

## **Sarah Owen sampler.**

Sarah Owen born in 1798, was the niece of Robert Owen, famous socialist pioneer. Her father Richard was one of Robert's brothers. In 1841 she lived in Newtown with her mother, also called Sarah, and sister Charlotte, in Glandwr House, Pool Road and was variously described as a Landed Proprietor, and an Annuitant in the various later census records. At a time when it was common for wealthier families to have resident servants, there is no such record in Sarah Owen's household.

Samplers have a long and varied history and were found in many different cultures. The name derives from the Latin 'exemplum' meaning 'example'. In Britain, by Tudor times they were commonly used as a reference work, "an example for a woman to work by". By the nineteenth century they had evolved into practice pieces for girls learning needlework. They were almost entirely worked in cross stitch and were particularly popular between the 1830s and 1870s. Sarah's work, dated 1834, is of interest because samplers were more frequently completed by school age children, but Sarah was 36 when this work was completed. It contains her name and moral text, common features of these works, but does not include other common items such as the alphabet or the numbers.

This sampler was donated to the Newtown Textile Museum in 1967 by Miss Hamer, a Newtonian but by then a resident of Northampton.

For more information on samplers check this link.

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/articles/embroidery-a-history-of-needlework-samplers>

For more information on Robert Owen, philanthropist, check this link.

<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Robert-Owen>