

Famous Americans

STORM KING ART CENTER

MOUNTAINVILLE, NEW YORK

PRICE: TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Exhibition
of Paintings
of Famous Americans

A PORTION OF THE
KIRBY COLLECTION
OF HISTORICAL PAINTINGS
OWNED BY
LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

JUNE 25TH TO JULY 28TH, 1961
STORM KING ART CENTER
MOUNTAINVILLE, NEW YORK

The Purpose Behind This Collection

by Allan P. Kirby

THIS was not intended to be primarily an art collection, although artistic merit was always a consideration in selecting these paintings. Nor were they chosen exclusively for historical interest.

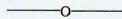
To me it followed logically on my father's purpose in founding the Chair of Civil Rights, where he sought to give lasting expression to his deep personal devotion to those principles of human freedom and dignity that have developed and flourished here in America.

In a sense, the Chair of Civil Rights is also a tribute to the great Americans who conceived our institutions and established our ideals. So it seemed to me that we could all profit from a closer acquaintance with those who have contributed importantly to the shaping of our national character, and I began collecting portraits of some of the historical figures who appeared to me to meet this qualification. The assembly of this collection has been the work of many years, and has been guided by two considerations: In the choice of subjects, I have sought to make it broadly repre-

sentative of the many fields of achievement through which a man can leave a lasting impression on his nation — those who made its ballads as well as those who made its laws. And, since the purpose was to further our acquaintance with the subject, our search was always for the contemporary portrait that seemed to reflect most searchingly the personality of the sitter.

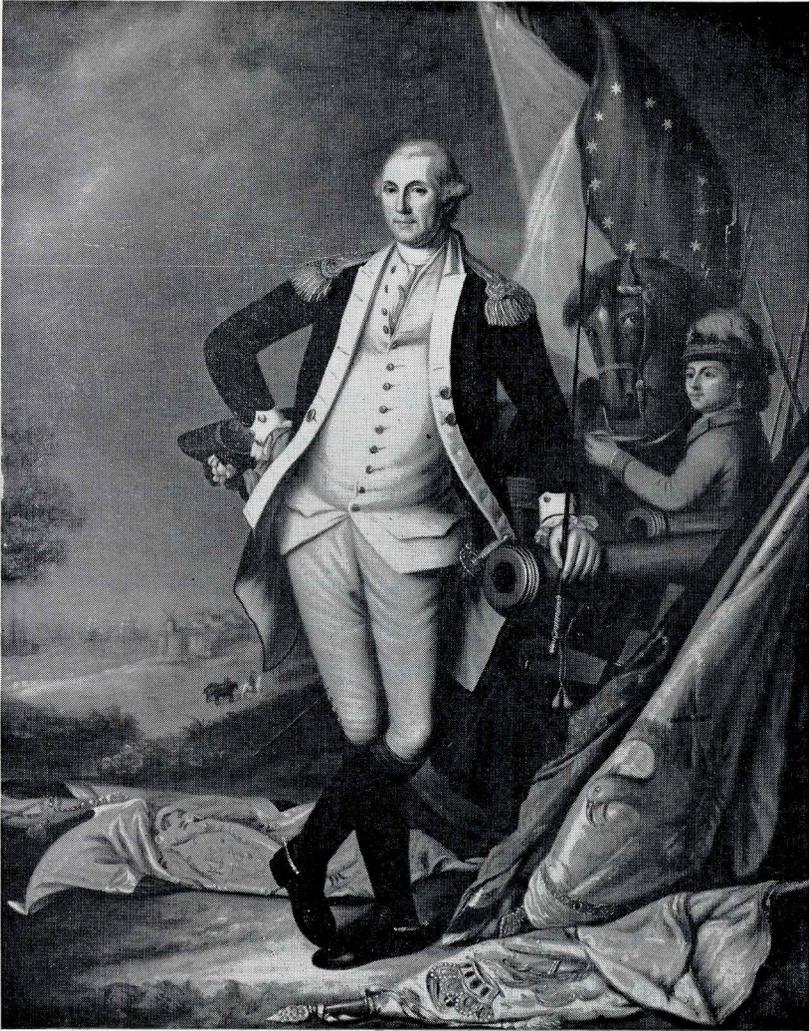
In some instances the choice was so difficult that more than one portrait of a subject has been included.

