

THE PAGEANT OF A NATION

BEFORE THE MAYFLOW

The birthplace of J. L. G. Ferris (Philadelphia) is featured in 27 of the paintings in "The Pageant of a Nation."

Ships are another common subject, or visible in the background, in almost 20 of the pieces. In chronological order the series begins with the ship *La Santa Maria (de la Immaculada Concepción)* in Ferris' *The Eve of Discovery, 1492*.

Growing up in a port city, Ferris would have been familiar with the vessels that transported people and goods to and from the City of Brotherly Love.

Philadelphia was an established center for maritime painting even before Ferris' uncle Edward Moran came to the city in 1855.

Only two of the art pieces (also the first two of the chronological order) in Ferris' collection take place in the 15th century: #1 *The Eve of Discovery* and #2 *San Salvador* memorialize Christopher Columbus' 1492 voyage to the New World.

#1 *The Eve of Discovery, 1492, c. 1908*

"... the kidnapping of Indians was begun, with its alienation of what might have been a peaceful people."

—J. L. G. Ferris

At 2:00 AM on October 7, 1492, a gun sounded from the *Pinta* signaling that land was seen by a crewman. The intent of the voyage was discovery and thus Christopher Columbus became "Discoverer of the New World."

Columbus' expedition was the first recorded voyage to "the shores of America"—and Columbus knew others had preceded him—but his new route would establish trade between the Old and "New" World, although the latter had been inhabited for thousands of years.

A few years later, Amerigo Vespucci's expedition south of the equator resulted in the creation of a map which referred to the continent as "Americus."

#2 *San Salvador, 1492, c. 1930*

"Here, while censer smoke perfumes the soft air, Christoforo Colon takes possession of the land in the names of the Catholic sovereigns of Spain ..."

—J. L. G. Ferris

Twenty-two years after Ferris painted *The Eve of Discovery*, the day of Columbus' landing at Guanahaní (now a part of the Bahamas) on October 12 was captured by Ferris in 1930.

Columbus was accompanied by Captains Martin Alonso and Vicente Yáñez, and pilots Bartholomeo Roldan, Pedro Guitierrez, and Rodriguez Bermejo.

The artist would paint five other scenes in 1930, the year of the artist's death, one of which showcased sea vessels in *Henry Morgan's Knight of the Double Cross, 1670*.

#6 *Hudson the Dreamer, 1609, c. 1908*

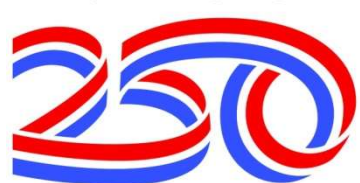
"The scene is the shore of Delaware Bay; behind Hudson with a watch look is Robert Juet, his sailing master."

—J. L. G. Ferris

Cape May peninsula in New Jersey, sighted by Henry Hudson from the *Half Moon* in 1609 and explored by Cornelius Jacobsen Mey in 1621, was first a fishing and whaling center, and in the 1700s a health resort.

Eighty nautical miles from Philadelphia, Ferris and his wife summered at their cottage in the seashore borough in New Jersey as early as 1900.

AMERICA



REVOLUTIONARY
PUTNAM COUNTY



J. L. G. Ferris

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#3 *Laughing Water, 1600, c. 1912*

"At the door of his wigwam
Sat the ancient Arrow-maker,
In the land of the Dacotah,
Making arrow-heads of jasper."

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

#4 *Hiawatha's Wedding Journey, 1600, c. 1923*

"Thus it is our daughters leave us, . . .
. . . Comes a youth with flaunting feathers, . . .
. . . Beckons to the fairest maiden, . . .
. . . Thus it was that Hiawatha
To the lodge of old Nokomis
Brought the moonlight, starlight, firelight,
Brought the sunshine of his people,
Minnehaha, Laughing Water,
Handsomest of all the women
In the land of the Dacotahs
In the land of handsome women."

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

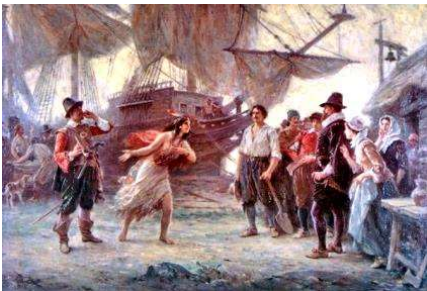
Inspired by *The Song of Hiawatha* by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, the history painter first represented Hiawatha and Minnehaha ("waterfall" or "rapid water" in Dakota) in 1912, and followed up 11 years later with another painting of the couple on their wedding day.

