

## FINAL REPORT FOR 2018 MAFA GRANT

### **17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Textiles – Workshops and Lectures**

Harmony Weavers Guild

Project Co-Directors: Karen Mason & Carol Ireland

This project involved a 4-part look at textiles from three centuries in the past through lectures, museum visits and a weaving workshop. Fiber artists from the MidAtlantic region were invited via guild MAFA representatives to participate in one or more of the programs.

#### ***The Project Plan***

##### *March 7 — Visit to Winterthur Museum*

*Participants were scheduled for small group tours of (1) the Winterthur library with its rich collection of manuscripts and sample books; (2) the Marguerite Porter Davison collection of early American textiles; and (3) the main museum with a focus on its textiles. The fourth formal part of the day's program was a talk by Marjie Thompson "Woven at Home - Debunking the Myths Begun by The Colonial Revival Movement." Free time was included for participants to see the Winterthur grounds and galleries and interact with each other.*

*The 57 participants who signed up were coming from CT, NY, NJ, PA, DE, MD, and VA. 30% of them were Harmony Weavers Guild members and the remainder represented 16 other guilds.*

##### *March 7 — Visit to Greenbank Mill & Philips Farm*

*At the end of the day, an hour-long visit to the Mill was scheduled, to include an overview of the museum, a walking tour of the grounds, and a tour/discussion of the Madison Factory, site of a woolen mill in the early 1800's. A working spinning jenny and two of the looms in the Madison Factory, threaded with some of Marjie Thompson's "Forgotten Weaves" were to be included. Approximately 35 people signed up for this tour.*

*March 7 — Dinner with Marjie Thompson. Since a number of people were coming from out of town, and many would not have the opportunity to interact with Marjie or each other, a group dinner was planned at a local restaurant. Approximately 20 people planned to join Marjie for dinner.*

*March 8 — Talk by Marjie Thompson, an introduction to "Forgotten Weaves", at the Harmony Weavers Guild meeting.*

##### *March 8 -10*

*Two and a half day round robin weaving workshop on "Forgotten Weaves," instructed by Marjie Thompson.*

## The Plan as Executed

After the original programs were announced, Heather Hansen, Collections Manager at the Chester County (PA) Historical Society offered to provide a tour of pieces in their textile collection on March 6, preceding our Winterthur program. Ten participants along with Marjie Thompson enjoyed this opportunity to supplement the programs we had planned.

A nor'easter was forecasted to hit Delaware March 7, dumping as much as 8-10" of snow throughout the area. The forecast led Winterthur to close the site that day and us to cancel the one day program at Winterthur and Greenbank Mill. This decision was communicated Tuesday morning, March 6, via email to the 57 folks who had signed up for the March 7 program.

We then worked with Winterthur and Marjie Thompson to reschedule parts of the original program over the next three days, taking time out of the weaving workshop. The actual schedule of events was:

March 8 — Talk by Marjie Thompson, an introduction to "Forgotten Weaves", at the Harmony Weavers Guild meeting, as originally planned. Approximately 32 people enjoyed the talk, about half of them non-guild members.

March 8 — Lunchtime tours of the Winterthur Library. Approximately twenty people participated in one of the two half-hour tours which included viewing a few of the sample books and manuscripts, and learning about the other resources available to the public. Most participants were those taking the weaving workshop, but a few were guild and non-guild members who had come to the guild meeting.

March 8 -10 — "Forgotten Weaves" workshop by Marjie Thompson. The workshop was fully subscribed with 20 weavers, half of them non-guild members. The previous day's snow did not prevent anyone from attending, despite the long distances traveled by some: one participant came from Connecticut and another from Virginia. One weaver was unable to attend for health reasons.

March 8 — Late afternoon informal tour of Greenbank Mill and Philips Farm. Six people participated in this rescheduled tour, all but one of them a workshop participant.

March 9 — Lunchtime tours of the Marguerite Porter Davison collection. Approximately eighteen people participated in one of the two half-hour tours. As with the library tours most participants were those taking the weaving workshop, but a few were guild and non-guild members who were able to come just for this opportunity.

March 10 — Lunchtime talk by Marjie Thompson "*Woven at Home - Debunking the Myths Begun by The Colonial Revival Movement*", rescheduled from March 7. The workshop participants were joined by about five additional people who originally signed up for the March 7 program and another five members of the public who were visiting Winterthur. This was the only program that was advertised by Winterthur.

