

Blog #95 - Moving Furniture & Lady Anne 3 (morning):

Friday, 10 April 2020



Lockdown - to date we've experienced over two weeks and it has been quite an indescribable feeling. However, have loved not having to live each day by the clock and spending my time doing what I love - that is, stitching. Even gave myself permission not to polish my outdoor brass taps, brass door knobs & brass step every week, but every second week!

As I draft this blog (although not sure when I will get it typed up and sent to you), it is Good Friday.

Easter - that precious time of year to reflect on what Christ and His love did for us all.

As per tradition, I will spend the weekend working on a jigsaw puzzle.

Spent some time in the garden with Keith a few days ago. Last year we planted some gardenia shrubs but they were not doing well and so just before lockdown I had ordered some peonies (which I love!) to replace them. They arrived and so had to plant them. Of course they are only in corm/root form at the moment but they should look glorious when they flower later this year.



(4) Vivid Rose



(4) Highlight



(3) James Pillow



(3) Red Sarah Bernhardt

As well as helping Keith in the garden, have helped with moving things around - moved one of the design chart stands from the old gallery into the smaller of two new gallery rooms and moved the large antique cabinet from the spare room into the main gallery room and the large cream display stand from the old gallery into the new smaller gallery room.



SO HEAVY these latter two pieces (pictured) - but we did it!

As we were doing so, we reminisced over how many times we have together moved and lifted furniture, beds, washing machines, fridges, boxes and boxes of crockery, ornaments, books, treasures, etc. in our lifetime.

Apart from moving to the South Island and then moving back to the North, every house move we've ever made has always been done by ourselves without any help from anyone else. Altogether we have lived in twelve different homes - all of which meant humping furniture - and lived in lots of other places. For example, in the USA for several years, in caravans at Upper Hutt (whilst building our first home) and at Mokau (whilst Keith was supervising and building the cribwalls for the Maui gas pipeline) and in the garage of another new home whilst Keith was building the house. Keith made the comment that when we stand before God on judgment day and are asked to give an account of our lives, we'll be able to say, "we moved furniture".

But seriously though, I often wonder and reflect on what I have done for Him and what help I have been to others.



To date, these pieces of furniture have been polished and are waiting for me to put them to use.

I've decided to display all my own finished needlework designs in the antique piece.

Where this antique piece is now standing, originally I had a different piece of furniture there and this I've moved to a corner in the gallery and filled it with stitched models designed by

JBW Designs

GPA designs (Giulia Antichi Punti),

Forget Me Nots In Stitches

&

The Marking Sampler.



To follow are a few pics of the pieces in this cabinet -



Design Title: French Country - Monogram Collection
Design Code: JBW 196
Price: \$20.00



Design Title: With Love
Design Code: JBW 345
Price: \$22.50



Design Title: Monogrammed Mini Tote
Design Code: JBW 256
Price: \$15.00



Designer: Lauren Sauer
(Forget Me Not In Stitches)

Design Title: Pins & Needles
Design Code: FMN 060
Price: \$33.50



Designer: Giulia Manfredini (GPA)

Design Titles & Prices:
Shabby Chic Pendant - \$25.00
Ann Hull's Brooch - \$23.50
Italian Peacocks Purse - \$30.00



Designer: Darlene Lara
(The Marking Sampler)

Design Title: The Sampler Necessaire
Price: \$41.00

Note: Almost all stitched pieces above have been stitched with different thread colours to those originally worked by the designers.

As for stitching that I have been doing over the past couple of weeks, pictured to the right is a sneak peek at Part Four of the upcoming Mystery Sampler -

flowers in an urn/vase in the centre with parts of an alphabet and numerals either side.

When I have finished all parts of this sampler I intend to stitch it again but this time everything to be worked with just two toning shades of one colour.

Thus, the project participant will have a choice as to whether their sampler is polychromatic or monochrome.

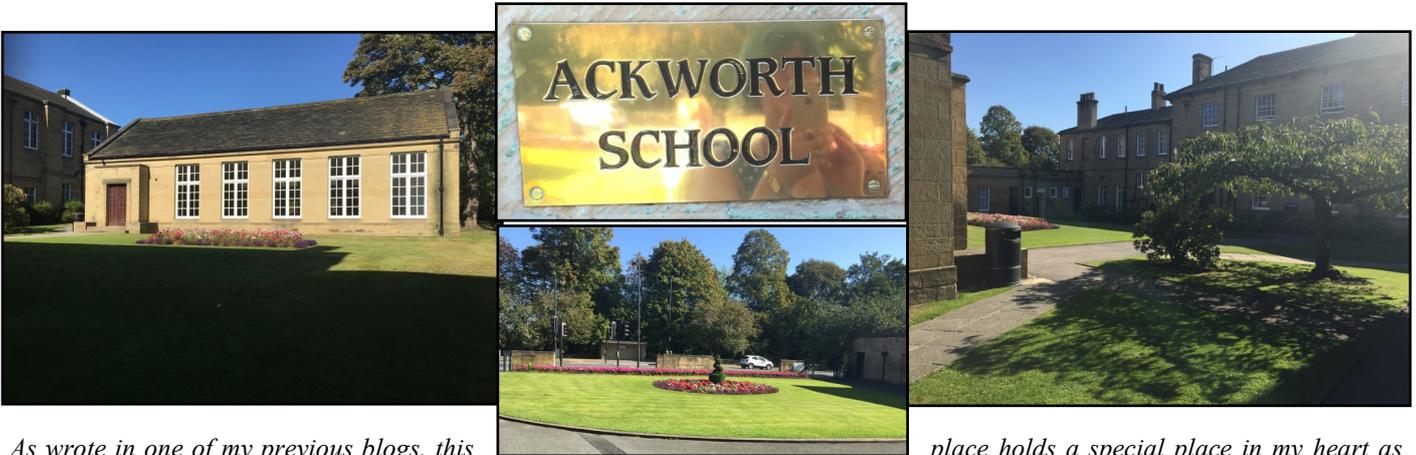
And now to continue with my UK experience - Lady Anne 3 (morning):

