



HAWTHORNE  
Fine Art



**CECILIA BEAUX (1855-1942)**

*Mrs. Isaiah Stetson*

oil on canvas

45 x 32 inches

signed and dated 'Cecilia Beaux -93' (lower left)

**Provenance**

Louise Faulkner (*née* Stetson) Foote (1872-1961), Turnbridge Wells, England, daughter of the sitter, by 1955.

By descent to the present owner within the family of the above.

**Exhibited**

New York, National Academy of Design, *Sixty-Eighth Annual Exhibition*, March 27-May 13, 1893, no. 339.

A Philadelphia native, Beaux studied at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and in Paris at the Académie Julian and the Académie Colarossi. Back in the United States, Beaux gained recognition for her masterful portraits. In 1895, she became the first woman to hold a full-time faculty position at the Pennsylvania Academy. During her lifetime, Beaux held memberships with the Societe des Beaux-Arts in Paris, American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the National Academy of Design.

Beaux received numerous commissions from prominent society members including Mrs. Isaiah Stetson. Born Sarah Jewett Griffin in Brunswick, Maine, her father Joseph Griffin was the oldest printer in Maine. He began the *Maine Intelligencer* and the *Baptist Herald* before focusing on his bookstore. He was a printer and bookseller to Bowdoin College for more than fifty years. In 1872, he published *A History of the Press of Maine*.<sup>1</sup>

In 1851, Isaiah Stetson married Eliza Griffin. A year after her death in 1866, he married her younger sister Sarah Jewett Griffin. Together they had three children. Isaiah Stetson was educated at Hampden Academy and later became a prominent merchant in Bangor, Maine. He established the firm Stetson & Co. with his brother George and later became involved in real estate. Politically active, Isaiah Stetson was an alderman and served as mayor of Bangor from 1859-1862. He represented Bangor in the State Legislature in 1865 and 1866. He was a delegate at the National Republican Convention in Philadelphia in 1872. Stetson was the first president of the Bangor & Piscataquis Railroad Co. and a treasurer of Maine State College.<sup>2</sup>

Stetson's father and uncle were early settlers of Maine. Stetson, Maine, in Penobscot County is named after the family.

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<sup>1</sup> "Death of the Oldest Printer in Maine," *Portland Press Herald* (Portland, Maine) Fri, Nov 20, 1874, 2.; "Death of Joseph Griffin," *The Portland Daily Press* (Portland, Maine), Fri, Nov 20, 1874, 3.

<sup>2</sup> Isaiah Kidder Stetson, *Stetson Family. Containing a Short Account of the Family Origin and a Genealogical and Biographical Sketch of the Descendants of Simeon Stetson* (Bangor, Maine: Bangor Publishing Company, 1892) 46-8.