



**PILGRIM SOCIETY &
PILGRIM HALL MUSEUM**
75 Court Street, Plymouth, MA 02360
508-746-1620; www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Contact: director@pilgrimhallmuseum.org

Tel. 508-746-1620 ext. 2

“Needlework Samplers, Wrought by Tradition,” A New Exhibition at Pilgrim Hall Museum, February 1 – April 25, 2014

The Pilgrim Society & Pilgrim Hall Museum is pleased to announce the opening of a new special exhibition, “Needlework Samplers, Wrought by Tradition.”

The exhibition will feature more than 60 samplers, some from Pilgrim Hall Museum and many others from museums, historical societies and personal collections across the South Shore and beyond, representing one of the largest and most diverse collections of samplers ever put on display in the area. Many of the samplers which will be on display are rarely seen by the public.

Samplers were created by young women and girls as a way to not only learn needlework but also to demonstrate their skills and ability. Samplers as a result are often stunning examples of artistry, combining many different stylistic elements, designs, and motifs. Many of the samplers were “signed” with the sewn-in words “wrought by” and the maker’s name, providing the inspiration for the exhibition’s title.

The centerpiece of the exhibition will be the sampler wrought by Loara Standish, the daughter of Myles Standish, c. 1640. The Loara Standish sampler has been part of the collection of Pilgrim Hall Museum since 1844. It is the oldest piece of American needlework. Other notable samplers on display will include several examples of the local “Plymouth School” variety with their distinctive octagonal borders, saw tooth patterning, and floral elements. Many other remarkable samplers dating from the 17th through 19th centuries will illustrate the intricacy of these works of art.

The exhibition will be structured around the traditional thematic elements found in sampler artwork: the original narrow form of the band samplers; the decorative use of flowers, trees, and floral borders as motifs; the inclusion of buildings, figures, and scenes whether real or imaginary; the use of words and letters; and using samplers as expressions of history and genealogy. The young women and girls who created these samplers differed widely in their skill and ability, but

whether finely sewn or filled with mistakes, each sampler tells a story of an individual creating an educational, decorative, and very unique work of art.

Pilgrim Hall Museum will host a reception to celebrate the opening of the exhibition on Saturday, February 8 from 5 - 7 p.m. The reception is free of charge.

The exhibition will be on display in the PIDC gallery at Pilgrim Hall Museum from February 1 to April 25, 2014. Those who wish to set up a special group tour of the exhibition should contact Director of Visitor Services Ann Young at 508-746-1620 x.4. For more information about the exhibition in general, contact Curator Stephen O'Neill at 508-746-1620 x.5.

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Pilgrim Hall Museum is located at 75 Court Street (Route 3A), Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360.

Information: 508-746-1620; Web site: www.pilgrimhallmuseum.org

Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 7 days a week. The Museum is closed on Christmas Day and the month of January.

Admission: Adults \$8.00; seniors (62+) \$7:00 and AAA members \$6.00; Children (5-17) \$5.00; Families (2 adults with their children aged 5-17) \$25.00. Residents of Plymouth, Massachusetts are admitted free.