Kechemeché Lodge was the name of Ferris' summer studio on Cape May Point. The Kechemeché were a branch of the Lenni-Lenape, also called the Delaware people.

#9 *Pocahontas, 1614, c. 1921*

"Poor Pocahontas! A short life, and we fear not a merry one."

—J. L. G. Ferris



Previous to *Pocahontas, 1614*, Ferris visualized the daughter of Powhatan (Rebecca Rolfe, her Christian name), in *The Abduction of Pocahontas, 1612*, around 1910.

Another event involving a shipping vessel, Pocahontas was persuaded onto the *Treasurer* by Captain Samuel Argall and held as ransom for stolen tools and guns, and the release of English prisoners.

ALSO FOR THIS TIME PERIOD:



#5 *Virginia Dare, 1605*

#7 *The Anthem "America,"
1610*



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THE PILGRIMS

The first permanent English colony in New England was settled by passengers who arrived on the *Mayflower* ship in 1620.

The Puritan dissenters (Separatists from the Church of England) sought religious freedom, and the non-Separatists were hoping to find a better way of life in the New World.

#10 *The Mayflower Compact, 1620, c. 1925*

"The figure of Mary Chilton is introduced as a representative of the sex which did most of the real work of the Colony (a personal opinion by the Artist, which may be excused if necessary)."

—J. L. G. Ferris

There are no female signatures on the document considered to be the root of American democracy, but Mary Chilton, shown holding her knitting needles, was probably the first female from the *Mayflower* to set foot at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Before the passengers on the *Mayflower* disembarked, 41 of its voyagers signed an agreement: the first government charter for what is now the United States.

John Alden affixes his signature to the compact under the watchful eyes of John Carver (holding his glasses) and Myles Standish, sitting on the left.

A few years later, Amerigo Vespucci's expedition south of the equator resulted in the creation of a map which referred to the continent as "Americus."

#11 *The First Sermon Ashore, 1621, c. 1920*

"Carver in prayer stands before the troop. Standish and Winslow regard him intently. John Alden with folded hands at the right, and Priscilla Mullens wrapped in a furred hide is beyond the fire."

—J. L. G. Ferris

The scene of the divine service shows Leyden Street in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Also known as First Street, it has been continuously populated since the Pilgrims first inhabited it in 1620.

The Pilgrims faithfully observed the Sabbath, and did not work on Sunday.

#12 *The Return of the Mayflower, 1621, c. 1907*

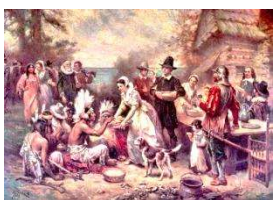
"... The last and only bond between them and the world as they knew it. ...

The Plymouth Colony had the bad fortune to land on an unproductive soil in a climate which offered sunstroke in the summer and an arctic cold in a long winter."

—J. L. G. Ferris

The Captain of the *Mayflower* offered to take any of the pilgrims back with him, but they all chose to stay.

ALSO FOR THIS TIME PERIOD:



#13 *The First Thanksgiving, 1621*



#15 *An Idyl of Tinicum, 1645*



#14 *The Return of Miles Standish, 1622*



#16 *The Witch Hunt, 1650*



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TWO MID-ATLANTIC STATES

The 11th state to join the union (July 26, 1788) was originally called New Netherland. In 1664, the colony became the Province of New York when Peter Stuyvesant surrendered the settlement to the Duke of York, the brother of King Charles II.

#17 *The Fall of New Amsterdam, 1664, c. 1917*

"Stuyvesant stumped back and forth through the streets of New Amsterdam swinging his cane about his head, cursing the English and calling upon his countrymen to rally and drive them back into the sea."

—J. L. G. Ferris

The Dutch citizens implored Stuyvesant, an honest despot, not to resist the overwhelming invading British force of King Charles II.

The man with the peg leg conceded, signing a certificate of consent. The English took control without a shot being fired.

