



Moody Currier

Mood Currier was born on April 22, 1806 in Boscawen, NH. He grew up on his grandfather Putney's farm in Dunbarton. His early formal education consisted of attending the local school only during the six-week winter term. He had an insatiable thirst for knowledge, however, and devoured books by firelight late at night. He eventually graduated from Hopkinton Academy, after which he became a teacher for five years. He put himself through Dartmouth College (graduating with high honors in 1834), after which he resumed teaching at Hopkinton Academy, and later at Lowell (MA) High School.

Currier supplemented his income by writing articles for the New Hampshire Gazette, even as he began studying the law. After his admittance to the Hillsborough County Bar in 1841 he relocated to the Queen City and partnered with attorney George W. Morrison. Currier also served as editor of the *Manchester Democrat*, a weekly newspaper. His skills as a lawyer attracted prominent business clients and the Amoskeag Bank engaged him as cashier in 1852. He later became president of Amoskeag National Bank... founder and manager of People's Savings Bank... treasurer of the Concord Railroad (1871-72)...director of the Concord & Portsmouth Railroad (beginning in 1856)...president of the Eastern Railroad (beginning in 1877)...treasurer of the New England Loan Company (beginning in 1874)...a director of Manchester Mills...director of the Blodget Edge Tool Company...treasurer of Amoskeag Axe Company...and president of the Manchester Gas Light Company (beginning in 1862).

Currier's earliest political activity was in 1843 when Currier was elected clerk of the State Senate. At the time he was a Democrat but, as the Civil War approached, his discomfort over the issue of slavery caused him to align with the Republicans. In 1856 Currier was elected to the NH Senate, becoming its president the following year. In 1857 he also served a term as Alderman in Manchester's Ward 8. He was a member of the Governor's Council (1860-61). He chaired a committee charged with raising and equipping New Hampshire troops for the Union Army during the Civil War (then referred to as the *War of the Rebellion*). In 1884 Currier was elected to a two-year term as Governor at the age of 78. Governor Currier was noted for his literary talents. He published a volume of his own poetry in 1879. He received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from his alma mater, Dartmouth College, and Bates College in Maine (1880).

Currier was a longtime trustee of the Carpenter Memorial Library and donated more than 700 volumes from his private collection. He had served as president of the Art Association and Currier's will provided for the establishment of an art museum in Manchester "for the benefit and advancement of humanity." After his own death and that of his third wife, Hannah A. (Slade) Currier, in 1915, a board of trustees was appointed to carry out the Curriers' wishes.

Although Currier was a generous patron of art and literature, he was not an art collector. His bequest to the museum, however, included a generous endowment for purchasing art. This purchase fund is the chief reason for the high quality of the Currier's collection. The museum has been able to buy choice pieces as they appeared on the market, and these, in turn, have attracted generous donations from private collectors.

Moody Currier died August 25, 1898 in Manchester, NH (age 92).



John Singer Sargent



Winslow Homer



Claude Monet



Georgia O'Keeffe



Tiffany



Henri Matisse

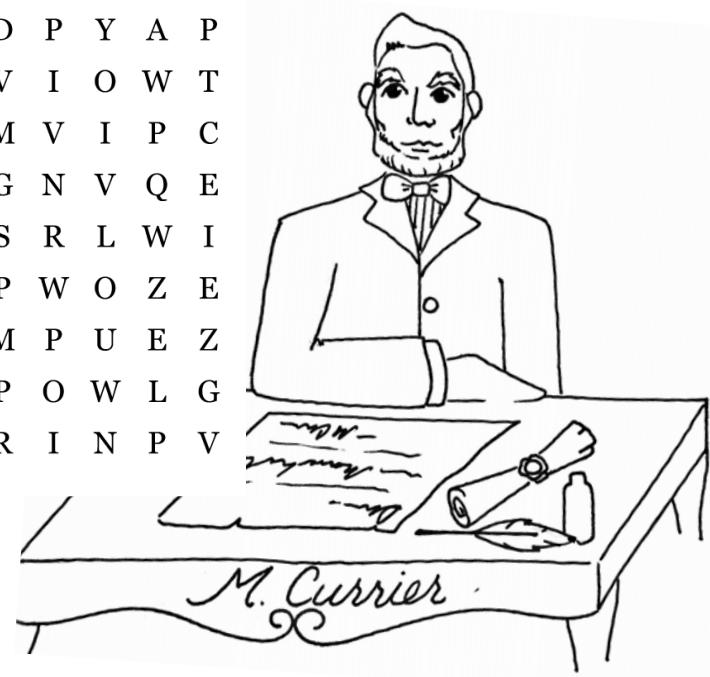


Edward Hopper



Pablo Picasso

I W H X J G Q M A T I S S E P E N N K B
 N K T R E P P O H M I G K H L Q T Z V Z
 P G B A P K J J Y E S C V Y U V S J B G
 P C B G J T O N E M L J Z X L A T X D U
 D H O L R G H G D L R T N D R C Q R M F
 L Z Q C N O N M W T B S F G M G B L D C
 H X R Z M Y M X A I Z W E D A J W N H H
 A P E A L U J O R F J N S G H H O Z E X
 U E M L E C J D D F T C K S X K X G N W
 B F O A Y J C W Q A L Q N P M Z E I R P
 E F H E O E B P F N L K P G I D V W I X
 W E L T X P P P F Y G B Z T U D P Y A P
 F E T F V O I R T B Q Y A A N V I O W T
 Q K J V G H N X W T M T L F I M V I P C
 V O O S S A C I P N U C A S W G N V Q E
 K P A B L O H R E G N I S M R S R L W I
 U J Y F B B O M G B I Y U N L P W O Z E
 R V O I P N G M Z G P Q U O S M P U E Z
 A Y D G Y N U Z Z M D H W Y W P O W L G
 O V L C R Q M M O N E T Z W T R I N P V



Although Moody Currier was not a big art collector, he was a generous patron of the arts. His endowment allowed the Currier Museum to purchase an impressive art collection. Search for some of the famous artists that created art displayed in the museum. See if you can find their first and last names.