



THE SCARLET LETTER



The Month of the New Flowers



New Daffodils at Smoke Ham Farm

*Whan that Aprille with his showres soote
The droghte of Marche hath perced to the roote,
And bathed every veyne in swich liquor
Of which vertu engendred is the flour...*

In our isolation, I hope these new designs will enhance your day and allow hope to spring eternally.



Spring Crocuses

FREE SHIPPING ON ALL DOMESTIC ORDERS WILL CONTINUE
INDEFINITELY.

(Shipping will show up in your checkout cart, but it will not be charged.)
(Exceptions are wholesale, overseas, and antique orders.)

Be well and be safe, Marsha.



What's New



CONTINENTAL SAMPLER



Continental Sampler 1744

This colorful and ambitious piece is a sampler in every sense of the word, displaying experimental designs in a variety of unusual stitch variations. Its origin is likely France or Belgium as the date on it is 31 MARS (March, in French) 1744. Beautiful floral and geometric motifs fairly burst off the linen. The finished sampler will measure approximately 12" x 14".

[More on Continental Sampler 1744](#)



JANE DALE 1843



JANE DALE

Jane Dale has stitched a testament to her love of cats (as well as a parrot, a cockatoo, a dog and a deer). Inspired by the naturalistic embroidery style of Berlin work, the motifs are gently and subtly shaded.

Talk not to me about your dog,

It is but idle chat.

Give me that calm philosopher

Of hearth and home, the cat.

Anonymous

[More About Jane Dale](#)



MARY ANN CHAMBERLIN

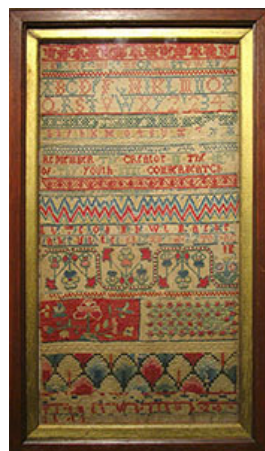




MARY ANN CHAMBERLIN

This beautiful 18th century English sampler features the Lord's Prayer in the upper half surrounded by flying cherubs, carnation "trees", dogs, rabbits and birds, in a bold palette of strong primary colors.

[More on Mary Ann Chamberlin](#)



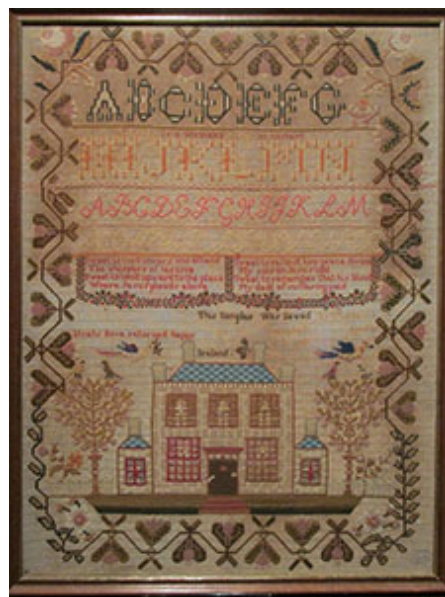
Elizabeth Eaton 1712



Mary Lee 1786



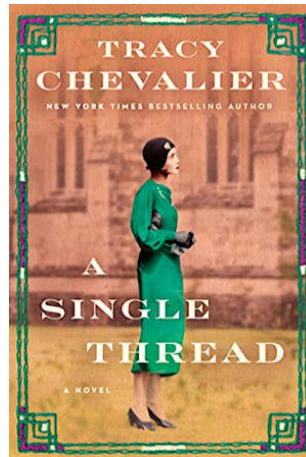
Ann Whittaker circa 1778



Rebecca Campbell 1846



Ann Marshal 1797



A Conversation with Tracy Chevalier

Recommended reading for confined embroiderers:

A SINGLE THREAD by Tracy Chevalier

This book was published in 2010 but I first discovered it at my local library early in 2020, before it was closed. If you are familiar with the work of Louisa Pesel (her notebooks of ethnic and western sampler patterns are in the Victoria & Albert Museum) she is a prominent character in this novel, set after World War I in England. The protagonist, Violet Speedwell, has lost a brother and a fiancé in the war, and has become a "surplus woman": one of a generation doomed to a life of spinsterhood after the war killed so many young men. She manages to save enough money to move to Winchester where she is drawn into a society of embroiderers (broderers)- women who embroider kneelers and cushions for Winchester Cathedral carrying on a centuries old tradition of bringing comfort to

worshippers. Violet finds support and community in the group and fulfillment in the work they create. Today's "broderers" will recognize many truths about our vocations and avocations.

Be safe, stay home, keep the faith.

Marsha



Spring is Beautiful on the Farm

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