

## **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**

Tamar Stone  
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**Bedsread 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*

**Bedsread 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.<sup>1</sup>

**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 1691<sup>2</sup>

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

<sup>2</sup> She was tried by a jury on September 22, 1691, found guilty of murder. On June 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 1862  
our oldest daughter was born,  
we named her Mary Frances...  
On March 11<sup>th</sup>, 1864,  
our Isabell was born...  
On February 8<sup>th</sup> 1865,  
our Warren Grant was born...  
On the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, 1867  
(my 32<sup>nd</sup> birthday)  
our Walter Sherman  
was born...

*Rebecca Hildreth Nutting Woodson*