

Deb Durkin woven baby wool blanket, circa 1920 -1940

MCC-00400

Finding Aid

**Prepared by
Anne Chamberland, May 29, 2013
Acadian Archives/Archives acadiennes
University of Maine at Fort Kent
Fort Kent, Maine**

Title: Deb Durkin woven baby wool blanket, circa 1920 -1940

Creator/Collector: Debra Durkin

Collection number: MCC-00400

Shelf list #: AX-400

Dates: 1920 - 1940

Extent: 1 box (.10 cubic feet)

Provenance: Material was acquired from Debra Durkin on 24 May 2013. This blanket was bought at a tag sale in the St. John Valley.

Language: Not applicable.

Conservation notes: The woven baby wool blanket was wrapped in acid-free tissue paper and placed in an archival box for preservation.

Access restrictions: No restrictions on access.

Physical restrictions: None.

Technical restrictions: None.

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Separated materials: Not applicable.

Related materials: MCC-00381 Deb Durkin woven wool blanket and catalogue, ca. 1900-1950; MCC-00386 Debra Durkin research paper on domestic textile production.

Location of originals: Not applicable.

Location of copies: Not applicable.

Published in: Not applicable.

Biographical information: Debra Durkin grew up in a household where sewing and knitting were common place activities as her maternal grandmother was a trained tailor who passed the skills onto her daughter who in turn taught Debra. There were always special projects to work on during summers and the holiday season. Her introduction to spinning and weaving in 1980 was a

seamless transition – just more hand work. Primarily self taught in this area, Debra was the founding president of the River Bend Fiber Arts Guild in Chattanooga, TN 1983-1986. During that time the Guild, in partnership with the local history museum, refurbished a 1700's era loom and created a spinning/weaving exhibit in the museum. Upon moving to the St. John Valley, Debra taught spinning and weaving through MSAD #27 from 1991-1994. Her weavings can be found at the Harraseeket Inn in Freeport, ME.

Scope and content: This collection consists of one woven baby wool blanket with light green trim and cotton warp measuring about 38 inches wide x 41 inches long in very good condition. The blanket uses a 2/2 twill weave structure, characteristic of several blankets found in the St. John Valley. The warp is a commercially produced cotton singles, the weft is a handspun wool singles. As per Deb, the wool is characteristic of the type of hand spun yarns found in the Valley.

Inventory:

Item 1: 1 woven baby wool blanket with light green trim and cotton warp.