The main body of the portrait collection is now the property of Lafayette College, and is housed in Kirby Hall. I am deeply gratified that the College, in accepting this collection, has recognized the significance I attach to it and placed it in this most appropriate setting.



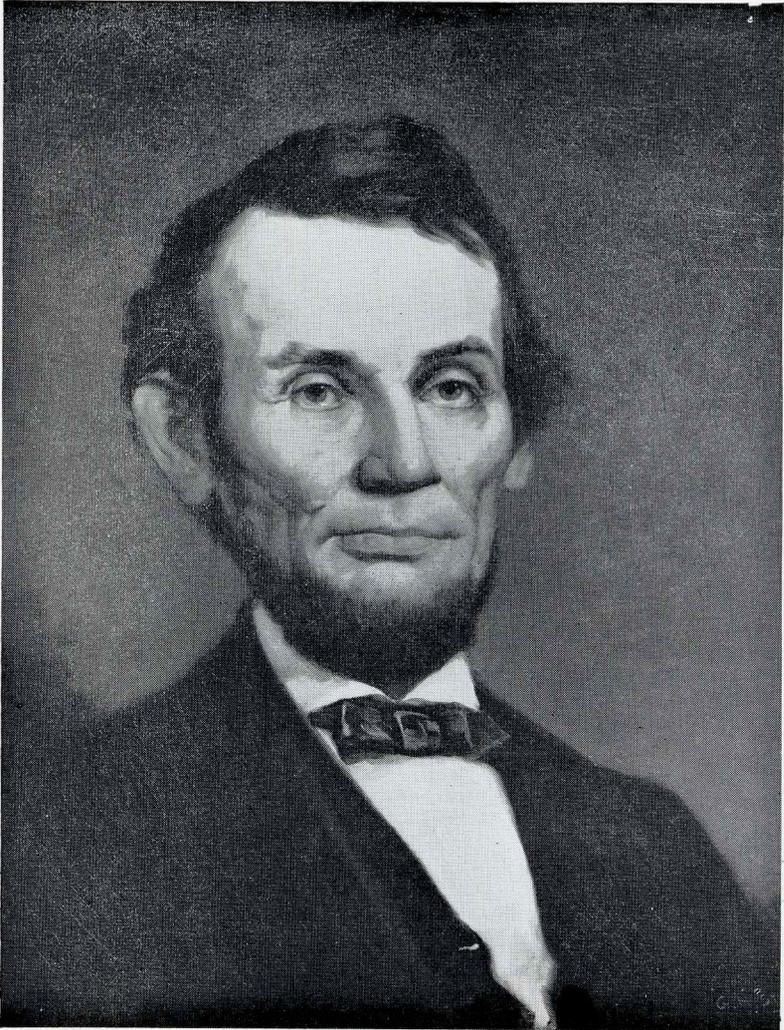
The collection of which this exhibit is a part was assembled for Lafayette College by E. J. Rousuck, Executive Vice-president of the Wildenstein Gallery, New York City, N. Y.

The Storm King Art Center is extremely grateful to Lafayette College for its generosity in lending this remarkable collection of historical paintings. Special thanks also goes to the Art Center's Vice-president, Walter S. Orr, whose interest and efforts made it possible to bring this part of the Kirby Collection to Cornwall.



