

*“MUNCY LYRE”*

*Circa 1840*



*Pride of Pennsylvania*

*Pattern Series*

# *“Muncy Lyre”*

## *Circa 1840*

The lyre is a stringed musical instrument similar to a small harp. The lyre has a yoke, or two arms and a crossbar. The strings run from the bottom of the instrument to the crossbar. The majority of lyres are plucked using a pick with some exceptions where a bow is used. The harp is played using the fingers.

The “Muncy Lyre” quilt was passed down through the Gahan (Gahne) family. Thomas Francis Gahan was born in Cherry Township, Sullivan County August of 1843. His parents were descendants from Ireland. He began teaching in local schools at the age of 14. Thomas became the co-principal at the Normal School from 1870 – 1881 beginning in Montoursville, Pennsylvania. In 1877 the Lycoming County Normal School was moved to Muncy, Pennsylvania. Music was taught at the Normal School. Thomas studied law after leaving the teaching profession. He was admitted to the Lycoming County Bar Association and began practicing law in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Thomas F. Gahan married Amanda J. in 1872. The 1900 census showed two children living at home...Thomas F. (age 26), who was a silk mill foreman and Alta B. (age 25), who was a school teacher.



*Original “Muncy Lyre” Block ©1840*