

Tamar Stone

Brought to Bed

(home birth, antique wood rope bed) © 2006

Spec Sheet

Hand and machine stitched bed coverings. Cotton machine embroidered text.

Antique wood/rope doll bed: 12 1/2" (W) x 18" (L) x 12 1/2" (H)

Pillow Case: (*off-white, cotton window curtain*) 8 1/2" (W) x 5" (L)

Pillow: (*vintage flowered/stripped cotton ticking, hand stuffed with vintage feathers*):
7 1/4" (W) x 4 1/4" (L)

Bedspread: (*vintage white patterned bedspread with hand cut scallop edges*) 25" (W) x 28" (L)

Blanket: (*vintage green wool blanket*) 18" (W) x 19" (L)

Top Sheet: (*off-white, cotton window curtain*) 17 1/2" (W) x 24" (L)

Bottom sheet: (*off-white, cotton window curtain*) 18" (W) x 21" (L)

Mattress: (*vintage cotton ticking pillowcase, hand stuffed with vintage feathers*)
10 1/2" (W) x 16" (L) x 2" (H)

Pillowcase front

It wasn't the size and position
of the women's uterus...

Pillowcase back

...but her ability to make her own
bed that signified recovery.

Pillow front

Brought To Bed

Pillow back

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Bedspread top side

The birth of a child
is a family *event*
and
as such should ideally,
take place at home
as a normal part of life.

Sheila Kitzinger, 1962

Bedspread back side

When the child
was first born
my husband stood
at the head of the bed
with his arm around me,
I looked up at him,
and saw every tooth
in his head, and his eyes
were fixed in perfect delight
on the place
where he could see
the movements
of his child.

Francis Evelyn Prince Cahoon,, 1888

Pop.

The head came out. I felt it turning...
Slurp, the shoulder, then fast,
I could feel the arms and legs and feet
slipping through me.
I immediately went into
an extremely satisfied, peaceful,
fulfilled frame of mind, and
felt a peace that's still with me.

Anonymous mother after home birth, c. 1970's

Blanket top side

He
should seat himself
by the side of the bed,
with his right hand
next to her,
and, his face
opposite hers.
Then passing his hand
under the bedclothes,
after having lubricated it
with lard or oil,
he can proceed with
the examination as if
it were a simple
ordinary proceeding.

Blanket back side

By
exhibiting
no hurry,
and
appearing to think
it is nothing unusual
or
in anyway strange,
the female herself
will cease to think it so
and
will not be flurried
or
shocked.

Matron's Manual of Midwifery,
Frederick Hollick, 1848

Top sheet top side

Q: What is your husband's name?

A: I have never an one.

Q: Were you ever married?

A: No, never.

Q: Have you not been a second time Delivered,
and had Two Children or Twins this month?

A: Yea, I have.

Q: When were they born?

A: On Thursday night last.

Q: Where were they born?

A: On the bed at my Fathers bed foot...

Q: Did you call for help in yor travel?

A: No. There was no body to call but my
Father and Mother and I was afraid...

Top sheet back side

Q: Did you acquaint your Father
or Mother with it afterwards?

A: No, not a Word. I was afraid.¹

Q: Did you not do them to death, by violence,
sitting down upon them, smothering them,
or by any other meanes?

A: No, by no meanes.

Q: Where did you hide them before buried?

A: In the chest there, by my bed.

Q: Who helpt you sow them up in the bag
they were found in?

A: No body.

Q: When did you sow them up in the cloth
they were buried in?

A: On Saturday night last.

Elizabeth Emerson, during her trial,
September 1691²

¹ Elizabeth gave birth silently on a trundle bed at her parents feet, gagging her own pain with
the greater fear of discovery

² She was tried by a jury on September 22, 1691, found guilty of murder. On June 8th she was hung.

*"I believe, the chief thing that hath, brought me, into my present Condition, is my Disobedience to my Parents: I despised all their
Godly Counseils and Reproffs; and I was always of an Haughty and Stubborn Spirit. So that now I am become a dreadful Instance of
the Curse of God belonging to Disobedient Children."* Elizabeth, her last confession June 1691

Bottom sheet *top side*

I did go to the hospital for my
children and stayed 24 hours
to two or three days, but
then we stayed in bed for 10 days.
On the tenth day, they always said,
that's when everything
went back into place.
So we stayed in bed for ten days,
the eleventh day you could get up.
But I guess that is the only time
you got any rest.
It was a good thing you did stay
in bed for ten days.

Dorothy H., age 60 - Indiana

Bottom sheet *back side*

In those days
you had to lie
in bed ten days.
And you mustn't go out,
mustn't do anything...
anyway, as soon as
she'd (the handywoman)
gone home I used to jump
out of bed and dust
all around the bedroom,
y'know and tidy it up, 'cause
the way she'd done it
didn't please me.

Ruby C., born 1900

Mattress *top side*

On the first day
of March, 1854,
we moved into
our own house.
There was just enough
roof to cover our beds,
table, stove
etc,
but no queen was ever
more happy than I was....
On October 12, 1854
our second son
George Franklin was born...
On June 20, 1856
our son Charles Horace
was born...

Mattress *back side*

On April 5, 1860,
our Andrew Jackson
was born...
On May 6th, 1862
our oldest daughter was born,
we named her Mary Frances...
On March 11th, 1864,
our Isabell was born...
On February 8th 1865,
our Warren Grant was born...
On the 6th of December, 1867
(my 32nd birthday)
our Walter Sherman
was born...

Rebecca Hildreth Nutting Woodson