Despite the fact that a major program was cancelled, the overall project was deemed a huge success by all who were able to participate. Those who could not expressed interest in visiting Winterthur on their own or participating in a repeat program, should Harmony Weavers Guild decide to work with Winterthur to make that happen.

## **Project Goals**

*1) Provide educational opportunities for fiber artists and others regarding 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century textiles through lectures by Marjie Thompson, a customized visit to Winterthur, a visit to Greenbank Mill and Philips Farm, and a weaving workshop on "Forgotten Weaves" by Marjie Thompson.*

Despite the cancellation of the March 7 program, thanks to the Winterthur's staff's determination to reschedule as much as they could, about half of the original audience was able to enjoy most of the originally scheduled tours. The addition of the Chester County Historical Society tour was "icing in the cake".

Although the snowstorm kept about 30 people from participating in one or more of our programs, our communications included a lot of information about the resources available in our area, especially at Winterthur. Some of these folks indicated an intent to schedule trips to Winterthur in the future. (In fact, two weeks after the event, a Winterthur staff member said she had already scheduled a tour for a weaving group.)

Feedback from the programs, solicited via a survey as well as unsolicited, included comments such as these:

- "Thanks to the Harmony Guild members for opening up this opportunity to our wider weaving community. You have such a great local resource there in Winterthur."
- "Somehow, even with the weather eliminating the Wednesday portion, we were able to experience the Museum's textile samples, hear Marjie's lecture and visit the library."
- "This was a wonderful workshop! How lucky we were to be at Winterthur with the additions of lectures, library and textiles."
- "I'm still ruminating about all that we heard and saw. I'd also never been to the Chester County Historical Society before."
- "I really appreciate the excellent planning and coordination ...of the program and workshop and excellent communication of the adjustments you had to make on short notice when the snowfall shut Winterthur down."
- "The library and Davison collection tours were great. I didn't know that Winterthur had so much in the line of textiles! The Davison collection in particular wowed me. I would have liked more time, though. Time to look, absorb, live with the objects. More time to discuss with others in our group, do a mini analysis of the weavings."

- “[After the workshop I] got in touch with [my local] Historical Society about looking through their textile collection to see if they have any items by one of the weavers Marjie spoke about...this workshop certainly got my juices flowing.”
- “I greatly enjoyed the bonus opportunities ... to visit the Chester County Historical Society and Greenbank Mill. After reading about the spinning jenny, seeing one was a real treat!”

*2) Promote sharing amongst fiber guilds in the area and create opportunities to expand guild memberships.*

We had 15 different fiber guilds represented amongst the 20 workshop participants (many folks belong to more than one guild), which meant that there were many opportunities for interactions across guilds. One example — An agenda item at the Harmony Weavers Guild meeting was to start thinking about a 50-year celebration for the Guild. Folks from other guilds shared a variety of activities their guilds have done for similar celebrations, which provides a great starting point for discussion within our guild.

Other comments included:

- “I also enjoyed having weavers from other guilds, and I caught up with a few friends from the past.”
- “...it was fun to meet folks from all over our region.”
- “I was thrilled when one of the folks touring Greenbank Mill suggested the possible identity of an unusual piece of equipment that was donated to the Mill. In addition she provided a reference where we could find instructions for making new, badly needed, drive bands for the spinning jenny!”
- “...it was fun to meet folks from all over our region.”
- “I didn't notice at the time that one of our lunchtime discussions morphed from weave structure to history...Best workshop I have ever attended...Having participants from multiple guilds was great!...In a discussion with a friend of mine from another guild who attended, I had to say 'not all workshops are this perfect!'”

## **Lessons Learned & Advice to Future Grantees**

- 1) Work with MAFA ahead of time to allow more flexibility in the timetable for grant requests.

The Grants timetable was very awkward for this particular project. Our program was scheduled to start March 7 and according to the Grants timetable a final decision would be made by March 15. Thankfully the committee expedited their decision so we knew we would get the grant about 6 weeks ahead of time, in time to finalize the participant fees for the Winterthur program and the workshop and start collecting money well in advance of the programs.

In hindsight, we could have requested the grant a year early, by January of 2017, with the stipulation that the event would be a full year from the award date. This might or might not have been acceptable to MAFA.

We recommend that the MAFA Grant Committee consider having two grant periods separated by six months, to accommodate situations like ours. We had no flexibility in selecting the date for this project - early March was the *only* option for a Winterthur program that would immediately precede a 2nd Thursday Guild program.

2) Utilize good organization and frequent communication between Guild team members in all phases of the project.