I. **George Washington 1732-1799**
 by Charles Willson Peale 1741-1827

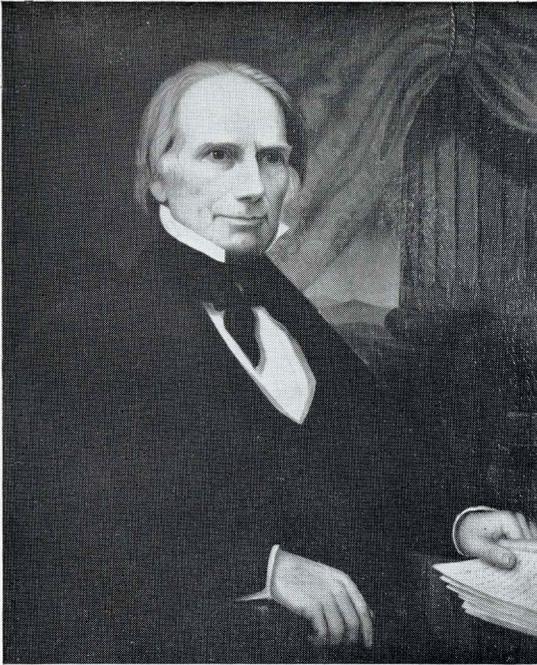
In the prime of manhood and at the pinnacle of military achievement, "the father of his country" is depicted at Yorktown by Peale, one of the greatest American artists of this period. Washington gave this portrait to Lafayette who hung it over his bed at Chateau La Grange in France and there the latter's descendants kept it until 1928.



2.

Abraham Lincoln 1809-1865
by George Henry Story 1835-1923

Here is the great and tragic president as he is universally visualized. This famous likeness was left by Story to his children and is thought to be the original from which the artist copied a number of "the great emancipator."



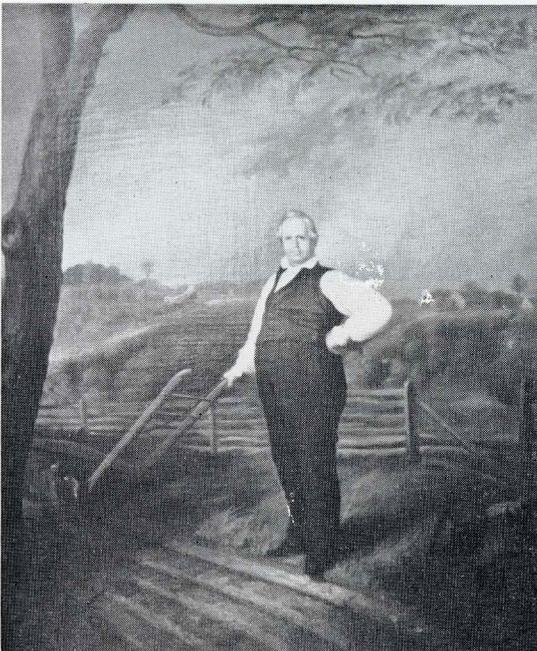
3.

Henry Clay 1777-1852

by

Oliver Frazer 1808-1864

Critics consider this portrait the finest in existence of Clay, "the great commoner" and self-taught statesman who used his brilliant oratory to try to prevent the Civil War. No man in American public life had more ardent friends and supporters nor more bitter enemies.



4.

Joseph Ritner 1780-1869

by

John F. Francis 1810-1885

This portrait symbolically presents Ritner, one of the founders of the Republican Party, on the occasion when he was elected the eighth governor of Pennsylvania, and when he was leaving his plow to take his place as head of the Commonwealth. This is also the earliest known painting of a Conestoga wagon.