My long awaited day had arrived - a visit to the Ackworth School to view their samplers and meeting up with granddaughter, Ashleigh. I had difficulty suppressing my excitement.

The day began with the blessing of being beautiful and sunny and at 9am a busload of happy, chatty, ladies travelled the thirty minutes south to Pontefract and the Ackworth School. In 1777, the London Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends agreed that



boarding schools for the children of Quaker families should be set up. Quakers were amongst the first to realise the importance of education of both boys and girls. Thanks to the dedication and determination of John Fothergill, an eminent London physician, the support of David Barclay, a successful London banker and William Tuke, an equally renowned York merchant, the project to create a school in the old Ackworth Foundling Hospital was approved and opened in 1779, founded on the Quaker Christian ethos with its emphasis on quiet reflection and the search for God within oneself and within others. As then, periods of reflective silence form part of each day at the school. So too, the attendance at a weekly short silent Meeting for Worship. The importance of respect for others and honesty at all times is emphasised.



As wrote in one of my previous blogs, this place holds a special place in my heart as for almost twenty years I have dealt with the school by purchasing from them and selling for them copies of the wonderful book - **Quaker School Girl Samplers from Ackworth** (written by Carol Humphrey & published by Jacqueline Holdsworth of Needleprint) relating the history of the school, the pupils and the needlework worked by the girls. They have all given me permission to use excerpts from this book and have given me permission to create designs using the wonderful pictorial and medallion motifs from their schoolgirl samplers. So too, Jacqueline Holdsworth has given her permission to use her printed charts of these motifs from her book.

As we travelled along the narrow, leafy lanes from the township of Pontefract towards the school, I couldn't help but think of all the young children who had travelled those same lanes all those years ago. They were **SO** young - some only eight years of age. I wondered what their thoughts and feelings would have been - apprehension of what lay ahead; sadness at having to leave home and all their loved ones; anxiety knowing they would not see them again for at least three years; worried as to whether they could do the schoolwork and do whatever would be required of them. I don't think I would have coped with it.

On arrival at the school we were met by the Bursar, the Vice Principal and the Archivist, Celia. In the reception area wonderful pencil drawn portraits of previous school pupils hung along the walls - each of these persons having attended the school at various times and had/have made an impact for good in the world today. The most recognisable for us ladies from 'down-under' was Fiona Wood who is the director of the Royal Perth Hospital burns unit and patented the invention of 'spray-on skin' for burns victims. Previous techniques of skin culturing required twenty-one days to produce enough cells to cover major burns, but Fiona reduced the period to five days. She is particularly remembered for her role after the 2002 Bali nightclub bombing. She led a team working to save twenty eight patients suffering from between two and ninety two percent body burns, deadly infections and delayed shock.

The morning began with a short history of the founding of the school and then half of the ladies were taken to view all the samplers whilst the other half enjoyed morning tea. I opted to join the latter group.

Today the samplers are housed laying flat in large drawers in a special cabinet, but for our visit most of the drawers had been removed from the cabinet and placed on tables so that we could walk around them. To follow are pics of some of the samplers. Some taken by myself & others by Lady Anne's Needlework Retreats (these pics being shown to you with their permission).