The same year that King Charles II granted his brother, James, New Netherland, which included parts of Pennsylvania, the Duke of York took ownership of the west bank of the Delaware River.

#19 *The Birth of Pennsylvania, 1680, c. 1925*

"No man is fit to command another that cannot command himself."

—William Penn

Quaker leader William Penn received a land charter from Charles II in exchange for a debt of £16,000 owed to William's father Admiral Penn.

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (Penn's woods) was promoted as a refuge for Quakers and members of other religious denominations.

#20 *The Landing of William Penn, 1682, c. 1919*

"It may be that our concern for the woes of the Plymouth settlers may have made us forget that the trials of the Quakers and other colonists were less. Thirty died of smallpox . . . and many more during the winter."

—J. L. G. Ferris

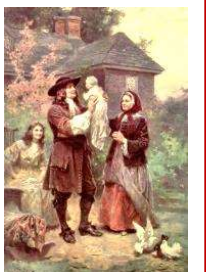
The land west of the Delaware River had settlers before William Penn arrived, however 1682 is the year associated with Philadelphia's founding and incorporation.

ALSO FOR THIS TIME PERIOD:



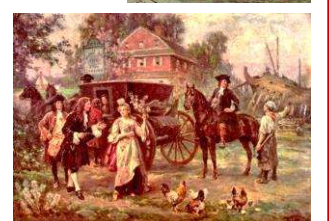
#18 *Henry Morgan's Knight of the Double Cross, 1670*

#22 *The American Penn, 1700*



#21 *Captain Kidd in New York Harbor, 1696*

#23 *On the Road to Penn's Manor, 1701*



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PHILADELPHIA

The state motto for the second colony admitted to the union (in 1787) is "Virtue, Liberty, and Independence. Philadelphia, the birthplace of Jean Leon Gerome Ferris, hosted the first Continental Congress in 1774.

In July of 1776, the Second Continental Congress, also convened in Philadelphia, adopted the Declaration of Independence at the Pennsylvania State House, later known as Independence Hall.

#25 *Building the Cradle of Liberty, 1732, c. 1917*

"Ground was broken for the building [*Independence Hall*] in 1732, the year our Washington was born, and completed in 1753, the year he received his first military commission.

—J. L. G. Ferris

Architect Andrew Hamilton is shown consulting a building foreman in front of the construction of Hamilton's Independence Hall.

To the right is Hamilton's coach—one of only five in Philadelphia at the time.

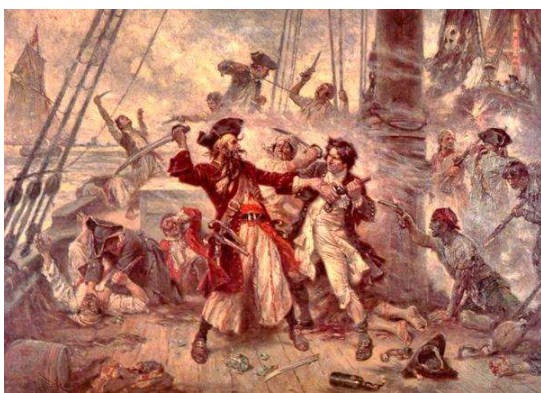
#26 *Franklin's Bookshop, 1745, c. 1910*

"The Body of B. Franklin, Printer Like the Cover of an old Book Its Contents turn out And Stript of its Lettering & Guilding Lies here. Food for Worms For, it will as he believed appear once more In a new and more elegant Edition corrected and improved By the Author."

—Benjamin Franklin

Ben Franklin was one of the publishers of the *Pennsylvania Gazette* which commenced in 1729. In 1732 he published *Poor Richard's Almanac*. He wrote philosophical essays as well as anything that would earn him an honest penny. He modernized Pennsylvania and made it at the time of the Revolution the foremost American colony.

ALSO FOR THIS TIME PERIOD:



#24 *Capture of the Pirate Blackbeard, 1718*

"Blackbeard often walked the streets of Philadelphia and was well-known, but was too much feared to allow of his arrest."

