

**Blog #114 - The Biedermeier Sampler:**  
September 2021

To 'Sampler Gathering' in 2019, I took an antique sampler to display. This sampler was an original one from Gigi's private collection which I now have in my possession.

Gigi has reproduced this piece for the enjoyment of needleworkers and so I had begun stitching it for myself. I displayed this partially stitched piece beside the original at that weekend.

However, I was distracted with stitching other pieces on my return home and so my piece never progressed any further, remaining as it was (as pictured on the right) on display in the needlework gallery.

As related before, at our Sampler Gathering weekends we always have a 'show and tell' time and this year one of our attendees (Margaret from Auckland) showed her finished Biedermeier Sampler but prior to this, with her permission, I displayed it on one of my display tables and showed it in my last blog. It was beautiful! Margaret had purchased the chart at our previous gathering in 2019.

Seeing it inspired me to work on my piece when I returned home.

However, on doing so, discovered I had made an error and so had to unpick part of it before progressing further!

It is taking a lot of work and time to create this sampler and so no stitching on any other pieces during this month.

On a mission to finish it.

Design Title: The Biedermeier Sampler, 1864

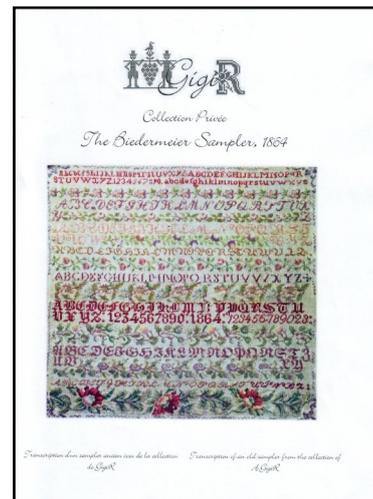
Design Code: GR:BS

Price: \$ 55.00

As for other work during this month,

published a design I had created for teaching

at 'Celebration of Needlework' at Nashua, NH, USA. Had to alter some of the text before publishing because of it having originally been written as a teaching piece. The stitches in this design are Cross Stitch, Backstitch and Fisherton de la Mere.



BARB 1018 : Thankfulness : \$ 25.00

Threads and fabric used to create this design ....

Fabric: Belfast Linen - 32 count - Natural/Flax (#053)

Threads: Silken Pearl #10 by *The Thread Gatherer*

SP10 9713 - Desert Moss

DMC Perle Coton #12 - 642

DMC Stranded Cotton - 640

During this month I also created two Christmas stocking designs (sneak peek of one of them on the next page) but the stitching of

these has been put to one side.

I **need** to finish my Biedermeier Sampler before beginning something new.

During this month too, my thoughts were on what to do for our biennial Mystery Sampler.

After much deliberation decided to no longer create a mystery sampler as so many other such samplers and/or SAL's (Stitch-A-Long's) are available by so many designers.

Decided to change my focus to offering a yearly sampler in September. That is, by September of each year have a new sampler created and call it "Sherelyn's September Sampler".

Consequently designed a sampler but haven't started to stitch it yet, as once again, I **need** to concentrate on my Biedermeier Sampler.

Mind you, if you are a follower of different flosstubes on YouTube, having more than one stitching project on the go at once is quite normal! Some of these persons have as many as six pieces at a time.

Pictured to the right are a couple of sneak peeks at the sampler for next year.

And now to continue on with my UK experiences:  
Tuesday, 8 October 2019 - Harewood

Our final breakfast in the elegant surroundings of Grantley Hall.

Ashleigh was to begin work the next day and therefore it had been decided that as I was still not able to fly home, Melissa and I would spend a few days in York together so that Melissa could experience and enjoy some of the awesome places I had discovered. I really loved York. However, before driving us to York, Ashleigh had a surprise destination for us to visit - not far from Grantley. Harewood - the home of Princess Mary, daughter of King George V & Queen Mary & the wife of Viscount Lascelles who later became the 6th Earl of Harewood. Princess Mary held the title of Princess Royal (the title now held by Princess Anne) and as she was loved by the people of Yorkshire, she is still known as "The Yorkshire Princess".

You may recall in an earlier blog that I had mentioned that Princess Mary had sometimes visited Grantley Hall for afternoon tea.

To approach Harewood House, one still has to drive through the Doric arch of the main gates, known as The Lodge, at the end of Harewood Avenue.

The first known owners of Harewood were three Saxon Chieftains, wonderfully named Tor, Sprot and Grim. Their names are recorded in the Domesday Book, William the Conqueror's massive and extraordinarily comprehensive survey of land ownership compiled shortly after the Battle of Hastings.

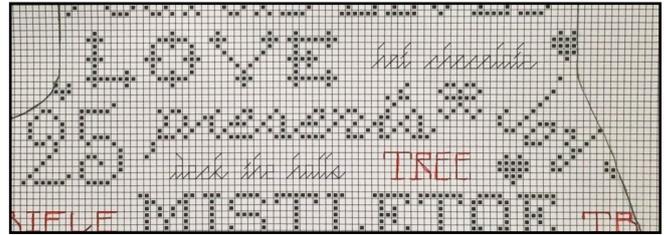
It told him who owned what (down to the last pig and cow), what the land and buildings were worth and what tax was therefore payable.

