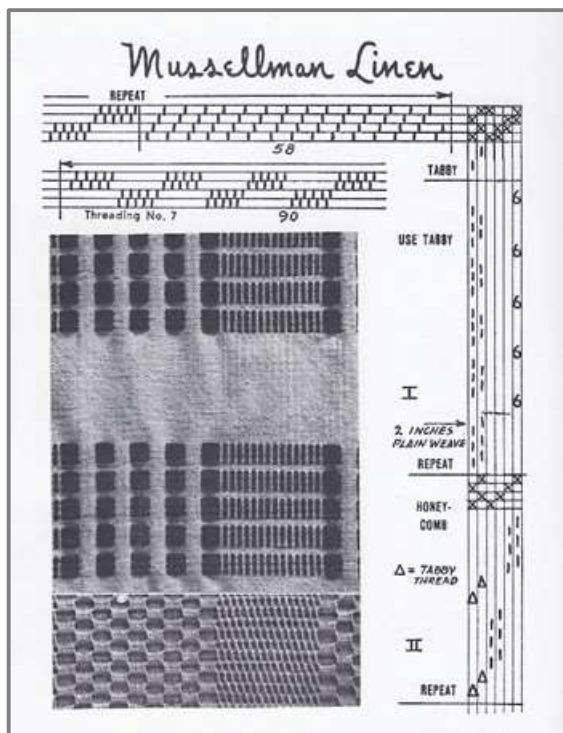


The Shuttlecraft Bulletin; Linen Weaves

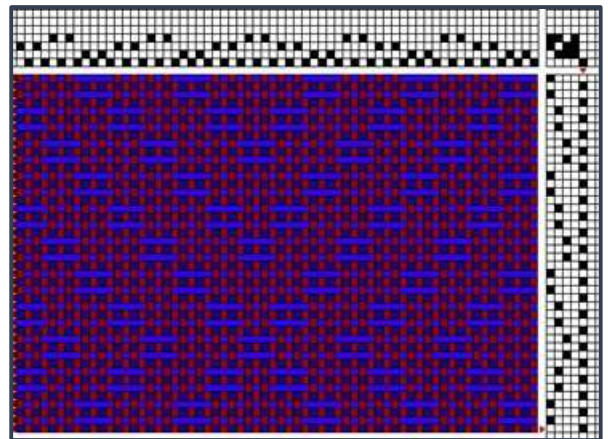
The Shuttlecraft Bulletins covered in this month's article are from February (#17) and May (#20) 1926. The weave structure discussed is linen weave. Mary Meigs Atwater has referred to "linen weaves" before and I wondered, what is a linen weave? Is it a weave appropriate for household linens, such as toweling? Woven in linen thread? Or both? The draft in the May issue is described as an ancient threading for linen weaving and over 200 years old. There is a close approximation of it, including the honeycomb treadling in M. Davidson's *A Handweaver's Pattern Book* (see figure) known as the Musselman Linen (see P. 104), which is included in the section on Monk's Belt.



M. Davidson includes many drafts for what are called linen weaves in several sections of her book, including 1000 Flowers, which is most like overshot, Canvas Weaves, Texture Weaves, Rose Design, Ms and Os, Spot Bronsen and Monk's Belt. Online is a document for a linen weaves

workshop that includes several different structures, all woven in linen, some very fine. Included is huck lace, like the piece that Jeanette showed us at last month's meeting. To see the document, use this link:
<http://www.weavingindiana.org/PDFs/EleanorBest/LinenWeavesWorkshop.pdf>

In the February 1926 issue, Mary Meigs Atwater described the pattern as good for upholstery material, woven in wool or linen or Egyptian cotton. She gave a color combination recommendation, and a setup for a runner or a towel border. Section B of the pattern is a gooseye pattern in Spot Bronsen weave, done up in fine linen, recommended for upholstery. It is shown below:



Section C is woven in fine linen on a fine cotton warp, producing an openwork effect suitable for curtains.

In I. Emery's *The Primary Structures of Fabrics*, the use of the term "linen weave" is described as plain weave, thought to reflect the standard plain weave linen cloth from some particular period in some particular part of the world. Other structures considered to be linen weave is huckaback or huck, frequently described as a weave appropriate for linen towels due to the added absorbency of the floats. "Linen weave" is also used to designate any weave associated with linen thread, although Emery states that the linen connotation has diminished with the increased use of cotton in toweling. So, in answer to my question, linen weave may be any of the above.