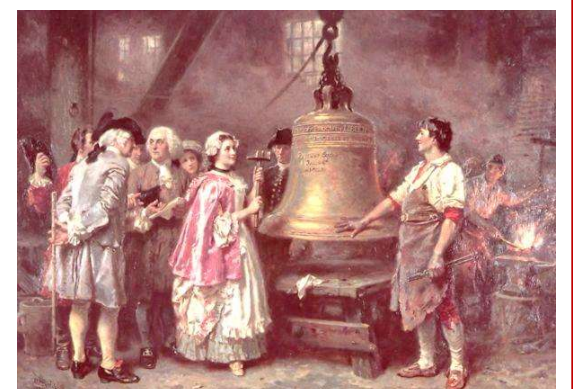
—J. L. G. Ferris



#28 *Evangeline, 1750*

#29 *The Liberty Bell's First Note, 1753*

In 1778, the bell was moved from Philadelphia to Allentown until the end of the Revolution.



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GEORGE WASHINGTON

#27 *The Call of the Sea, 1747*

"George's mother let out at once for Mount Vernon . . . He was drest in his uniform but his mother's tears prevailed and he gave up his commission."—J. L. G. Ferris



#30 *Washington's Courtship, 1758*

[After their engagement,]
"The lovers did not meet again until their marriage on the following 6th of January 1759."—J. L. G. Ferris

#31 *Here Comes the Bride, 1759, c. 1930*

". . . both bride and groom were richly and tastefully dressed. Martha . . . a member of the best balanced society . . . she proved the ideal wife for Washington. As for the hero of Fort Duquesne, his fame had gone far and wide."

—J. L. G. Ferris

#32 *Her Weight in Gold, 1771*

"Anthony Morris" (of Philadelphia) is the name on the building in the background. His granddaughter, Sarah Richardson, married Nicholas Wain. Ferris depicts settlement of a dowry with the weight of the future bride.



#33 *Washington in Bartram's Gardens, 1774, c. 1929*

"Washington knew Bartram well and a great many of the plants, exotic and native, which graced Mount Vernon in 1785, were obtained from Bartram's Garden."

—J. L. G. Ferris

Washington visited the well-known botanist, John Bartram, while attending the first Continental Congress in Philadelphia.



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#34 *Liberty's Pulpit*, 1775, c. 1921

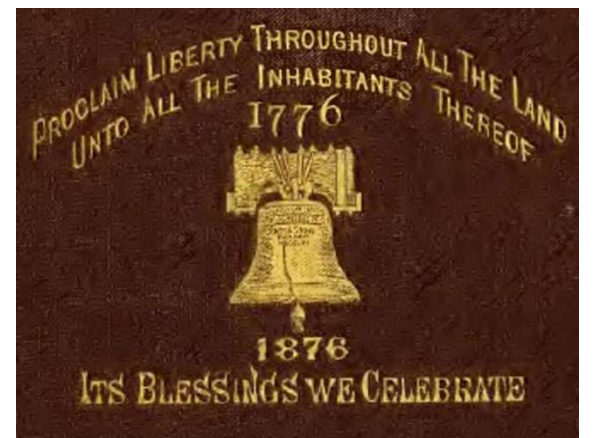
"The excitement of the revolutionary ardor of the stirring days of 1775 is effectively dramatized in the pose of the orator."

—J. L. G. Ferris

This year, 2026, marks the 250th anniversary of the year of the Declaration of Independence.

Jean Leon Gerome Ferris was 14 years old when the United States International Exhibition was held in the year of the nation's centennial, 1876, in Philadelphia (the place of Ferris' birth and where the Liberty Bell was rung for two hours in July of 1776).

No doubt Ferris was inspired by his father Stephen James Ferris, who created *The Retreat of the British from Lexington* for the Centennial Exposition, when Gerome began depicting early American history such as his *Molly Pitcher at the Battle of Monmouth* in 1892.



Facsimiles of the Liberty Bell were on exhibit at that first World's Fair held in the United States in 1876, and a portion of another symbol of liberty, which would be dedicated in New York harbor ten years later, the arm and torch of the Statue of Liberty.

The scene depicted in Ferris' painting of *Liberty's Pulpit* takes place in 1775 in the town square of Plymouth, Mass.,



where the famous boulder was moved

"to incite the people to protest."