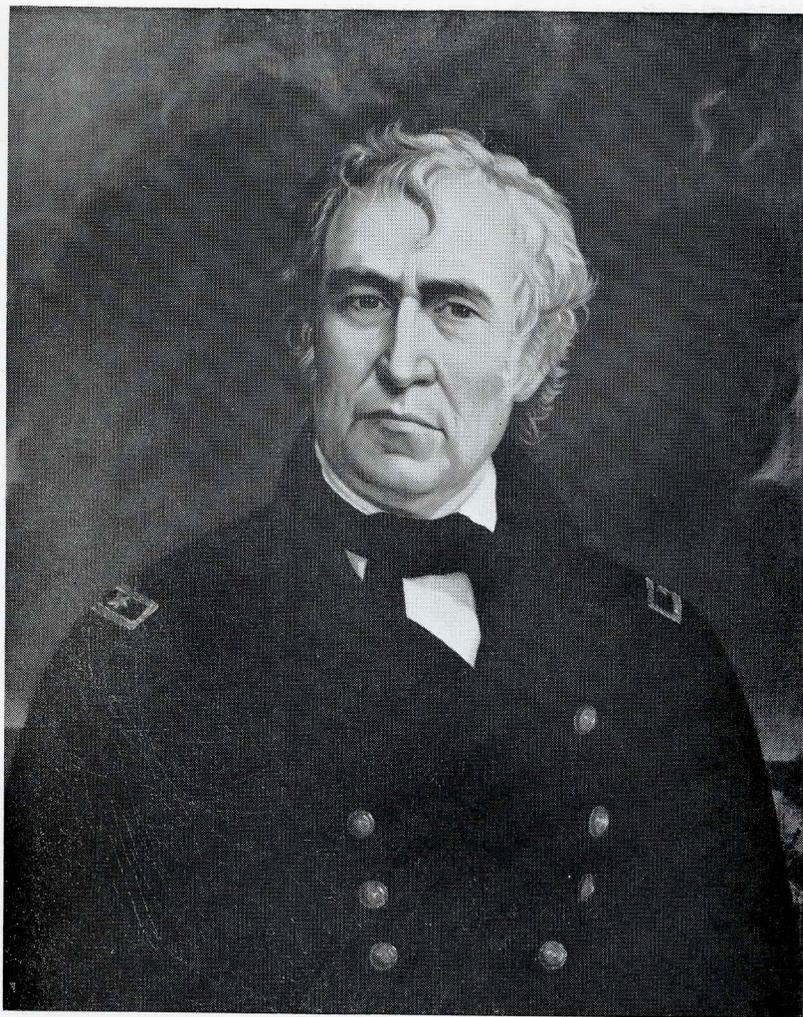
5. William Penn at the Treaty Elm
by Henry Inman 1801-1846

Religious and political freedom were the cornerstones upon which William Penn founded his settlement in Pennsylvania and established the City of Brothely Love. This painting by Inman illustrates his famous treaty making with the Indians.



6. **Andrew Jackson 1767-1845**
 by Rembrandt Peale 1778-1860

Andrew Jackson who twice rode to the presidency via military glory, is presented to posterity in his full military regalia by Rembrandt Peale, the distinguished artist son of the famed Revolutionary painter, Charles Willson Peale. Said to have been the founder of the Democratic Party, Jackson is also reputed to have introduced the spoils system in political appointments. He was the seventh president.



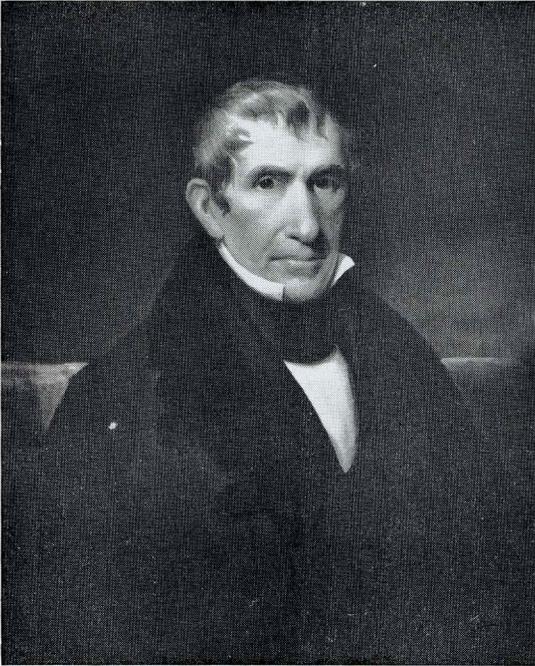
7. Zachary Taylor 1784-1850
by A. J. Wiggin

