

Basic Detail Report



Unfinished Sampler

Medium

Plied and flat silk thread on linen

Description

A large square sampler on a gauzy natural linen ground, with a selvedge along the left and right edges and narrow hems along the top and bottom. The sampler is worked in both plied and flat silk in dark blue, light blue, medium green, sage green, light brown, pale yellow, light brown, and off white. An examination of the back of the sampler reveals the unfaded silk colors, originally a rich grass green, bright apple green, pale green, dark royal blue, sky

blue, soft orange, rose, pale pink, lemon yellow, warm ivory, and soft pale gray. Stitches include cross, satin, and stem. A central image depicts an urn and column memorial stone worked in flat silk in tones of off white and gray to suggest marble or granite, with an oval space left blank, most likely for a planned inscription. Faint inking atop the urn indicates that a flame finial was meant to be completed. A lush and graceful weeping willow arches over the memorial stone at right, and both memorial and willow rest atop a smooth and grassy ground, worked in flat silk thread, with small floral sprays and sprigs scattered about. Above the stone and willow is a family register, reading "James Brown Born March 17 1781 Died August 18 1825 / Maria Van Tassell Born Jan 2 1789 / Married September 17 1809 / Sally Maria Brown Born Dec 9 1809 Died Jan 11 1811 / Sally Ann Brown Born October 5 1819 / Charlotte Caldwell Brown Born June 26 1817 / Abraham Levy Brown Born Dec 29 1822 Died Jan 17 1823 / My dear Redeem..." Encircling both inscription and image is a naturalistically worked floral wreath, with most of the flowers clearly identified, including forget-me-nots, blue and yellow pansies, roses and rosebuds, carnations, and trumpet flowers. In the bottom left and right corners are worked small floral sprays of forget-me-nots and roses. The top left and right corners retain the sampler's original inked pattern lines, depicting additional floral sprays. A narrow band of offset cross stitching, creating a checkerboard effect, flanked on either side with a single cross stitch line, forms the border around the entire sampler. On close examination, original inking lines are clearly visible, particularly along the memorial stone outlines, portions of the floral wreath, and the two lower corner floral sprays.

Dimensions

17.5 × 17.88 in. (44.5 × 45.4 cm)