The year 1921 was the busiest for the Ferris patriotic series (1905–1930). Besides *Liberty's Pulpit*, he gave us:

- #5 *Virginia Dare, 1605*
- #7 *The Anthem "America," 1610*
- #9 *Pocahontas, 1614*
- #16 *The Witch Hunt, 1650*

- #24 *Capture of the Pirate Blackbeard, 1718*
- #27 *The Call of the Sea, 1747*
- #32 *Her Weight in Gold, 1771*
- #35 *The Declaration of Independence, 1776*

- #42 *The News of Yorktown, 1781*
- #73 *Lincoln and the Contrabands, 1863*
- #78 *Sunk Without a Trace, 1917*

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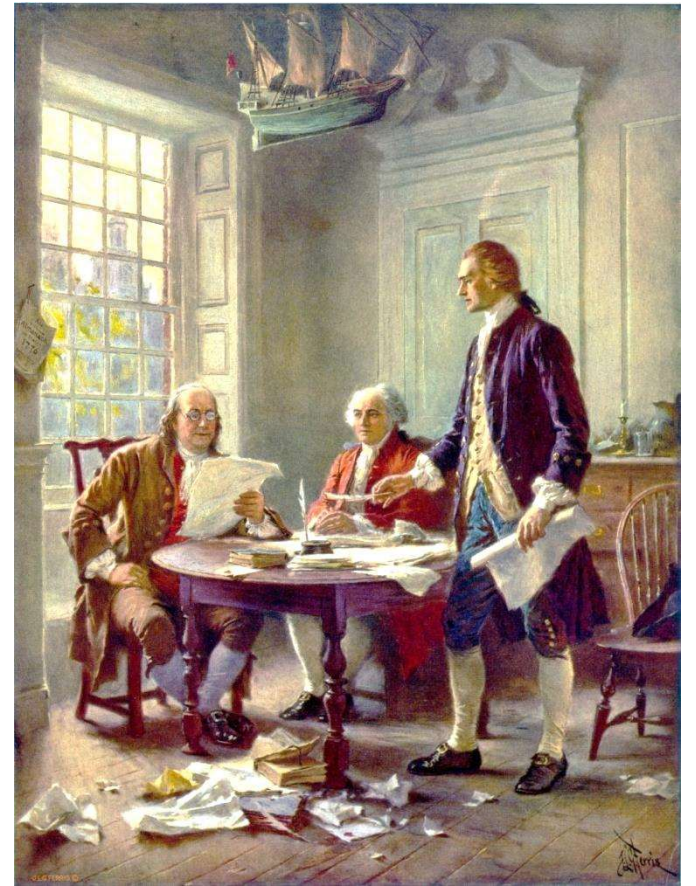
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

#34 *Liberty's Pulpit, 1775*, is shown at the beginning of this exhibit. It is one of Ferris' ten paintings featuring scenes for the years 1775 to 1781.

#35 *The Declaration of Independence, 1776*.

“Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Adams meet at Jefferson's lodgings, on the corner of Seventh and High (Market) streets in Philadelphia, to review a draft of the Declaration of Independence.”—Library of Congress

(Numbers 35 and 36 are not included in this exhibit of the [Ryder collection](#) of Jean Leon Gerome Ferris artwork.)



#36 *The Christening, 1777*, perhaps naturally, was probably the first in the [American history series of 78 works](#) by the painter historian. It takes place in the city of Ferris' birth, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the time of the British occupation of the city during the American Revolution. Ferris wrote:

“Howe's army . . . made Philadelphia a city of gaiety for some and misery for most; the British officers still refused to take the war seriously and spent most of their time in amusement with the society the town afforded.”

#37 *Betsy Ross, 1777, c. 1912*

“. . . in her home . . . stars were cut in five points with one slash of the shears. . . Mrs. John Ross . . . kept a little shop on Arch Street.”

—J. L. G. Ferris

By a resolution of Congress, Betsy Ross' design (based on a drawing prepared by George Washington, Major Ross, and Robert Morris) was chosen for the first flag of the United States. Red-and-white stripes are also a feature of the Washington coat of arms.



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#38 *A Ball at General Howe's Headquarters, 1777.*

"Peggy Shippen . . . is seen stepping from a sedan chair. . . Major Andre in the scarlet coat attends her. . . A British officer writes in October: 'I cannot say much for the town; till we arrived I believe it was a very populous city [*Philadelphia*], . . . it is thinly inhabited and that only by the *canaille* and the Quakers, whose peaceable disposition had prevented them from taking up arms and thus dawn upon them the displeasure of their countrymen.'" -J. L. G. Ferris



The house occupied by General Howe belonged to Richard Penn and was lived in after Howe's withdrawal by Benedict Arnold. Later, it was also known as the President's House, the third U.S. Executive Mansion.

