



# HAWTHORNE

## Fine Art

### Edward Dearborn Everett (1818-1903)

Edward Dearborn Everett was born in London in 1818 to Elizabeth Boyle and Charles Everett of Massachusetts. He was baptized by his father's cousin and namesake, the notable American orator and former Secretary of State, Edward Everett (1794-1865). The elder Everett is known for his lengthy oration given prior to President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in 1863.<sup>1</sup> Everett's grandfather, the Rev. Moses Everett was the pastor of the Meeting House Hill church in Dorchester, Massachusetts during the mid to late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Other prominent family members include the American patriot, Nathan Hale, the author Edward Everett Hale, and the novelist Nathaniel Hawthorne.<sup>2</sup> Everett's father was a successful importer and exporter of goods who lived for many years in London.<sup>3</sup> The family returned to the U.S. in 1840 and settled in Quincy, Illinois.<sup>4</sup>

While little is known about Everett's education he worked for some time as a machinist and engineer upon arriving in Quincy. In 1843, Everett joined the Quincy Riflemen and fought in the battle of Nauvoo during the Illinois Mormon War of 1845. During a search patrol with the riflemen Everett came upon the Mormon Temple in Nauvoo which he later made a drawing of.<sup>5</sup> He served in San Antonio as a sergeant with the First Illinois Volunteers during the Mexican-American war in 1846.<sup>6</sup> His commanding officer, aware of Everett's prior experience as an engineer, asked Everett to record the city's buildings and landmarks. Everett began making highly detailed pen-and-ink drawings of the Alamo and two other Spanish missions. Not long after his arrival, a bullet wound to the knee left Everett disabled and unfit for active duty. While he recovered in a field hospital, Everett continued to work on his drawings. He was later re-assigned as a clerk in the Quartermaster's office where he oversaw the conversion of the Alamo Mission buildings into a storage depot for the army. Everett rendered the façade of the chapel, "...with the painstaking precision of a seasoned draftsman..."<sup>7</sup>

In 1857, Everett married Mary A. Billings of Illinois. During the Civil War he earned the rank of Major while serving as the Assistant Quartermaster General of Illinois. After the war, the Everetts moved to Ossining, NY where they remained for the next 22 years. In 1880, they travelled to California and Hawaii and spent two years in New York City before settling in Roxbury, Massachusetts.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Reg Ankrom, "Lost 19<sup>th</sup> century artworks of Edward Everett return to Quincy" *Herald-Whig*, Jan 15, 2017, [https://www.whig.com/archive/article/lost-19th-century-artworks-of-edward-everett-return-to-quincy/article\\_fd28e5e9-ebca-5280-816a-b59cf2afb2fb.html](https://www.whig.com/archive/article/lost-19th-century-artworks-of-edward-everett-return-to-quincy/article_fd28e5e9-ebca-5280-816a-b59cf2afb2fb.html)

<sup>2</sup> "About the Artist: Edward Everett (1818-1903)," Amon Carter Museum, accessed December 20, 2020, <http://encountering.cartermuseum.org/html/bioee.htm>.

<sup>3</sup> "Veteran of Mexican War," *The Boston Globe* (Boston, Massachusetts), Tue, Jul 28, 1903, p 10.

<sup>4</sup> Reg Ankrom, "Lost."

<sup>5</sup> Patricia A. Junker, *An American Collection: Works from the Amon Carter Museum* (New York: Hudson Hills Press, 2001), 46.

<sup>6</sup> "Edward Everett Dead," *The New York Times* (New York, New York), Tue, Jul 28, 1903, p 7.

<sup>7</sup> Junker, *An American Collection*, 46.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*



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Retired from the military, Everett continued to paint and exhibited his watercolors in annual exhibitions held at the Boston Art Club in 1893, 1897 and 1898. His subject matter included *On the Road to Saugus, A Winter Day, Middlesex Fells, and Winter*.<sup>9</sup>

Eleven of Everett's landscape paintings and drawings executed in Quincy between 1840 and 1857 have been discovered in recent years. Acquired by the Historical Society of Quincy and Adams County, the works were the focus of the exhibition *The Lost Art of Edward Everett* in 2017.<sup>10</sup>

Everett's watercolors of the church of the Alamo, the Mission Concepcion and the Mission San Jose have been described by historian Jane Myers as the finest of the period. These important works can be found in Fort Worth at The Amon Carter Museum of American Art.<sup>11</sup>

Edward Dearborn Everett died in Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1903. He was 85 Years old.

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<sup>9</sup> Forty-Eighth Exhibition of Water Colors, etc., (Boston: Boston Art Club, 1893); Boston Art Club, Fifty-Sixth Exhibition of Water Colors, etc., (Boston: Boston Art Club, 1897); Boston Art Club, Fifty-Eighth Exhibition of Water Colors, etc., (Boston: Boston Art Club, 1898);

<sup>10</sup> Reg Ankrom, "Lost."

<sup>11</sup> Patricia A. Junker, *An American Collection: Works from the Amon Carter Museum* (New York: Hudson Hills Press, 2001), 46.