Courageous "Old Rough and Ready" broke the red man's stranglehold of Indiana Territory, and earned additional glory in the Second Seminole War and the Mexican War. Wiggin began this *lifelike* portrait of our twelfth president in 1850, the year of "Old Zach's" death.



8. **General Ulysses S. Grant 1822-1885**
 by Platt Powell Ryder 1821-1896

Great as a general but inept as a chief executive was Ulysses S. Grant, the eighteenth president. His military strategy decided the issues of the Civil War, but his popularity as a hero waned into critical derision during his second term in the presidential chair. The forceful nineteenth century brush of Ryder, one of the founders of the Brooklyn Academy of Design, favorably presents him in uniform.

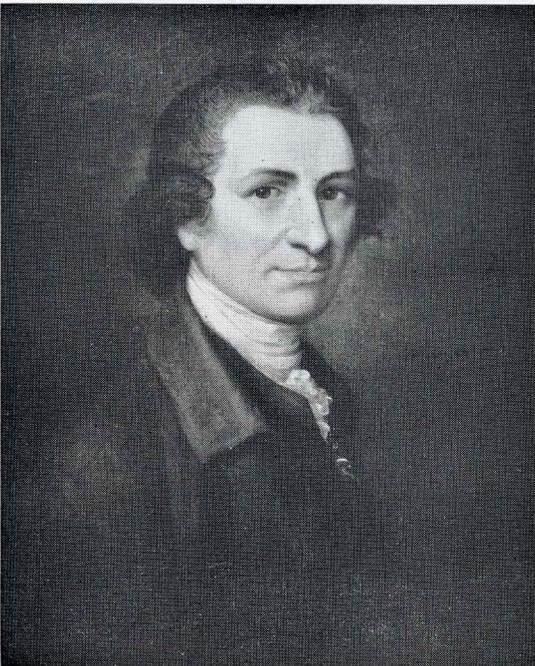


9.

William Henry Harrison
1773-1841

by **Edward D. Marchant**
1806-1887

Although luster to the name of this versatile frontier-gentleman is still echoed mainly from the decisive victory over the Indians at the Battle of Tippecanoe, it should not be forgotten that he was also a steadfast champion of the red man. This soldier, governor, congressman, and senator finally became—for the last month of his life, the ninth president of the United States. Marchant has admirably caught him in the full flush of his physical vigor and national glory.