#39 *Before the Dawn, 1777, c. 1912*

"Her constant encouragement of her husband in that hour of trial is the subject of our picture."

—J. L. G. Ferris

Not only did Martha Washington join her husband at Valley Forge in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, she visited him at other winter encampments throughout the Revolution.

Shortly after she arrived in February of 1778 at Valley Forge, she arranged a birthday party for the General. Martha socialized with the spouses of other officers, including Lucy, wife of General Henry Knox, and Kitty, wife of General Nathanael Greene.

JOHN PAUL JONES
"I have not yet begun to fight."

#40 *The Ship that Sunk in Victory, 1779, c. 1917*

"Commodore Jones and [British] Captain Richard Pearson watch from the *Serapis*: 'No one was left aboard the *Richard* but our dead. To them I gave the good old ship for their coffin . . . I bequeathed to my immortal dead the flag they had so desperately defended for their winding sheet.'"

—J. L. G. Ferris

#41 *Paul Jones and Louis XVI, 1780, c. 1920*

"This was the first instance in the history of France of its bestowal upon a citizen of a foreign state, and it is entitled to him all the rights, privileges and protection of a titled subject of the King of France. . . Paul Jones is the artist's favorite hero."

—J. L. G. Ferris

The Father of the American Navy uttered his famous War for Independence quotation during the North Sea Battle of Flamborough Head. The American victory and the capturing of the British vessel *Serapis* gained Jones the French Royal Order of Merit, and Benjamin Franklin and Marie Antoinette were present to witness the event at the Palace of Versailles in 1780.

Ferris said that his favorite hero, John Paul Jones, "inflames the blood."



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GEORGE WASHINGTON

"George generally carries out whatever he undertakes."

—Mary Ball Washington



#42 The News of Yorktown, 1781

"The scene depicts George Washington's mother standing on a porch at the Village of Fredericksburg, getting news from the front." —The Smithsonian

#43 The Victory Ball, 1781

occasion that General Washington danced a Minuet with Mrs. Willis. It closed his dancing days."

—J. L. G. Ferris



#44 The American Cincinnatus, 1783, c. 1919

"Never had man more cause for serenity of mind and perfect gratitude. George Washington was cultivating a farm with his own hands during a break in public service."

—J. L. G. Ferris



#45 Mount Vernon and Peace, 1784

"Lafayette's last visit to Mount Vernon. A game of 'Whist' of which Washington was very fond. Martha Washington sits with her back toward us; Washington at her right and Lafayette at her left. The identity of the two young ladies not revealed by the artist."

—Annette Ryder Ferris

#64 Christmas at Mount Vernon, 1798, c. 1911

"The new Virginia Reel is started and the young men do their best to decoy the maidens beneath the mistletoe."

—J. L. G. Ferris

In contrast to #42, *The Victory Ball, 1781*, George Washington stands on the left (in black) waving off an invitation to join in with the young couple on the dance floor.



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LIFE AFTER THE REVOLUTION

#49 *Franklin's Homecoming, 1785, c. 1923*

"My son-in-law (Richard Bache) came in a boat for us; we landed at High Street wharf, where we were received by a crowd of people . . . and accompanied with acclamations quite to my door."

—Benjamin Franklin

Franklin's sedan chair, with porters, awaits his arrival on a dock in Philadelphia. Sarah Bache (daughter) walks with the Sage of Philadelphia's grandson, Benjamin Franklin Bache, who accompanied his grandfather to France when the boy was five years old (1776).

#52 *Dr. Franklin's Sedan Chair, 1787, c. 1919*

"The Sage, afflicted by gout, is taking the air at late afternoon in the State House yard, then a favorite promenade for all classes.

He enjoyed all of the popularity due to his successful French alliance."

—J. L. G. Ferris

Dr. Franklin needed a chair to take him to the boat that left France in 1785. His gout limited the time he spent standing, and he remained in the sedan chair in the chamber of the State House during the Constitutional Convention.

#53 *Paul Jones at the Constitutional Convention, 1787, c. 1917*

". . . from July to November 1787, Paul Jones was the most attractive and most widely celebrated personage in the United States."

