

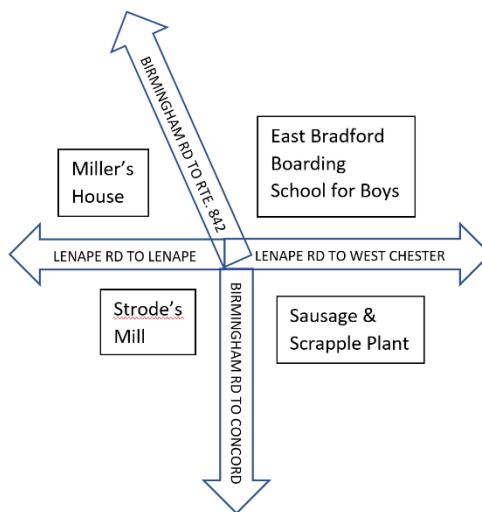
East Bradford Worldly Goods V

Sarah Strode's 1804 sampler (see page 9) is a classic East Bradford needlework. The flower pots with three connected hearts, central two-handled urn, weeping willows, and cartouche enclosing Sarah's name and the date are just a few of the motifs found quite frequently on East Bradford needlework. And, Sarah's sampler is one of a renowned group of four similar samplers wrought in 1804, each of which names the teacher, EW. We'll tell you more about the other three – all made by Jefferis girls – in a future article.



Sarah Strode's 1804 sampler. Chester County Historical Society (1980.502.8)

Sarah (1794-1877) is associated with two East Bradford Historic Resources: the Strode's Mill Miller's House (HR#134) and the residence in which Sarah's father established the East Bradford Boarding School for Boys (HR#141).



In 1796 Sarah's father, Joseph Strode (1766-1827), purchased three lots of land from George and Phebe Entrikin. There was a dwelling on one of the lots, and this was the Strode's Mill Miller's House which then sat on 31 acres. Joseph was the miller at his father's mill, and the young family with two sons and five daughters would have lived in the aptly named Miller's House. Joseph inherited Strode's Mill in 1814 when his father, Richard, died.

Circa 1814, Sarah's father had his serpentine mansion house built on the same 31 acre lot – just across Birmingham Road. In 1817,

Sarah's father advertised a boarding academy which he proposed establishing at his residence in East Bradford. Sarah's father continued to own both the Miller's House and the East Bradford Boarding School until his death in 1827. Sarah's elder brother, Caleb who was a miller, inherited the Miller's House and Strode's Mill. Sarah's younger brother, Joseph C. Strode who had many occupations including teacher, inherited the East Bradford Boarding School for Boys.

Sarah, who never married, and her single brothers and two maiden sisters are listed in the same East Bradford household in censuses through the mid-1850's when Caleb and Joseph C. sold the Miller's House and the East Bradford Boarding School for Boys.



"Strode's Mill Miller's House". Historic Resource #134, Pennsylvania Historical Resource Survey Form



East Bradford Boarding School for Boys". Historic Resource #141, Pennsylvania Historical Resource Survey Form