This was a particularly complicated project because of the multiple programs being offered and the need to register people ahead of time. It was exceedingly helpful to keep track of names, emails, guild affiliations, and payments for each program on a spreadsheet. Email addresses for participants in each program were easily selected from the spreadsheet for use with messages related to each program.

Having one Guild member handle the signups for the workshop and another the signups for the Winterthur program helped to spread the workload. The Guild treasurer played a key role as well, in keeping track of payments, and then refunds resulting from the program cancellation.

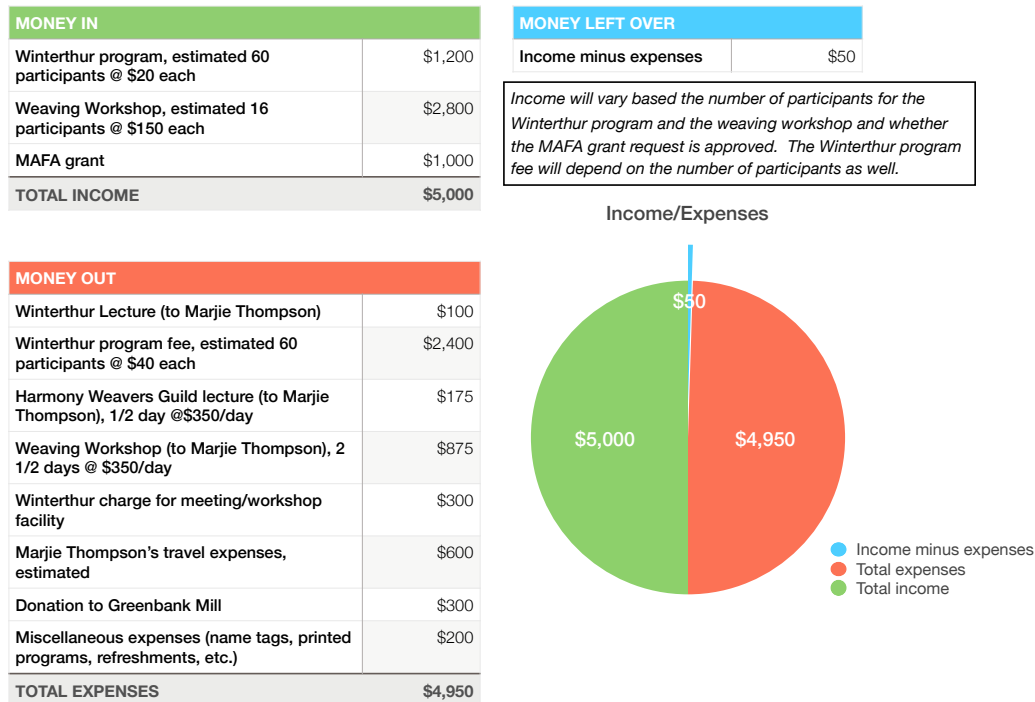
3) Consider programs such as this one in different areas in the MAFA region.

There was a high level of interest in this program from all the surrounding states and beyond. In a follow-up survey, participants were asked about ideas for other places that could be grouped to make a day's "fiber study" program. We would encourage MAFA guilds to explore possibilities in their own areas and consider putting together programs such as ours. A list of suggested museums is attached.

## Project Budget

Here is the original budget that was submitted with the MAFA grant application:

### 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Textiles – Workshops and Lectures



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Our project budget underwent a major recalculation because of the cancellation of the one day Winterthur program. Winterthur did not charge us anything for the substituted programs that were offered on March 8 and 9. All those registered for the March 7 program were refunded their \$20 payment. We did elect to make donations to both Winterthur and Greenbank, recognizing all of the preparations done by both organizations in anticipation of the March 7 program.

We did incur some expenses associated with March 7 — printed programs (separate attachment), printed name tags (separate attachment), the fee for Marjie Thompson's lecture (rescheduled to March 9), etc. As a result we suggest that the total MAFA grant be reduced from \$1000 to \$500, the amount already received from MAFA.

Our final budget reflecting the actual expenses is shown below.