—August C. Buell

Benjamin Franklin and John Paul Jones, seen together with George Washington in the State House in Philadelphia, were diplomats of the French Alliance during the Revolution. The Father of the American Navy, Jones was only 45 when he died in Paris in 1792.

#54 *The Marriage Contract, 1789, c. 1911*

"Wedding entertainments were very expensive . . . house of the parents would be filled with company . . . for two days punch was served with profusion . . . gentlemen on the first floor . . . ascended to the second floor where they saw the bride . . . every gentlemen would kiss the bride . . . for two weeks large tea parties . . . [food and drink] sent out . . . to the neighborhood."

—J. L. G. Ferris

Thomas Jefferson (standing on the right behind the couple) witnesses his daughter signing a marriage document.



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GEORGE WASHINGTON

Although Jean Leon Gerome Ferris' favorite hero was John Paul Jones, "The Hero of the Revolution" is the subject, or can be seen, in 26 of the painter's creations—that's one less than the 27 paintings of scenes taking place in Philadelphia or Pennsylvania. Eight of the works of art show Washington in Philadelphia, particularly during his presidency, including:



#56 *Washington's Inauguration, 1793*

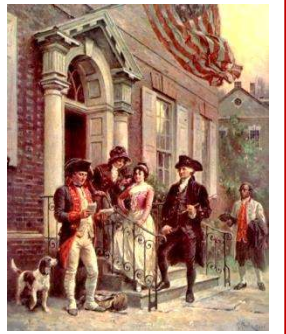


#59 *Washington at Independence Square, 1796*



#57 *Washington at Christ's Church, 1795*

#60 *News from Mount Vernon, 1796*



ALSO FOR THIS TIME PERIOD:



#46 *Washington's Silver Anniversary, 1784*

#58 *The Painter and the President, 1795*



#47 *Home for Christmas, 1784*

#61 *The Christmas Coach, 1797*



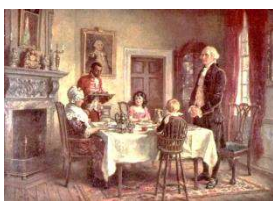
#48 *The Favor of the Hunt, 1785*

#62 *Under My Own Vine and Fig Tree, 1798*



#50 *The Mount Vernon School House, 1786*

#63 *The Mount Vernon Yule Log, 1798*



#51 *The Day's Beginning, 1786*

#65 *Washington and his Family, 1798*



#55 *Washington's Farewell to his Mother, 1789*

#66 *Washington's Last Birthday, 1798*



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EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY



#67 *The Bonapartes, 1804.*

Jerome, youngest brother of Napoleon Bonaparte, visited Philadelphia in 1803, married Elizabeth Patterson from Baltimore, and they stopped in Philadelphia on their way to New York to change horses at a post house.

Jerome Bonaparte had taken refuge in the United States during the Napoleonic Wars. A furious Napoleon rejected Jerome's American wife. Jerome married again to support his brother's dynastic ambition.

#68 *The Girl I Left Behind, 1812.*

The scene takes place on Pine Street in Philadelphia where a recruiting office was set up in the Commissioners Hall during the War of 1812.

The city was an essential port for the Navy. Two thousand free Black people were organized by James Forten, an African American businessman, to strengthen fortifications on the Schuylkill River.



#69 *Perry on Lake Erie, 1813, c. 1911*

"We have met the enemy and they are ours."

—Oliver Perry

Captain Oliver Hazard Perry's victory over an English squadron was a central episode in the War of 1812. On September 10, 1813, the "Hero of Lake Erie" handed a Royal Navy squadron a defeat for the first time in history.

His battle flag "DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP" was also his battle cry when he had his men row him through heavy gunfire to take command of the USS *Niagara*, and continued the battle until the surrender of the British.



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J.C. Ferris

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The 16th president of the United States was captured in five of Ferris' paintings. Two of the portraits take place in Ferris' home state: #72 *Lincoln at Independence Hall* (in Philadelphia) and #74 *The Gettysburg Address*.

#70 *Lincoln the Rail Splitter, 1833, c. 1908*

"In 1860, Lincoln was eager to win the support of the Illinois delegates who would later attend the Republican National Convention in Chicago. Abe's backers looked for a way to reconnect their man with his genuinely humble roots."