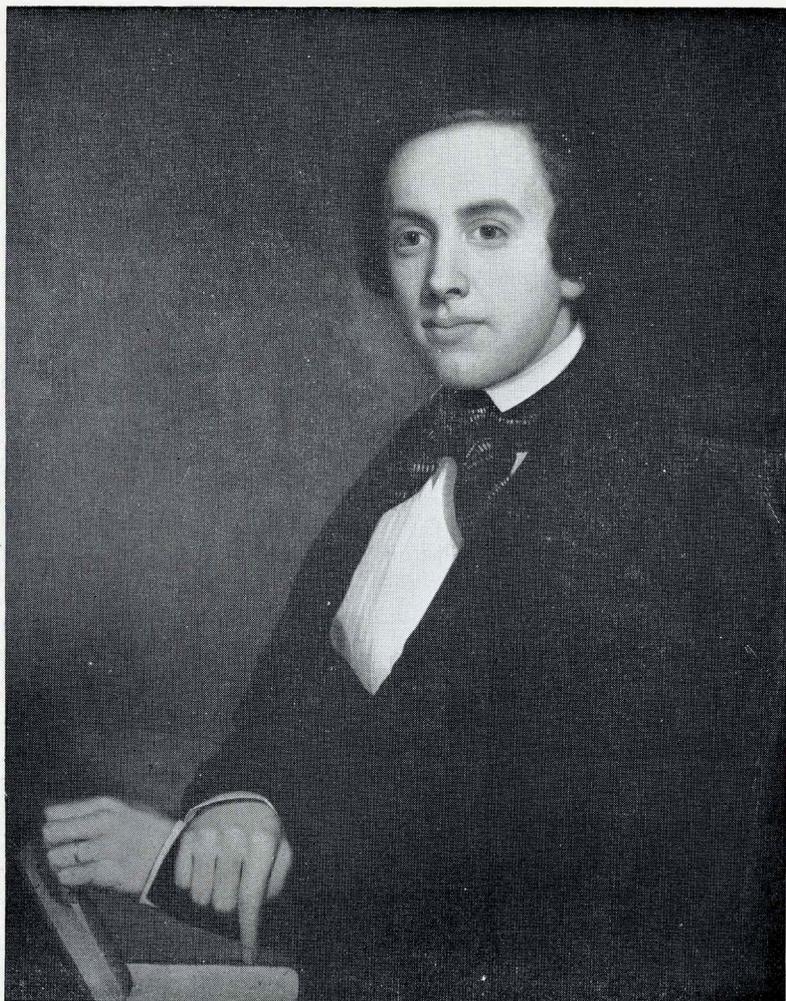


10.

