

### **A True Story about a Linen Bed Sheet**

Written in 1960, this transcribed text is from the handwritten note of Anne Wilson's Grandmother, Ruth Gawthrop, to her daughters Barbara and Nancy (Anne's mother):

This old homespun sheet, given to me by Aunts Katherine and Annie Miller, had belonged to their mother, Rebecca Lydia Milligen Miller. This Rebecca Miller – your great grandmother - was married about 1837 – so this sheet could be about 123 years old now (1960).

In those days, the flax was grown in the fields, carded, spun on the old spinning wheels, then woven into material. Quite different from our modern process of going to the store and buying a sheet!

This sheet has made sixteen napkins, eight for each of you, Nancy and Barbie. Several of them were a bit thin in places. I have mended them with threads of the same, also included patches, if further weaving is necessary in time. Each of you have five nice sturdy napkins and three thinner ones.

Hope you may enjoy these! 'Twas fun to get them ready.

Dearest love, Mother

(1960, Kennett Square, Pennsylvania)

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**This linen cloth is now about 185 years old. (June 2022) -aw**