—*Smithsonian magazine*

Ferris' *Rail Splitter* is similar to the Southeast Museum's sculpture *Young Lincoln*. Lincoln as a young adult in the painting is laboring at creating rails for a fence, but close by is an open book, which is a prominent item in the sculpture.

At the Illinois State Republican Convention in 1860, two fence rails were brought in to introduce the "Rail Candidate."



#71 *Letting Him Go, 1861.*

Lincoln took office in March of 1861, and the next month Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter, in South Carolina, igniting the start of the American Civil War.

The young man in the painting is a militiaman who has enlisted in the Northern Army and his fiancée is a southern girl.

#72 *Lincoln at Independence Hall, 1861, c. 1908*

"It was that which gave promise that in due time the weight could be lifted from the shoulders of all men and that all should have an equal chance."

—Abraham Lincoln

The day before Lincoln's last inaugural journey, he gave a speech on George Washington's birthday at Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Lincoln left Springfield, Illinois, on February 11, 1861, and he was advised to leave Philadelphia on February 21 due to a possible assassination attempt, but he refused. "I have promised to raise the flag over Independence Hall tomorrow morning, and to visit the Legislature at Harrisburg."



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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

#73 *Lincoln and the Contrabands, 1863, c. 1921*

"The war gave slaves a chance to escape into Union camps. . . . A newspaper stated that the fortifications built to defend the South were built by slave labor and slaves were therefore similar to contraband, like powder and shot."

—J. L. G. Ferris

When the owner of three escaped slaves arrived at Fort Monroe, Virginia, in 1861, to reclaim his property, General Benjamin Butler refused the request. The 1850 Fugitive Slave Act did not apply to escapees from an "independent nation [*Virginia*]."

These self-emancipated individuals, like those at Fort Freedom (Monroe), sought protection behind Union lines and created contraband camps. Supported by the US army, men from these camps enlisted in the United States Colored Troops established in 1863.

#74 *The Gettysburg Address, 1863, c. 1925*

". . . Lincoln's speech will be read by a thousand men . . . and will be remembered as long as anybody's speeches are remembered who speaks the English language."

—Edwin Stanton, Secretary of War

Disproportionately large Lincoln stands next to the featured speaker of the day, Edward Everett, who in 1864 was running mate to George McClellan's Independent campaign in the 1864 presidential election.

Lincoln said more in his concise, two-minute speech, which included "government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth," than Everett's two-hour oration.



#75 *Let Us Have Peace, 1865.*

"My own feelings, which had been quite touched on the receipt of his letter, were sad and depressed. I felt like anything rather than rejoicing at the downfall of a foe who had suffered for so long and so valiantly, and had suffered so much for a cause . . ."

—Ulysses S. Grant

#76 *Lincoln's Last Official Act, 1865, c. 1912*

"Well, I think the boy can do us more good above ground than underground."

—Abraham Lincoln

"Father Abraham" pardoned a soldier for desertion on April 14, 1865, the day before Lincoln was assassinated.



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J. L. G. Ferris

THE PAGEANT OF A NATION

TWO FOR THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

All of Jean Leon Gerome Ferris' paintings for his series "The Pageant of a Nation" were created in the 1900s, but only two depict events in that century.

#77 *A Word to the Kaiser, 1902, c. 1923*

"The Kaiser learned that the Monroe Doctrine was a fact."

—J. L. G. Ferris

The 16th president of the United States observes (from a portrait) the 20th president.

Theodore Roosevelt threatens to unleash Admiral Dewey and his fleet for an intervention unless Germany abides by the Monroe Doctrine. The foreign policy, adopted 100 years before the scene was painted, was used by Roosevelt in 1902 to control foreign power in the Western Hemisphere.

#78 *Sunk Without a Trace, 1917, c. 1921*

"While painting this picture at the Delaware Capes, I witnessed the burning of a ship at sea, and crews of torpedoed vessels were landed only a few steps from my studios."

—J. L. G. Ferris

During the Great War, 1917 saw the proliferation of German U-boats attacking not only Coast Guard, Navy and Marine vessels, but civilian ships, as well. "When the torpedo struck, there was no mistaking it for anything else," a member of the crew aboard a British passenger ship.



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