

Household Comfort

Tamar Stone

Household Comfort

bed project (doll bed) © 2004

Spec Sheet

Wooden Bed with rope mattress support: 10 1/4" (W) x 20 1/4" (L) x 9 1/2" at headboard (H)

Pillow Case: (*cotton*) 7 1/4" (W) x 4 3/4" (L)

Pillow: (*cotton ticking, poly stuff fill*): 6 1/4" (W) x 4" (L)

Bedsread: (*vintage cotton, cotton trim*) 22" (W) x 31 3/4" (L)

Comforter: (*antique linen, hand quilted, cotton stuffing*) 14 1/4" (W) x 21" (L)

Top Sheet: (*cotton*) 17" (W) x 25 1/2" (L)

Bottom/fitted sheet: (*cotton*) 14" (W) x 23" (L)

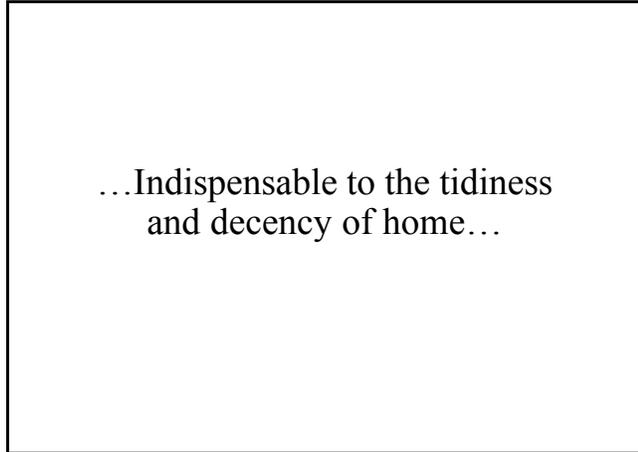
Mattress: (*cotton ticking, hand tufted, cotton stuffing*) 9" (W) x 19" (L) x 1 1/2" (H)

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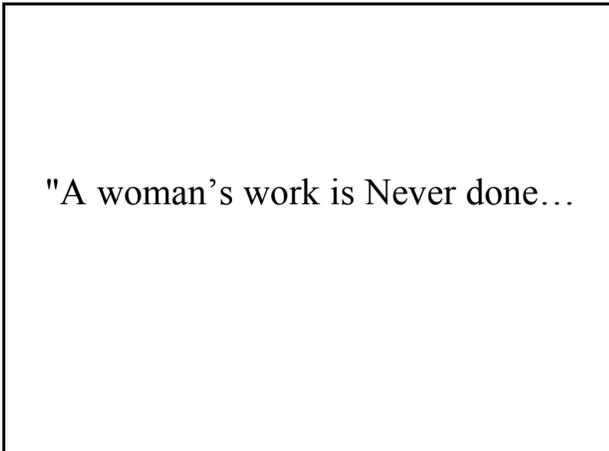
Pillow case - front:



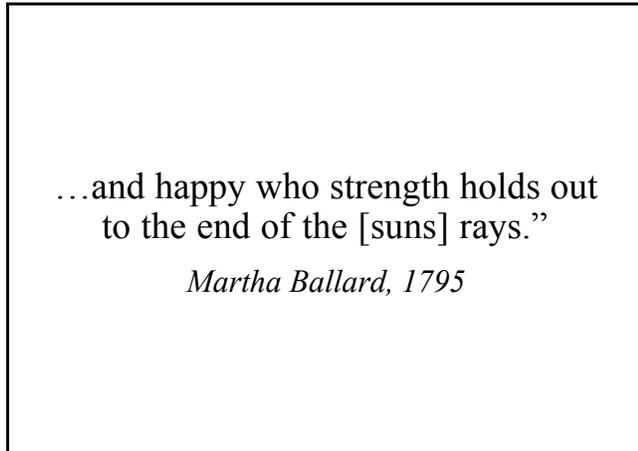
Pillow case - back:



Pillow - front:



Pillow - back:



Bedsread top side

As a natural consequence of our
division of labor on sex-lines, giving to
woman the home and to man the world
in which to work, we have come
to have a dense prejudice
in favor of the essential
womanliness of the home duties....

We have assumed that the preparations
and serving of food and the removal of dirt,
the nutritive and execrative processes
of the family, are feminine functions; and
we have assumed that these processes
must go on in what we call the home,
which is the external expression of family...

Bedsread back side

Even cleaning, rightly understood and
practiced, is a useful, and therefore,
honorable profession.

It has been amusing
heretofore to see how this least desirable
of labors has been so innocently held to be
woman's natural duty.

It is woman, the dainty, the beautiful,
the beloved wife and revered mother,
who has by common consent been expected
to do the chamber-work and scullery work
of the world.

All that is basest and foulest
she in the last instance must
handle and remove.

Charlotte Perkins Gillman, "Women and Economics," 1898

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Comforter top side

“If I’ve got a routine,
I like to try to keep to it,
otherwise I get very disorganized
and upset.

I feel very inadequate
if I can’t live up to the standards
that I have and
I start to feel guilty
as well.”

(Cinema Manager’s wife, mid 20th cen.)

Comforter back side

It is a good plan,
to strip the clothes off your bed
and shake it up
as soon as you rise from it;
by doing it then, your cap protects
your hair from any lint or feathers,
and being lightly clothed,
your movements are perfectly free,
and the glow occasioned by
the exertion makes you
on a cold morning,
feel less dread of cold water.

Mrs. John Farrar, “The Young Lady’s Friend, By a Lady”. 1837

Household Comfort

Flat sheet top side

“Clean sheets
twice a week are
now possible.
Last week, when the dryer
broke down, the sheets
didn’t get changed for eight days.
Everyone complained.
We all felt dirty. I felt guilty.
Isn’t that silly?”

Housewife, 1963

Flat sheet back side

Mrs. B. of Chicago
dropped her bed
on a car parked |
beneath her window.
She explained, “*When
I shake my bedding,
I shake it bed and all.
It just slipped out of my hands.*”

1946

Fitted sheet top side

As sleeping
is one of the
most important functions
of life,
it is necessary to know
how to prepare for it,
and how, if possible,
to maintain a healthful
and
comfortable position
during the hours
of repose...
Somehow, lack of sleep
affects a woman’s looks
more quickly than a man's.

*Harriet Hubbard Ayer, “A complete and
authentic treatise on the laws of health and
beauty” 1899*

Fitted sheet back side

If
a woman
undertakes
homemaking
as her occupation
she should make that
her *business*
and
the possibilities
of this today
are almost
endless...

*Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Conference
on Home Economics, Lake Placid, NY, 1902*

Mattress top side

Mattress back side

Mattresses
should be turned every day,
or at least as often
as every other morning.

It is well to examine
the seams and edges
once a fortnight, and
turn them end for end.

This,
with dusting the bedstead,
will prevent
harboring of insects.
All beds, pillows, etc.,
should be exposed to
a current of fresh air
a few minutes every morning.

Pillows and bolsters
ought to be placed
in the sun now and then,
to remove all tendency
to unpleasant
effluvia.

Godey's Lady's Book, 1855

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