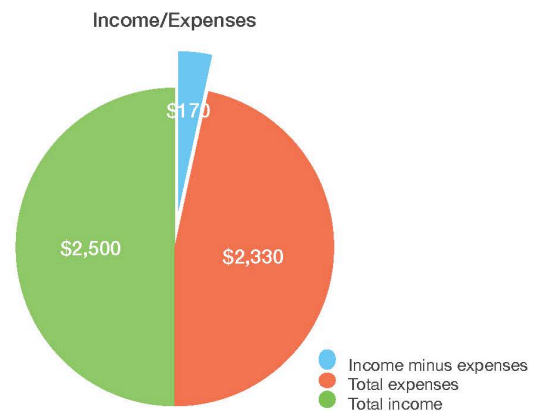
## 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Century Textiles – Workshops and Lectures

### FINAL BUDGET

MONEY IN	
Weaving Workshop, 20 participants @ \$100 each	\$2,000
MAFA grant	\$500
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>

MONEY LEFT OVER	
Income minus expenses	\$170

MONEY OUT	
Winterthur	
Winterthur charge for meeting/workshop facility	\$300
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$300</b>
Marjie Thompson Expenses:	
Winterthur Lecture March 7	\$100
Harmony Weavers Guild lecture – 1/2 day @ \$350/day	\$175
Weaving Workshop – 2 1/2 days @ \$350/day	\$875
Travel expenses	\$350
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>
Miscellaneous expenses (name tags, printed programs)	\$98
Marjie's Friday meal	\$32
Winterthur Donation	\$300
Greenbank Mill Donation	\$100
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$2,330</b>



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## MAFA Promotion

In our email invitations and subsequent communications with participants we reiterated that the program fees were defrayed in part due to the MAFA grant. In addition, our printed program for March 7 acknowledged the MAFA grant.

The printed program and name tags (see attachments) included the MAFA logo as further acknowledgement.

## Attachments:

List of museums with fiber-related exhibits/collections

Agenda for March 7 programs

Sample name tags for March 7 participants [omitted from published report]

Photo release forms [omitted from published report]

Ten photos of the events

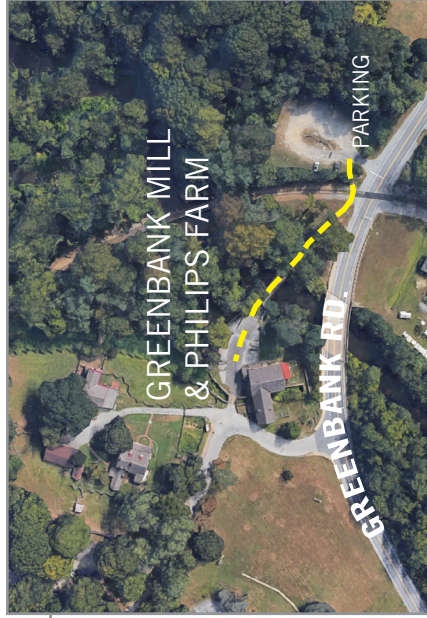
## Museums in Mid Atlantic Area

<b>New Jersey</b>	Paterson Museum	Paterson	<a href="http://www.patersonmuseum.com">http://www.patersonmuseum.com</a>
	Museum of Early Trades & Crafts	Madison	<a href="http://www.metc.org">www.metc.org</a>
	Winterthur Museum	Wilmington	<a href="http://winterthur.org">winterthur.org</a>
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	Chester County Historical Society	West Chester	<a href="http://www.chestercohistorical.org">www.chestercohistorical.org</a>
	Family Heirloom Weavers	Red Lion	<a href="http://www.familyheirloomweavers.com">www.familyheirloomweavers.com</a>
	Landis Valley Museum	Lancaster	<a href="http://landisvalleymuseum.org">http://landisvalleymuseum.org</a>
	Schwenkfelder Museum	Pennsburg	<a href="http://www.schwenkfelder.com">www.schwenkfelder.com</a>
	Mennonite Heritage Center	Harleysville	<a href="http://mhep.org">mhep.org</a>
	Lancaster Historical Society	Lancaster	<a href="https://www.lancasterhistory.org">https://www.lancasterhistory.org</a>
	Gay McGreary, expert in historic weaving	Carlisle	<a href="http://www.coverletweaver.com">http://www.coverletweaver.com</a>
	National Museum of the American Coverlet	Bedford	<a href="http://www.coverletmuseum.org/">http://www.coverletmuseum.org/</a>
	Home Textile Tool Museum	Orwell	<a href="http://www.hometextiletoolmuseum.org">http://www.hometextiletoolmuseum.org</a>
	Philadelphia Museum of Art Textile Dept (e.g. Costume and Textiles Study Room John G. Johnson Collection)	Philadelphia	<a href="http://www.philamuseum.org/research/619-534.html">http://www.philamuseum.org/research/619-534.html</a>
	Jefferson University Textile and Costume Collection	Philadelphia	<a href="http://www.eastfalls.jefferson.edu/library/textileandcostume/">http://www.eastfalls.jefferson.edu/library/textileandcostume/</a>
	The Fabric Workshop	Philadelphia	<a href="http://www.fabricworkshopandmuseum.org">http://www.fabricworkshopandmuseum.org</a>
<b>Delaware</b>	Delaware Historical Society	Wilmington	<a href="http://dehistory.org/">http://dehistory.org/</a>
	University of Delaware	Newark	<a href="https://www.artcons.udel.edu/about-us/facilities/textiles">https://www.artcons.udel.edu/about-us/facilities/textiles</a> <a href="https://www.artcons.udel.edu/about-us/facilities/library-and-archives">https://www.artcons.udel.edu/about-us/facilities/library-and-archives</a>
	Biggs Museum of American Art	Dover	<a href="http://www.biggsmuseum.org/">http://www.biggsmuseum.org/</a>
<b>Maryland</b>	Baltimore Museum of Art	Baltimore	<a href="https://artbma.org/collections/textiles.html">https://artbma.org/collections/textiles.html</a>
	Maryland Historical Society	Baltimore	<a href="http://www.mdhs.org">http://www.mdhs.org</a>
	MSHS Fashion Archives		<a href="http://www.mdhs.org/museum/fashion-archives">http://www.mdhs.org/museum/fashion-archives</a>
	Walters Art Museum	Baltimore	<a href="http://art.thewalters.org/browse/medium/textiles/">http://art.thewalters.org/browse/medium/textiles/</a>
<b>DC</b>	George Washington University Textile Museum		<a href="https://museum.gwu.edu/">https://museum.gwu.edu/</a>
	National Museum of Women in the Arts		<a href="https://nmwa.org/">https://nmwa.org/</a>