Thomas Paine 1737-1809
by

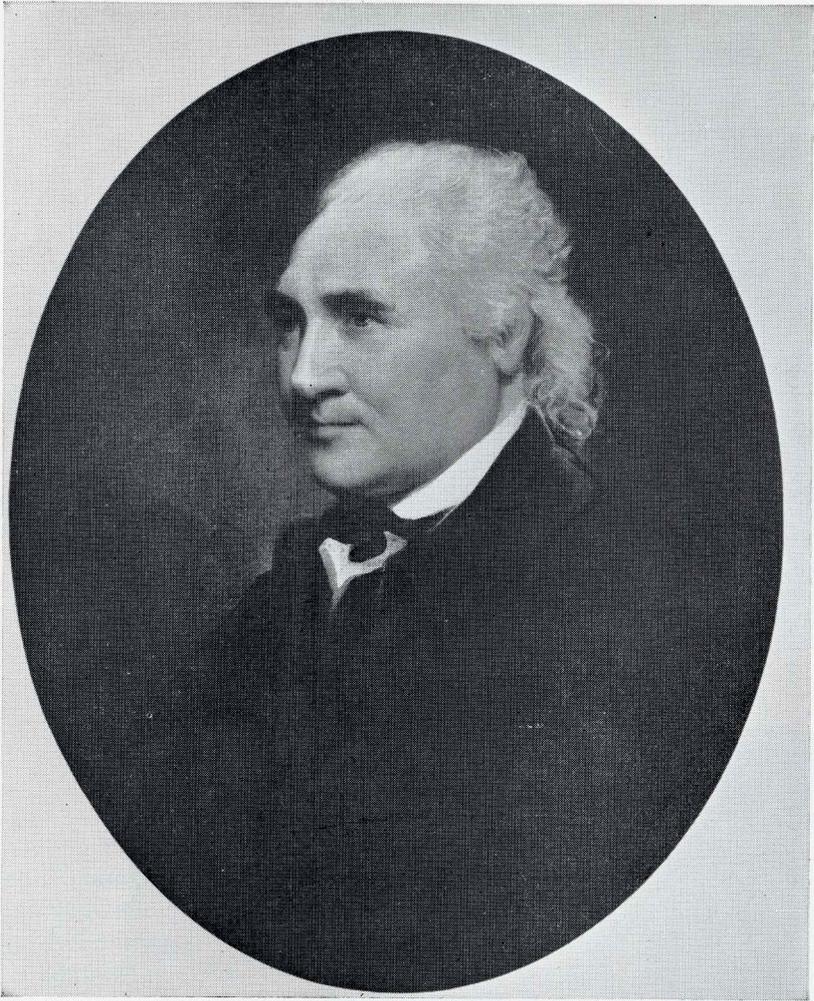
Matthew Pratt 1734-1805

History is indebted to Matthew Pratt, the celebrated colonial artist, for leaving us a portrait of this obscure British immigrant whose inspired pen inflamed the hearts of the colonists with the vision of a free and independent America. Later Paine embraced all of mankind thus in "The Rights of Man."



11. **Stephen Collins Foster 1826-1864**
 by John Vanderlyn 1775-1852

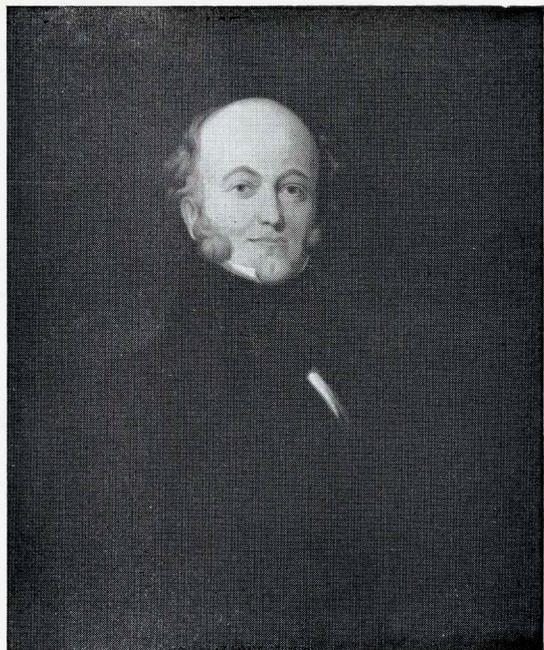
An immortal heritage of folk song was left to America by Stephen Foster, who when weak, deserted, drunken, and poor, died at the age of 38 in a charity ward in New York City in 1864. Vanderlyn, who studied under Stuart, presents a tolerant understanding interpretation of this genius of song.



12.

Colonel Isaac Barre 1726-1802
by Gilbert Stuart 1755-1828

A member of the British House of Commons during Revolutionary Days, Colonel Barre championed the cause of the colonists in their fight against unfair taxation, and he coined the phrase "Sons of Liberty." Three towns: Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, Barre, Vermont, and Barre, Massachusetts, were named in his memory.



