

## **HANDOUT**

### **Some of the terms you might find in documents:**

Sewer/ Seamstress/ Sempstress -general terms for someone who sewed

#### Garment makers

Bodymaker [stays]/ Staymaker

Dressmaker

Mantua maker – became general term for a maker of dresses, gowns etc. from the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Plain worker – made any plain garments such as undergarments or household linen

Quilter – made quilted items, such as petticoats in 18<sup>th</sup> century

Frock maker/smock maker – maker of men's smock frocks, 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Embroidery

Broiderer/embroiderer

Cut & draw worker [cut & drawn threads with white embroidery]. This type of work included Ayrshire Needlework and Broderie Anglaise.

Flowerer – specialist in making Ayrshire Needlework for embroidered babies' long gowns and bonnets, also white collars, cuffs, pelerines for women, c.1800-1850; Scotland and Ireland.

Darner - probably mostly found in connection with repairers in a weaving factory who repaired defects in textiles.

#### Knitting

Knitter/Stocking knitter – someone who knitted stockings or other garments by hand.

Stocking weaver/stockinger/framework knitter – terms for knitters who used a stocking frame machine which was worked by hand. Fully mechanised machines date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### Lace

Lace maker – could refer to any type of lace.

Pillow lace maker/ bone lace maker – someone who worked lace using bobbins on a pillow.

Needle lace maker – lace made with a needle.

Lace runner – woman who embroidered machine-made net,

Other articles of clothing which required stitchers included glove, hat and shoe makers. Depending on the trade these could be women or men. Tailors also employed women to do some of the stitching work in tailored garments.

## Books

**These are on books on women's work and the products they were involved in. Interest in textiles trades of all kinds has been growing and there are many MPhil and PhD students working on aspects related to it. Some works list names of people involved which will be useful to members of the Guild. I have not listed the obvious places to look such as census and parish registers, but see the article in the Guild Journal.**

Backhouse, Alison, *The Worm- Eaten Waistcoat*, 2003. George Fettes of York's pawn broker's customer pledge book from 1777-78. It is not a transcription but it has datasets of the names of the customers, how often they used the shop, what they pawned and a list of watch makers with their addresses and numbers. Only the surnames of the pawners are given so it would be necessary to see the original book in the City of York Archives to see if all 196 times Rudd used the shop was the same person or another of the same name.

Burman, Barbara, *The Point of the Needle: Why Sewing Matters*, 2023. An important new book which discusses the role of sewing and its continued importance in our lives on a worldwide basis.

Boyal, Elizabeth, *The Irish Flowerers*, 1971. Covers all types of lace and white embroidery made in Ireland. The trade in white work embroidery was a mirror of that in Ayrshire.

Earnshaw, Pat, *The Identification of Lace*, 1980. Good general guide to bobbin, needle and embroidered net laces with good closeups.

Erhman, Edwina, *The Judah Hayle Samplers*, 2007. A good bit of detective work to uncover the teacher and her pupils behind a series of samplers from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century which have distinctive features.

Grubb, Clodagh, *Samplers & Simplicity in Quaker Ireland*, 2020. Discusses Quaker, dress and household textiles with photographs of a collection of samplers in the Friends Historical Library, Dublin.

Higgs, Edward, *Making Sense of the Census, 1801-1901*, 1989. This sets out the form of the questionnaires sent to all householders in Britain in the first hundred years of the census.

Humphrey, Carol, *Quaker School Girl Samplers from Ackworth*, 2006.

Lukacher, Joanne Martin, *Imitation and Improvement: The Norfolk Sampler Tradition*, 2013. Published in USA but about the samplers of the English county of Norfolk.

Parker, Rozsika, *The Subversive Stitch: Embroidery & the making of the feminine*, 1984. A history of embroidery through its works & tracing the history of women.

Ring, Betty, *Girlhood Embroidery: American Samplers and Pictorial Needlework 1650-1850*, 1993.

Spufford, Margaret, *The Great Reclothing of Rural England: Petty Chapmen and Their Wares in the Seventeenth Century*, 1984. As well as discussing the chapman she transcribes several wills and inventories, and lists the people mentioned.

Staniland, Kay, *Embroiderers, Medieval Craftsmen Series*, 1991. A well-illustrated introduction to this important craft, its makers, and patrons.

Swain, Margaret, *The Flowerers*, 1955. The first book to bring to the fore the Ayrshire Needlework industry and its amazing products.

Tarrant, Naomi E A, '*Remember Now They Creator*': *Scottish Girls' Samplers 1700-1872*, 2014, available as a free Open Source ebook

Tarrant, Naomi, "*Things*", or *Beyond the Paper Trail*; *Journal of the Guild of One-Name Studies*, vol.14, no.9, 2023.

Toplis, Alison, *The Hidden History of the Smock Frock*, 2021. Looks at the history of this male garment seen as a 'folk costume' in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and discusses its making and its influence on later fashion.

Waters. Colin, *A Dictionary of Old Trades, Titles and Occupations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.2002. One of several works listing old trades and crafts.

Walkley, Christina, *The Ghost in the Looking Glass. The Victorian Seamstress*, 1981. The story behind the dressmaking establishments of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the death in 1863 of the seamstress Mary Walkley.

### **Websites and other sources**

**These sources are mainly related to samplers but if you are interested in locating any work by your female ancestors then they are the first places to look. There are other sites.**

Antiquesamplers.org, a free website of a large private collection of 1000+ samplers, mainly from Britain and America but including some from other parts of the world. Good photographs and the pieces are well researched. *Embroidered Stories. Scottish Samplers*, by Helen Wyld, 2018, is a record of an exhibition on part of this collection.

M.Finkel & Daughter, a Philadelphia based dealer who stocks a good selection of mainly American samplers with names and schools. She issues a newsletter *Samplings*, on items she has for sale.

WitneyAntiques.com based in Witney, Oxfordshire, holds a sampler exhibitions most years and produce catalogues to go with them. The research is meticulous and all the pieces are photographed.

### **Two other sites which may be of interest.**

The Sampler Guild. Refounding of an earlier society, it is now holds regular weekly Zoom meetings. Based in the UK but with many overseas members. linda at thesamplerguild.co.uk

The Sampler Consortium. An occasional email list of interesting exhibition, books or other information on samplers and the work of many researchers. Mainly American museum exhibitions. Email lynneanders at samplerconsortium.org if you want to receive it.