## Directions from Winterthur to Greenbank Mill

500 Greenbank Rd., Wilmington, DE 19808

From Winterthur, turn left on Rt. 52 / Kennett Pike. After about 2.5 miles, bear right onto Rt. 141 S. Continue for 2.7 miles and take a slight right towards Rt. 2, but do not exit left onto Rt. 2. Cross Centerville Rd. onto Greenbank Rd. and proceed another 0.7 mi to Greenbank Mill. There are a few parking spots behind the Mill. The main parking lot is BEFORE the railroad tracks on the right. There is a pedestrian bridge across the creek leading to the Mill.



## Directions from Greenbank Mill to Brandywine Brewing Company

4019 Kennett Pike, Greenville, DE 19807

From Greenbank Mill, turn left onto Greenbank Rd. At the first traffic light, turn right. At the next traffic light, turn left onto Rt. 2 (Kirkwood Hwy). Take the ramp (on the right) to Rt. 141 N. Drive about 3 miles on Rt. 141 and take the ramp to Rt. 52 N. Continue 0.6 miles on Rt. 52 N and turn right into the strip of shops where the Brandywine Brewing Company is located.



## 17<sup>TH</sup>, 18<sup>TH</sup> & 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY TEXTILES & MARJIE THOMPSON

## Winterthur Museum & Greenbank Mill & Philips Farm Wednesday, March 7, 2018

Welcome! Harmony Weavers Guild is excited to be sponsoring this unique program for fiber artists and those interested in early American textiles.

Enjoy the day, enjoy the other participants, ask questions, take pictures, and come again!

Thanks to Winterthur and Greenbank Mill staffs and volunteers for sharing their expertise with us.

Special thanks to the MidAtlantic Fiber Association (MAFA) for the grant awarded to our guild to defray the costs for these programs.