It was the key to his aim of dominating and controlling medieval England.

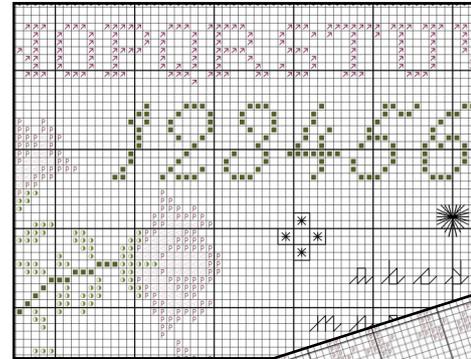
Tor, Sprot and Grim, their loyalty to the Norman invaders in serious doubt, were among the casualties.

Their land was confiscated and given to a Norman nobleman.

The oldest building on the estate is Harewood Castle, now in ruins. It was last occupied about 1630. Over the previous 200 years, the neighbouring estate of Gawthorpe and its 13th century manor house, Gawthorpe Hall, through numerous marriages, co-existed with Harewood. By 1641, the current owner, the Earl of Strafford, was executed by Charles I for treason and due to



A sneak peek at one of two new Christmas stocking designs



Sherelyn's September Sampler



the property being heavily in debt at that time, Harewood Castle, Gawthorpe Hall and the attached estates were sold to a self-made London merchant, Sir John Cutler.



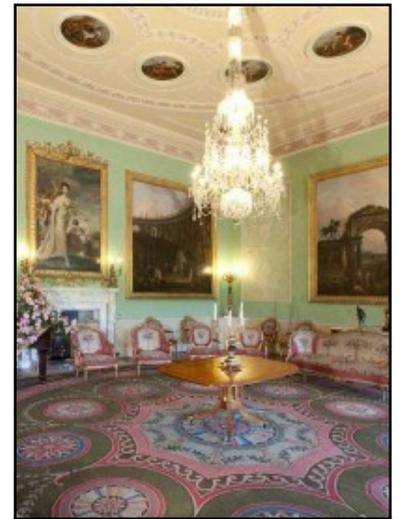
In 1738 these properties were sold to the Lascelles family. Gawthorpe Hall was pulled down and soon after, Harewood House was completed in 1771.

"Welcome to Harewood - an old House in an ancient landscape, living in the modern world.

The House has seen many changes since it was built more than 250 years ago. In that time it has been an English gentleman's country house, a Victorian family home, a royal household and a wartime convalescent hospital (twice). Since the 1980's it has been run as an educational charitable trust for the public benefit and has become one of Yorkshire's most popular destinations".

David Lascelles, 8th Earl of Harewood

A lovely home to tour. I especially loved one of the smaller rooms in which there was so much of Princess Mary's personal items on display. Loved reading her concerned letters to her brother, David, before his abdication and subsequent letters to her other brother, Bertie, before his coronation. She was an avid letter writer.



The Music Room

In the music room, volunteers were cleaning the chandelier. It had been lowered from the ceiling and was lying in pieces over many trestle tables. One could not speak to the volunteers, but as one made their way through the room, signs could be read about the procedure. Really interesting.

And down in the lower servants area of the house, one could walk unhindered in the kitchens, scullery and other rooms and were encouraged by signs to open cupboards and doors to find the contents inside and read further information - explaining all that was displayed in them.



Another downstairs room displayed photographs of all the movies and TV series - such as 'Victoria' and parts of the 'Downton Abbey' movie - that had been filmed there. They also had on display some of the costumes from 'Victoria'.

This House was not one to showcase needlework. Instead it was full of art - Old Masters and Contemporary / New.

Since returning home I have enjoyed learning more about Princess Mary and admire her. PRINCESS VICTORIA ALEXANDRA ALICE MARY OF YORK, was born at York Cottage on the Royal Estate of Sandringham on the 25th of April 1897. Princess Mary was the third of six children born to the Duke and Duchess of Kent (later King George V and Queen Mary), and their only daughter.



1897 was the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The Queen called Princess Mary 'My little Diamond Jubilee baby' and, as her great-grandmother and godmother, insisted that she be christened Victoria. It was only after Queen Victoria's death that the Princess became known as Mary, as her parents had wished.

In 1914 Princess Mary was 17 years old and keen to help in the war effort in any way she could. She decided to send a Christmas gift to every man and woman involved in the war effort on Christmas Day 1914. By the end of the war, 2.5 million brass gift boxes containing a Christmas card with either a pipe and tobacco, cigarettes or sweets had been given.

Princess Mary took particular interest in the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD). In 1917 a Voluntary Aid Detachment was formed at Buckingham Palace, comprised of thirty women personally recruited by Princess Mary, with herself as Commandant. In November 1918 she travelled to France to visit hospitals and see the work of the VAD women in the field. Inspired by her war work Princess Mary decided to train as a nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital in London. Here she learnt every aspect of nursing care, and even trained to assist during surgery.

