

Life in the Country

Loom with a View

In Northern Vermont, a textile artist weaves a life from community, craft, and days spent tending a 19th-century farm.

Weaver Justin Squizzero (left) with husband Andrew Haggan and dogs Titus and Wolcott



Justin is the only weaver in the country still creating figured Jacquard coverlets—lightweight bedcovers with detailed motifs. One blanket takes at least six days to produce.

It's March in Newbury, Vermont, and at the Burroughs-Hebb-McClintock Farm, weaver Justin Squizzero keeps an ear out for the phone as he works. "It's maple sugaring season," he explains, "so I'm always ready to help out when friends call to say the weather has turned right for tapping."

Country traditions like this are what led Justin, an old-souled Rhode Island native, to fall for Vermont. Introduced to textile making by his grandmother in his teens, he originally moved to the Green Mountain State to apprentice under Kate Smith and Norman Kennedy of the Marshfield School of Weaving. (Justin now teaches there, too.) While house hunting in 2015, he came upon the rambling 1810 farmstead that would become his home and studio. "Having been owned by just two families, it was largely untouched," he says. "I loved it just as it was."

Justin began producing his own textiles in 2017, under company name The Burroughs Garret. ("Garret" refers to the small room tucked under the farmhouse's roof where he often works.) Woven on centuries-old hand looms, his intricate pieces are either reproductions of or inspired by historic designs, with a focus on the popular figured coverlet style of the 19th century.

As for farm work, Justin shares duties with his husband, Andrew, tending to Border Leicester sheep, Berkshire hogs, Jersey cattle, and heirloom poultry. "There are plenty of chores," he says. "But the flexibility and freedom of this life, to roll with whatever needs doing, is hard to beat."



RIGHT: Ancient lilacs and a quarter-acre kitchen garden surround the couple's historic farmhouse. **ABOVE:** Justin weaves an inscription into all his heirloom coverlets. Shop his creations at theburroughsgarret.com.



Justin weaves his most detailed patterns on a loom with a circa-1860 Jacquard head, which is housed in the farmhouse's garret (at left). A second—a common loom purchased while he was a teenager—sits in the home's living room and is used for simpler blankets.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK KAUZLARICH (OPPOSITE PAGE, TOP AND BOTTOM LEFT).