## March 7 Schedule

Registration	Rotunda* lobby	9:00-9:30	Group A1 Schedule	9:30-10:00 Marguerite Porter Davison Collection
Morning Tours (Groups A & B)	Main Museum Building & Library	9:30-12:00	Group A2 Schedule	10:10-10:40 Resources in Library
Late Registration	Rotunda* lobby	11:45-12:15		10:50-12:00 Textile-focused tour of Museum
Lecture by Marjie Thompson	Rotunda*	12:15-1:00	Group B1 Schedule	9:30-10:00 Resources in Library
“Woven at Home—Debunking the Myths Begun by The Colonial Revival Movement”				10:10-10:40 Marguerite Porter Davison Collection
Afternoon Tours (Group C)	Main Museum Building & Library	2:00-4:30	Group B2 Schedule	10:50-11:20 Resources in Library
Greenbank Mill Tours		4:30-6:00		11:30-12:00 Marguerite Porter Davison Collection
Dinner with Marjie	Brandywine Brewing Company	6:00—	Group C1 Schedule	9:30-10:40 Textile-focused tour of Museum
* Rotunda is the lecture room on the first floor of the Main Museum off the main lobby area.				10:50-11:20 Marguerite Porter Davison Collection
<i>When you are not doing the scheduled tours, you are encouraged to explore the garden on foot and/or via the garden tram (departs every 30 minutes from the Visitor Center). You can also take an introductory house tour (on the hour and half hour). Finally, you can visit the special exhibits and learn about the collections (especially textiles) in the Galleries, also in the Main Museum building.</i>			Group C2 Schedule	11:30-12:00 Resources in Library
				2:00-2:30 Textile-focused tour of Museum
				2:00-2:30 Resources in Library
				2:40-3:10 Marguerite Porter Davison Collection
				53:20-4:30 Textile-focused tour of Museum

## Forgotten Weaves Workshop

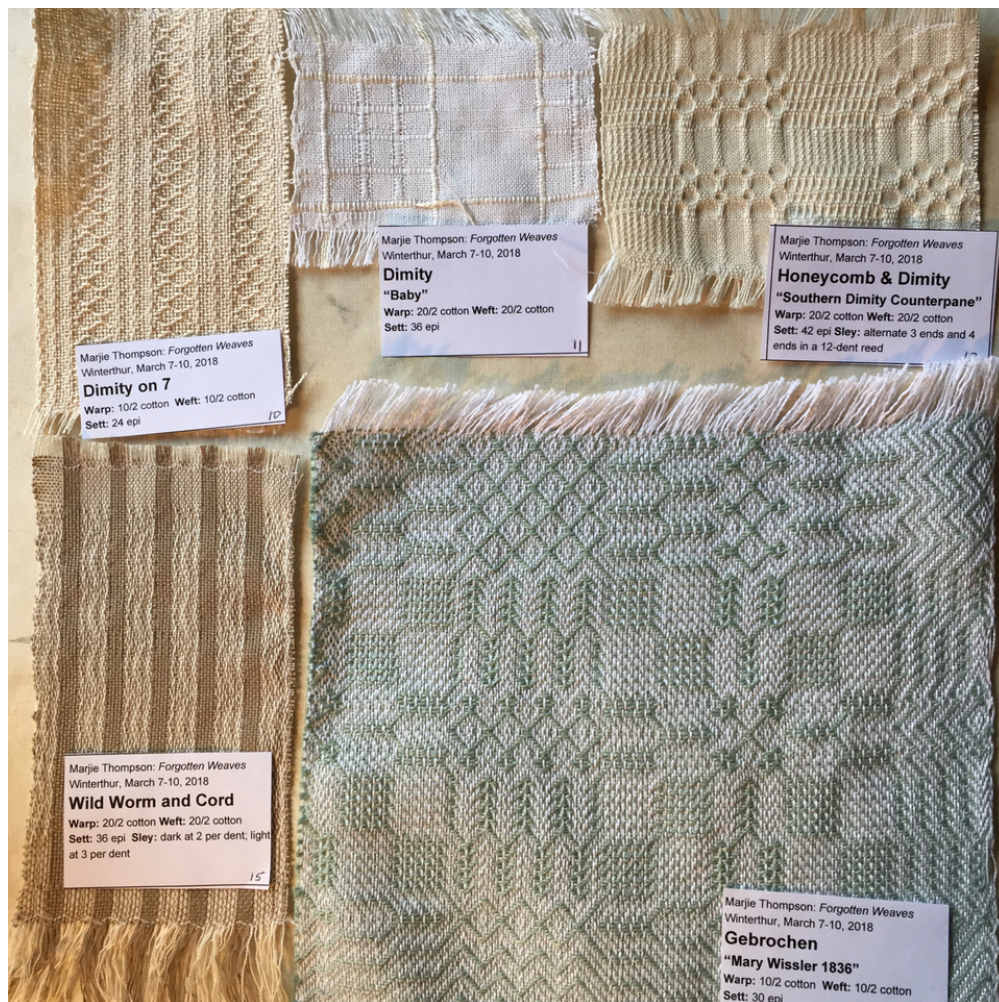


## Marjie Thompson Lecture: "Forgotten Weaves"





Samples from "Forgotten Weaves"



Winterthur tour: Davison Collection



Winterthur tour: Library



## Marjie Thompson Lecture: "Woven at Home"



## Chester County Historical Society Tour



