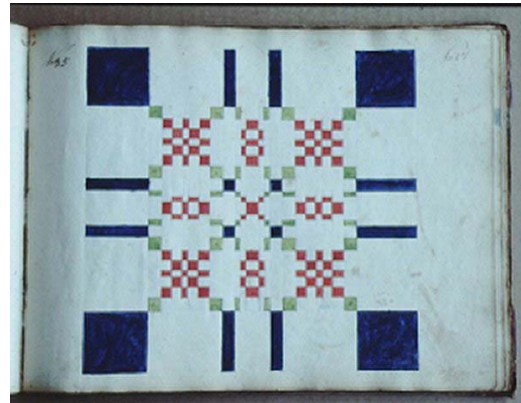


# Michael Weaver Project

## MICHAEL WEAVER'S COVERLET BOOK FROM 1827

A bit of history... A few years ago, after her uncle died, a friend found an early weaver's pattern book in his trunk. It contains 51 hand-drawn patterns which belonged to a professional handweaver, the book thought to have been used for a customer to select a coverlet pattern.



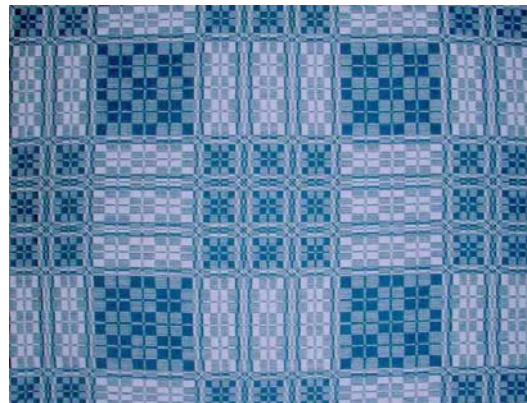
Inside the cover of the leather-trimmed book in faded ink reads: "*Michael Weaver's Coverlet Book*" and "*This book bought in (fades out) Union County on March 25 in the year of Our Lord AD 1827*". Who was Michael Weaver? Which Union County? Answers to these questions have taken us on quite an adventure.

Several things about this book are unique, even rare: the use of 6 colors -- blue, red, black, orange, green and yellow -- double the number of any other known from that era; and examples of German weaves -- *Hin Und Weider* and *Gebrochne Twill* -- the latter being the only known example in color. The patterns appear to be *quite* accurate visually and, with the choice and placement of colors, constitute an important historic record.

After some years of research, the family has been traced with their locations known. As it turns out, it was Michael's brother John who actually became the weaver. And he wove for many decades in Ninevah PA, only a few miles from where I now live! I have developed a slide program of the story with all its adventure, mystery, documentation... and even a ghost or two! Not only have we located the pattern book but also John's record book with his listing of the coverlets and other weavings he did, the structure and how much he sold them for and to whom. We have also traced down in the Weaver clans, seven coverlets which have survived which John wove. We are on the trail of Number Eight right now. And, if that is not enough, we now have tintypes of the family, including John and his wife Polly!

# THE MICHAEL WEAVER PROJECT

Our plan is to publish this book, which spans two centuries, updated with examples of the patterns being used today. Over the past few years over 200 weavers have joined to weave these patterns. Although each pattern has been assigned 5 times, we still do not have all the patterns woven! Currently we also have over half quilted and the patterns applied to embroidery and a variety of other techniques as well. We are still seeking individuals to weave these 4 and 5 block patterns and use the designs for other art/craft applications. Each is set up as profile draft for weaving and on a graph paper grid for other methods. Supplementary materials are included.

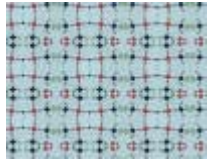


## THE HELEN JARVIS COVERLET

Helen Jarvis wove a spectacular 3-panel "overshot-inspired" doubleweave coverlet of all-wool in one of the Michael Weaver patterns for our project. This coverlet has won a number of national awards. Not only is the structure impressive and the colors, precision and perfection only begin to describe it. This coverlet has to be seen to be believed! It is proof positive that Helen is the finest coverlet weaver in the world.

**Traditional or innovative? Let your preferences, techniques and imagination be your guide. How about these for interesting variations below on that same MW #35 pattern? Click on each to see the details!**





**JOIN US!** This project is learn-as-you-go, no hassle, no rules, no immediate deadlines. Do any size in any media in any way you wish. We even let you set your own dues! (*To cover our costs we simply request a donation of any amount when you join.*) Your pattern can be done "as is" or used as a jumping off place for innovative work, such as we see above. Create a weaving, quilt, embroidery, crochet, parquet, etc. or any combination of techniques which can be traditional or modern in interpretation. The work of art is yours -- we ask simply for a slide (preferably) or clear print of the entire finished piece. For example, if it is a quilt, please shoot it flat from both sides and include close-ups of select areas. Contact Sigrid for a pattern and additional reference materials.

**PHOTOS TOP TO BOTTOM: A page from the "Michael Weaver Covered Book"; Close-up of Helen Jarvis' coverlet; Bob Owen admiring the Jarvis Coverlet at an event at the Michigan League of Handweavers Conference where it was exhibited several years ago; four enhancements of MW#35.**

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