Jane Walker (17??)
Scholar: 1796-1797



Mary Peacock (1802)
Stitched by Mary at the York School set up by Esther Tuke with her daughters, Ann & Mabel, both having been Ackworth scholars. Sampler donated to the Ackworth School

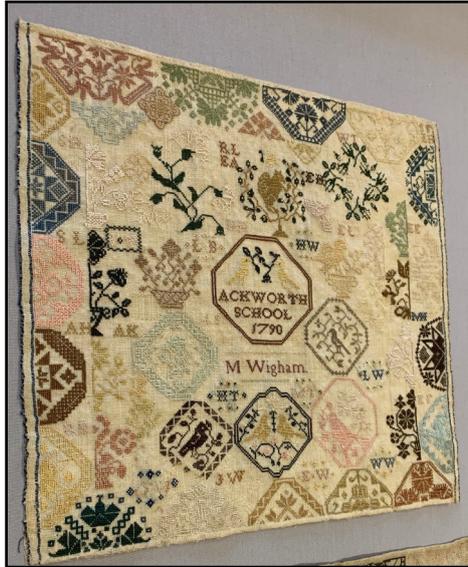


Hannah Wilson (1800-1801) ?
Hannah Wilson (1801-1803) ?
Unknown which Hannah Wilson stitched this

More pics of Ackworth medallion samplers -



Top: MP's Sampler (1799)
Bottom: Ann Smith (1791)
Scholar: 1785-1791



Mary Wigham (1790)
Scholar: 1788-1791



Elizabeth Woolston (1805)
Scholar: (1805-1806)



Maria Pumphrey (1823)
Scholar: 1819-1823



Sampler expert and conservator, Jacqui Hyman, showing the back of Elizabeth's sampler.
Look at how beautiful and neat it is!



The medallion motifs and the particular motifs that are stitched with them are instantly recognisable as being from Ackworth, but the girls also stitched and learnt many other techniques and styles -

Alphabetical & Numerical samplers : Pictorial samplers : Tablet Layout samplers : Darning samplers
Marking & Literacy samplers : Map samplers (UK, Ireland, World, etc).

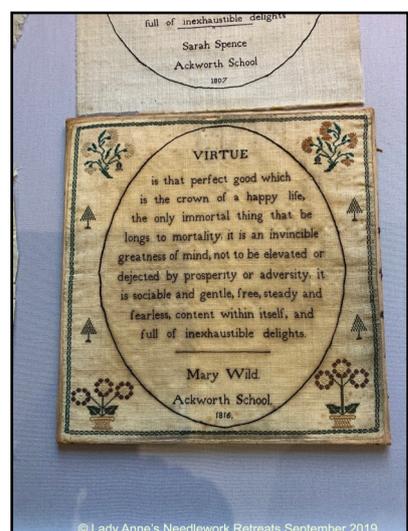
To follow are a few pics of these other achievements -



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Darning Samplers

Marking / Literacy Sampler



Pictorial Sampler
&
Alphabetical / Numerical Samplers
in one of the drawers



Another item

Both boys and girls at Ackworth were taught to knit (as they had to knit their own stockings). These were plain not patterned, essential and utilitarian. School records of 1821 show that 393 pairs were knitted. In contrast to these, the records do not include details of the 'fine work' done by scholars for which the school received payment.

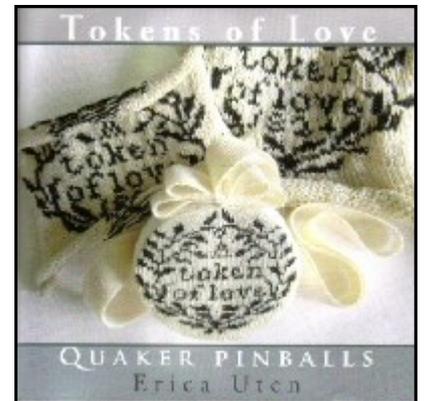
The silk knitted pinballs frequently stitched with a medallion sampler motif on them and which are readily associated with Ackworth were more likely to have been made as gifts to be bestowed on friends and family, however, some were also sold as 'fancy work' on the few special school celebrations as described for the General Meeting of 1825.

Pictured below is one pinball we viewed at Ackworth -



and pictured to the right is a wonderful book available from the Needlework Gallery featuring patterns for you to knit or stitch pinballs for yourself or for a gift

Book Title: Tokens of Love - Quaker Pinballs
Design Code: NP:TOKENS
Price: \$55.00



Pictured below (left) are stitched pinballs: green - DMC Perle 12 [503] & mauve/lilac - DMC Stranded cotton [3041] and a knitted pinball using DMC Perle 12 - 3041 & 3042 - all worked by myself



and to the right three pinballs stitched with DMC stranded cotton threads by Elizabeth Darrah of Auckland



Another of mine in green can be seen towards the back

At Ackworth I was in my element.

To actually be there and to see the samplers as pictured throughout the Quaker School Girls Samplers book was awesome.

Before we left the school, one of the tour participants saw me sitting outside on my lonesome (contemplating) and asked if I would like to have my photograph taken.

And here it is -



*After that,
everyone ventured outside
and we had a group photo taken*



And so our time at Ackworth School came to a close.

As I was about to board the coach for our return to York, Celia (the archivist) gave me a hug and said, "you are welcome here anytime".

What an awesome invitation.

However, I thought to myself, "I doubt that will ever be a possibility". But - little did I know! More about that later in another blog.

My heart was full of joy and contentment as we travelled back to York.

A wonderful, unforgettable experience.

A quick bite of lunch and I played 'hooky' from class that afternoon. My doings to be related in my next blog

I sincerely hope you have enjoyed my special morning with me.

