



# THE SCARLET LETTER

## Early Autumn Newsletter



The apple trees are loaded, the tips of the maple trees are beginning to redden, autumn blooming flowers are in full color, and The Scarlet Letter has two and a half new samplers to introduce.

First and foremost is Mary Hammand, dated 1732, reproduced with permission from the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. The original sampler is quite worn so it was a huge challenge to chart it, but it turned out beautifully. Read more about it below and on the website [at this link](#).



*Watering the alpacas in the heat of summer*

The second new sampler reproduction was made by [Fanny Forister](#) in New England, and features two sweet saltbox style houses with naturalistic trees and flowers between them.

The new "half" sampler is a re-release of [Nancy Nurse](#), from the Danvers Historical Society, including new genealogical information tracing her ancestry back to Rebecca Nurse who was hanged as a witch in Salem in 1692.



*Mario, the alpaca*

At the website we have created a new section illustrating many of the antique samplers that have passed through The Scarlet Letter over the years, including many that have been reproduced. This [antique gallery section](#) will be continually updated as I pull more photos from my archives.

Lastly, there are a few [linen scrap bags](#) available, all first quality, odd sizes, perfect for making Christmas ornaments, at least one half yard per bag, apiece \$20.00.



*Tank*

Best wishes to all of you as we enter a new season.

Marsha, Phil, Tank and Mario

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## New Reproduction Samplers



*Mary Hammand*

### Mary Hammand

In the early eighteenth century samplers began to evolve from long vertical bands into more rectangular shapes. They began to incorporate more pictorial and scenic images and scenes such as those found on seventeenth century canvas and stumpwork pictures. Alphabets, numerals and verses prevailed but the sampler evolved both as an exercise in needlework technique as well as a vehicle for creative artistic expression. Common themes were scenes based on biblical stories, but the popularity of bucolic, pastoral scenes increased. Mary Hammand's sampler/canvas work piece melds these themes with a traditional sampler at the center surrounded by pastoral images on either side of it.

[Mary Hammand Reproduction Sampler Kit](#)

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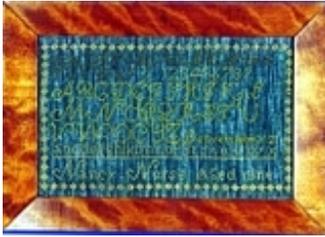
*Fanny Forister*

## **Fanny Forister**

This sweet little American sampler features two little houses above alphabets and a short verse. It is surrounded on four sides by a double sided satin stitched sawtooth border.

[Fanny Forister Reproduction Sampler Kit](#)

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*Nancy Nurse*

## **Nancy Nurse**

Nancy Nurse was born to Polly/Molly James. and Rogers Nurse in Danvers, Massachusetts on June 19th, 1798. Her sampler, stitched in 1807 when she was nine years old was worked on a dark green linsey Woolsey ground unique to samplers of certain regions of New England made before 1832. Nancy

Nurse is a direct descendent of Rebecca Towne Nurse who was executed for witchcraft by the government of the Province of Massachusetts Bay in New England in 1692, during the Salem witch trials. Learn more about her history on the Scarlet Letter website.

[Nancy Nurse Reproduction Sampler Kit](#)

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## **"New" Antique Samplers**



*Sophia Irish*

## **Sophia Irish - 1819**

Worked at M. Newick's school, Hinton St. George, when she was eight years old, this sampler features two large flying cherubs above the Lord's Prayer, which is flanked by pillars covered with twining ivy, two large potted trees.

[Sophia Irish Antique Sampler](#)

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