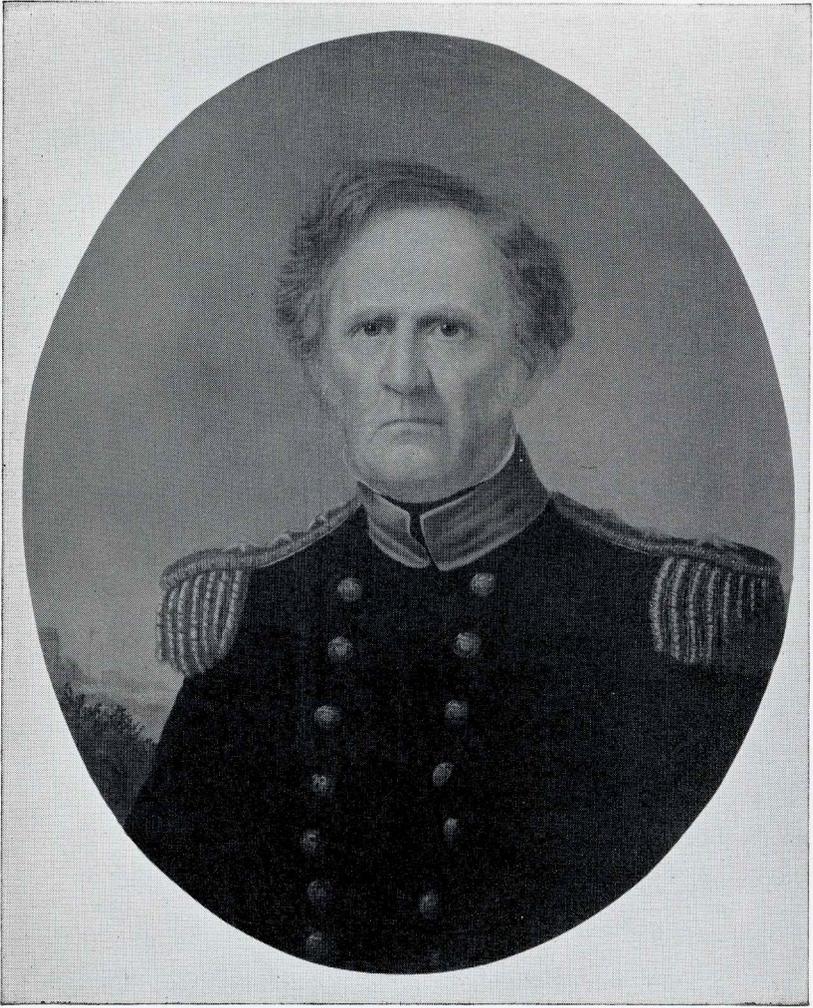
13.
Martin Van Buren
1782-1862
by
Jacob Eichholtz 1776-1842

Eichholtz realistically presents Van Buren, "The little Magician," whose ability as an astute, practical politician pinnaled his career in his election as eighth president of the United States. The artist who painted many prominent men of his day, studied under Stuart and was also influenced by Sully.



14.
John Quincy Adams
1767-1848
by **James Frothingham**
1786-1864

The sixth president of the United States was the son of John Adams, the second president. Frothingham, a pupil of the famous Stuart, admirably reveals this austere conscientious statesman who courted unpopularity and criticism by emphasizing independent voting above party allegiance. He was nevertheless admired for his integrity and ability for he spent his entire adult life in the public service.



15. **General Winfield Scott 1786-1866**
 by Charles Cromwell Ingham 1796-1863

“The hero of three wars” served his country illustriously both in war and peace for nearly half a century—from the time of Jefferson until the time of Lincoln. The War of 1812, the Mexican War, and the Civil War all claim him as hero; but as hero without portfolio he deserves equal honor because several unfought and prevented wars owe their unshed blood to his wisdom and tact. The artist who has perpetuated his likeness was famous for portraiture in his day and was one of the founders of the National Academy of Design.

THE FOLLOWING PAINTINGS ARE ALSO INCLUDED
IN THIS EXHIBITION

- 16 Gouveneur Morris by Thomas Sully
- 17 Lincoln at Gettysburg by Albion Harris Bicknell
- 18 Abraham Lincoln by George Frederick Wright
- 19 John Hancock by Sidney Mason
- 20 Grover Cleveland by Eastman Johnson
- 21 William Tecumseh Sherman by Thur de Thulstrup
- 22 John Marshall by Edward F. Petticolas
- 23 Washington Irving by Chester Harding
- 24 Lincoln at Gettysburg (also small picture under large one of the same title)
- 25 Lafayette by J. P. Davis
- 26 Washington by Sidney Mason
- 27 Washington Taking Leave of his Officers by J. Brownscombe
- 28 Washington Greeting Lafayette by J. Brownscombe
- 29 Landing of Pilgrims by Peter Rothermell
- 30 Washington at Battle of Monmouth Heights by Emanuel Leutze
- 31 Washington at Valley Forge by Alonzo Chappell
- 32 Portrait of Washington by Gilbert Stuart
- 33 Barbara Fritchie by Denis Malone Carter
- 34 The First Thanksgiving by Edwin White

