



MEET JOHN GADSBY CHAPMAN

Grandson of John Gadsby, John Gadsby Chapman studied at the Alexandria Academy and then the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts. In 1828, he sailed to Italy to continue his studies, which was where he launched his career. He sold works to tourists and clients back in America, including his grandfather, John Gadsby. He also completed his first successful work, *Hagar and Ishmael Fainting in the Wilderness*, which became the first American painting to be engraved in Italy.

In 1831, Chapman returned to Alexandria. Between 1832 and 1834, Chapman went on sketching tours throughout Virginia, focused on images of famous historic sites, many associated with George Washington. During this time, he also painted members of the Washington family, President Madison, and Davy Crockett. In 1834, Chapman hosted a show of his paintings in Washington, D.C., across the street from his grandfather's National Hotel.

After his father's death in 1834, John Gadsby Chapman relocated to New York and became a popular illustrator; however, in 1837, Chapman was commissioned to complete a painting for the rotunda of the Capitol – the *Baptism of Pocahontas*. The painting was unveiled at the Capitol in 1840. Most artists, however, recognize him as the author of *The American Drawing Book* published in 1847, a classic instruction book for generations of amateur and professional artists.

In 1848, Chapman, moved his family to Italy once more. He stayed in Rome for the next 35 years, with his sons sketching and painting alongside their father. In 1887, he returned to America and died on November 28, 1889, in New Brighton, Staten Island.

Flip the page to see the painting *Baptism of Pocahontas*.



