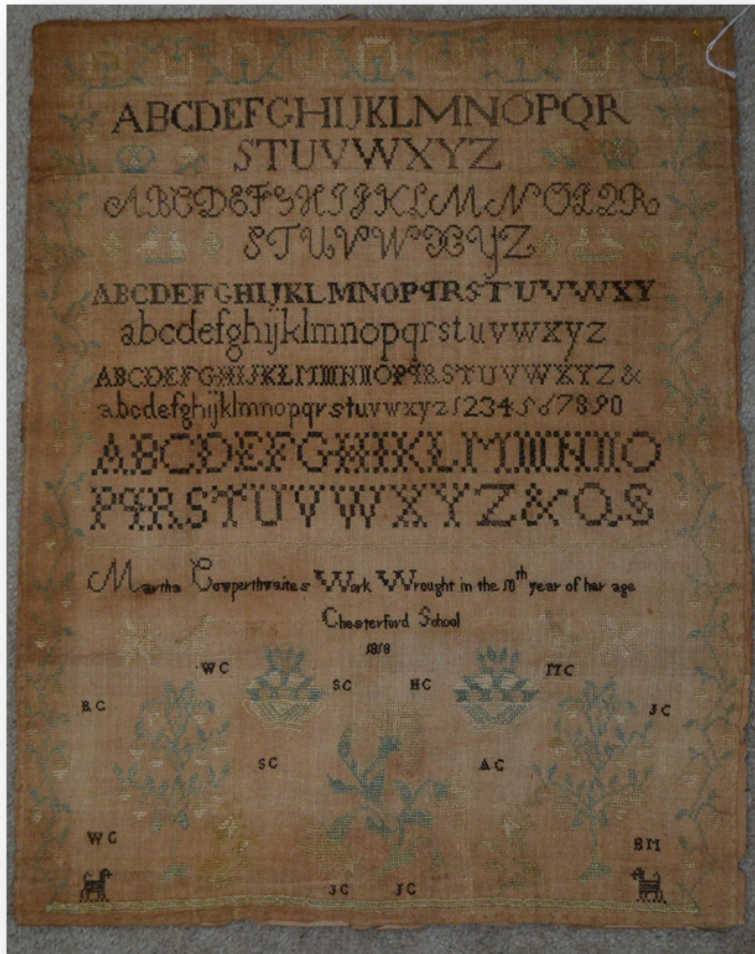
JC – John Cowperthwaite and

JC –Joseph Cowperthwaite twin sons (born 1811)

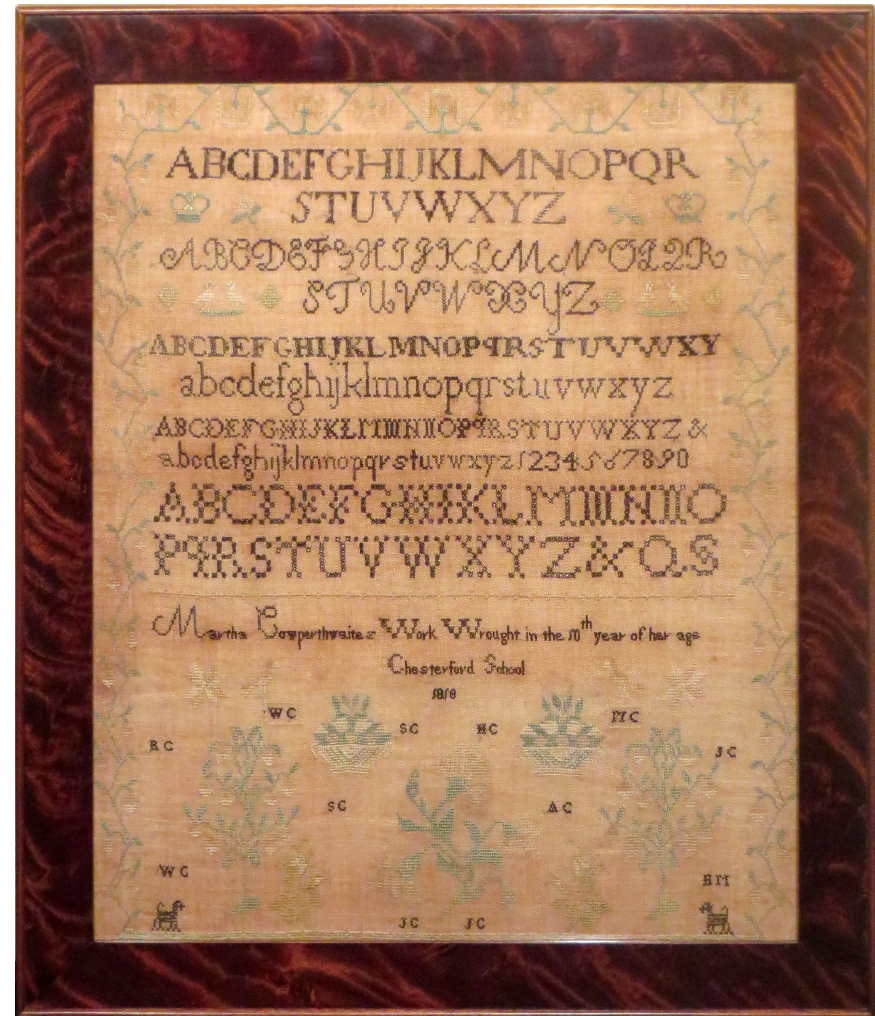
At first glance, this sampler looks like a tribute to Martha's family. On further investigation, I see something grim. Mother Martha died January 10, 1812 not a year after her twin boys were born. Her husband William died July 10, 1812. Baby Martha was three years old when her parents died and barely knew them. Imagine the situation: ten siblings had no parents during the War of 1812. Martha created this sampler six years after her parent's death. Perhaps it was a way to preserve her family by the simple stitching of twelve pairs of initials.

Excerpt from Lisa Hamell blog post - (<http://noonmarkantiques.com/blog/2011/4/7/cowperthwaite-burlington-county-sampler.html>)





Before Restoration



After Restoration and Framing

Martha Cowperthwaite Sampler  
 Historical Society of Moorestown





Before Restoration



After Restoration and Framing

Elizabeth Perkins Sampler  
Historical Society of Moorestown



Restoration of the Samplers was conducted by Ruth Van Tassel  
Of American Antiques and Antique Samplers

Ruth has relocated to:

2340 Valley Hill Rd

Malvern, PA 19355

Phone: 610.647.3339

Conservation of both samplers included cleaning, addressing minor stains, building acid free fabric covered mount, and stitching sampler in place. New frames were prepared with rabbit liner, inner spacer and acid free dust cover, and installation.

Final Costs – (Completed April 2018)

Conservation \$375.00 each (total\$750)

Framing for both - hand made reproduction molding appropriate to the period. \$650

UV glass for both - \$80

TOTAL - \$1480

Contact for Questers was Lynda Brady email: [lynda365@verizon.net](mailto:lynda365@verizon.net)

Restoration of the samplers was funded by an April 2017 grant of \$1525 funded by the Indian Springs Questers. The final cost was \$1380 and the balance was refunded to the Questers. The samplers have been hung in one of Second floor bedrooms of the Smith Cadbury house.

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