Princess Mary continued her nursing work as Patron of Great Ormond Street Hospital & Commander-in-Chief of the British Red Cross and during the Second World War she also held many military roles. She even enjoyed tank training with the Royal Scots.

Princess Mary and Henry (known as Harry), Viscount Lascelles, the elder son of the 5th Earl of Harewood were married on the 28th of February 1922. Princess Mary chose eight bridesmaids - four cousins and four friends. One of the friends was Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon (her future sister-in-law, and the Queen mother of our reigning Queen Elizabeth II).

Princess Mary and Henry had two sons - George & Gerald.



How her son George described his mother ....

“Shyness, I should imagine, was one of the first things people noticed about my mother; gentleness and kindness as well, with in later life a little Hanovarian spleen underneath it all... That my mother’s interest in Family was inculcated early on I have no doubt, as with Queen Mary it was very strong indeed”.

Also he wrote, “.... Most mornings from the time I was twelve until the beginning of the war my mother used to come riding with us. She rode with skill, and we had a certain sense of pride when we were considered old and responsible enough to go out with her alone and without a groom .... Gardening was one of the things my parents liked to do together and when Gerald and I were children we used to go with them in the afternoon and help reduce the unruly thickets of rhododendrons to manageable proportions ... When she grew older, it was the pruning of the roses my mother preferred to the removal of over-exuberant rhododendrons, and she would go off pruning on a summer evening with a Lady-in-waiting while we played tennis.”

Princess Mary’s strong commitment to public duty meant her life was always busy. As a wife, a mother and daughter of the King, she divided her time between Yorkshire, London, and her duties overseas.

In 1932 Princess Mary received the title Princess Royal from her father King George V. It was a mark of her position as the daughter of the monarch and an active member of the Royal Family.

During her lifetime she would know six monarchs: her great-grandmother Queen Victoria, her grandfather King Edward VII, her father King George V, her brothers King Edward VIII and later King George VI, and her niece HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Widowed Princess Mary continued to live at Harewood with her son George, 7th Earl of Harewood and his family. Four grandsons were born during the 1950’s. Harewood House opened to the public, the first royal residence to do so, and visitors flocked to see the home of the Princess Royal. Royal duties continued, but Princess Mary spent as much time as she could with her family, gardening, walking her dogs and enjoying the Yorkshire countryside.

One day in the spring of 1965, as she was walking around the lake with her son and two grandsons, Princess Mary suffered a fatal heart attack.

Her grandson, David Lascelles, the current Earl of Harewood wrote of her ...

“Family meant a lot to my grandmother. .... We called her ‘Ging Ging’ and she did a pretty good job of tolerating our boisterousness .... But when it came to mealtimes we had to behave ourselves. Table manners were very important and we were expected to know how to eat fish with two forks (no fish knives at Harewood!) and woe betide anyone who tore grapes off the bunch instead of snipping them with the special grape scissors. ....

She was at heart a very private person, someone who couldn’t stand ‘fuss’; who you knew had to be treated with respect, but with a real sense of fun. Even as young boys we all could tell that under an exterior that could sometimes appear stern, there was real warmth and affection.....”

Excerpts from my book, **PRINCESS MARY**  
**The Princess Royal, Countess of Harewood**

After lunch in the little tearooms, I rested whilst Melissa and Ashleigh wandered off to discover more of the property and walk the gardens, etc. On their return Ashleigh conveyed that she had been speaking to Phil Spencer, co-presenter of the TV programme, ‘Location, Location, Location’. He was there assessing the location for a future TV programme.

On our drive away from the House saw the lovely old church - All Saints’



Church - and stopped off to explore and discover its history.

This building spans all of Harewood's known history, from Norman times to the present day.

The precise date for its foundation was discovered in the 18th century when the roof was replaced.



This inscription was found cut into a beam:

"We adore and praise thee thou holy Jesus, because thou hast redeemed us by thy Holy Cross, 1116".

The church has gone through many rebuilds, but the outstanding feature of it is its magnificent collection of alabaster tombs, often said to be the finest in England outside a cathedral. Ashleigh took photos of some of these and a couple of them are pictured above.

Six lords and ladies from the families who owned the Harewood and Gawthorpe estates during the 15th and 16th centuries can be found here.

The church has not been active since the late 1960's but the Lascelles family vault is there.



What amused me was the state of the graveyard and gravestones outside the church.

The final picture taken at Harewood is looking from the church towards the House.



And so our final drive through the country lanes and back roads to York, all with the knowing that I was leaving this lovely country to which I knew I belonged and would never be able to visit again.

I may have been born in New Zealand and live in New Zealand, but England is "HOME".

Also, a heavy heart as knowing that Melissa and I would have to say farewell to Ashleigh who had shown her love time after time by all the wonderful, awesome things she had done.

How blessed I am to have such a caring daughter and granddaughter.

I sincerely hope you too are blessed with loved ones around you and caring for you.

Until next time, give your family a hug and tell them you love and appreciate them.

Bye for now.

