



To mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776, Shelburne Museum's Curators have assembled a self-guided tour that highlights paintings, folk art sculptures, and textiles on view throughout the Museum that symbolize, idealize, and mythologize a nascent America.

Shelburne's collection of American material culture includes numerous works rooted in the origins of our country. The works highlighted in this self-guided tour feature patriotic themes that form a throughline from the 18th to early-20th centuries at the Museum and narrate a rich history of the United States that carries the theme forward.

### About Shelburne Museum

Electra Havemeyer Webb founded Shelburne Museum in 1947 to share her world-class "collection of collections" with the public in a village-like setting of historic New England buildings—a concept completely unprecedented for her time. Today the Museum's 45-acre campus includes 39 buildings, many of them historic and relocated to the grounds, including the National Historic Landmark 220-foot steamboat **Ticonderoga**, making it Northern New England's largest art and history museum.

Like her parents, who were collectors of European art, including the masterpieces of French Impressionism on view in the Electra Havemeyer Webb Memorial Building, Mrs. Webb was also a trailblazing collector. Her collecting took a different, path, however, as she took an interest in what we now know as American folk art, amassing a huge collection of folk art, furniture, pottery, quilts, weathervanes, carriages, dolls, paintings, and much more.



**SHELBURNE MUSEUM**

6000 Shelburne Road  
Shelburne, VT 05482

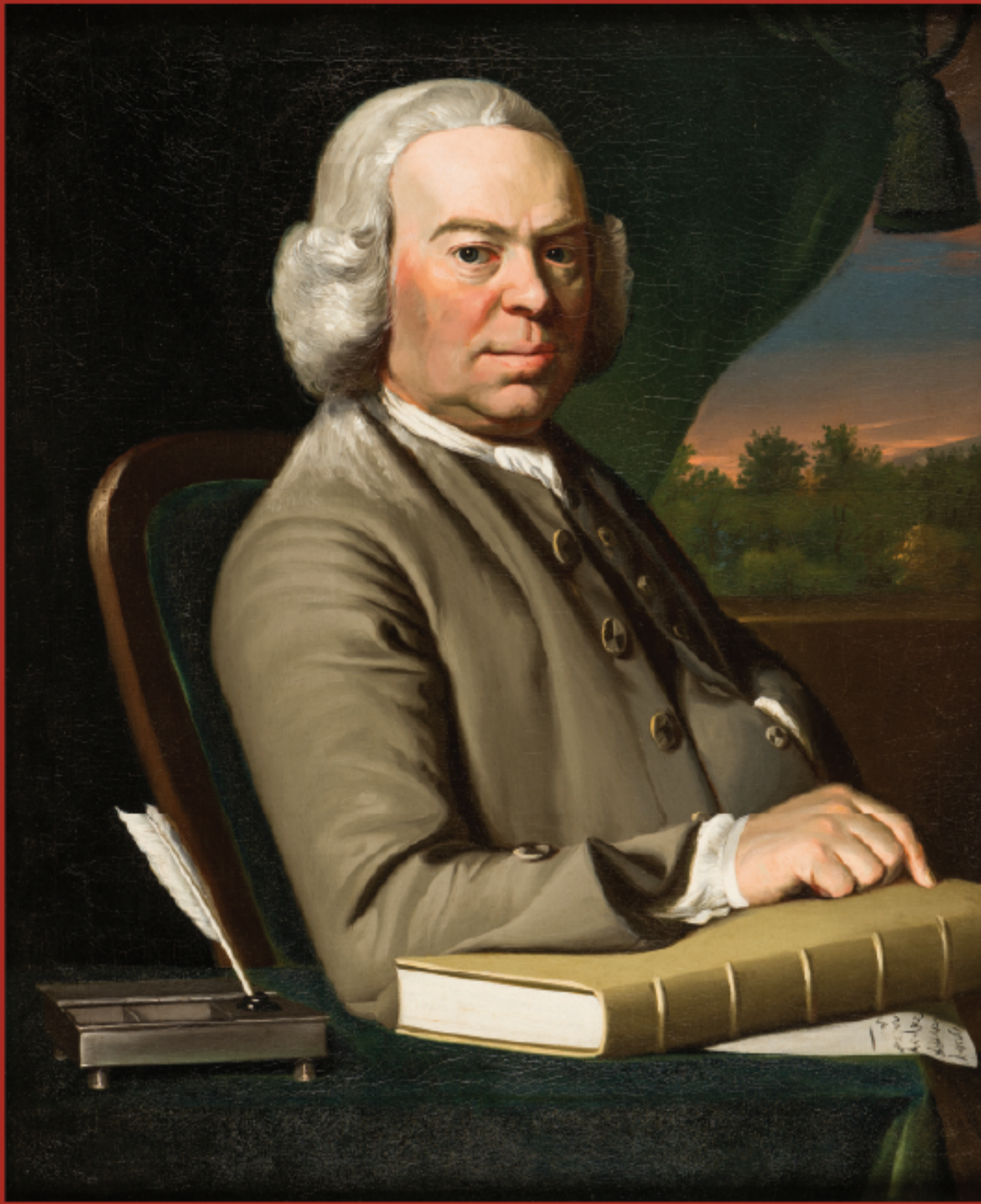
802.985.3346

[shelburnemuseum.org](http://shelburnemuseum.org)



**SHELBURNE MUSEUM**





## Webb Gallery

### America the Beautiful: Portraits, Landscapes, and Genre Paintings

Highlights key works that celebrate the people, places, and events of American history. Installed throughout the gallery, the exhibition features portraits of notable figures by major artists, sweeping views of the nation's diverse landscapes, and scenes of everyday life and cultural moments that together reflect the richness and complexity of the American experience.

Above: **John Singleton Copley, John Scollay**, ca. 1760. Oil on canvas, 36 1/4 x 29 3/4 in. Collection of Shelburne Museum, museum purchase, acquired from Harry Shaw Newman, The Old Print Shop. 1959-275. Photography by Andy Duback.

Cover: Unidentified maker, **George Washington on Horseback**, early 19th century. Carved and painted wood, leather, and brass, 21 1/2 x 21 x 7 in. Collection of Shelburne Museum, museum purchase, 1950, acquired from Mary Allis. 1961-1.232. Photography by Andy Duback.

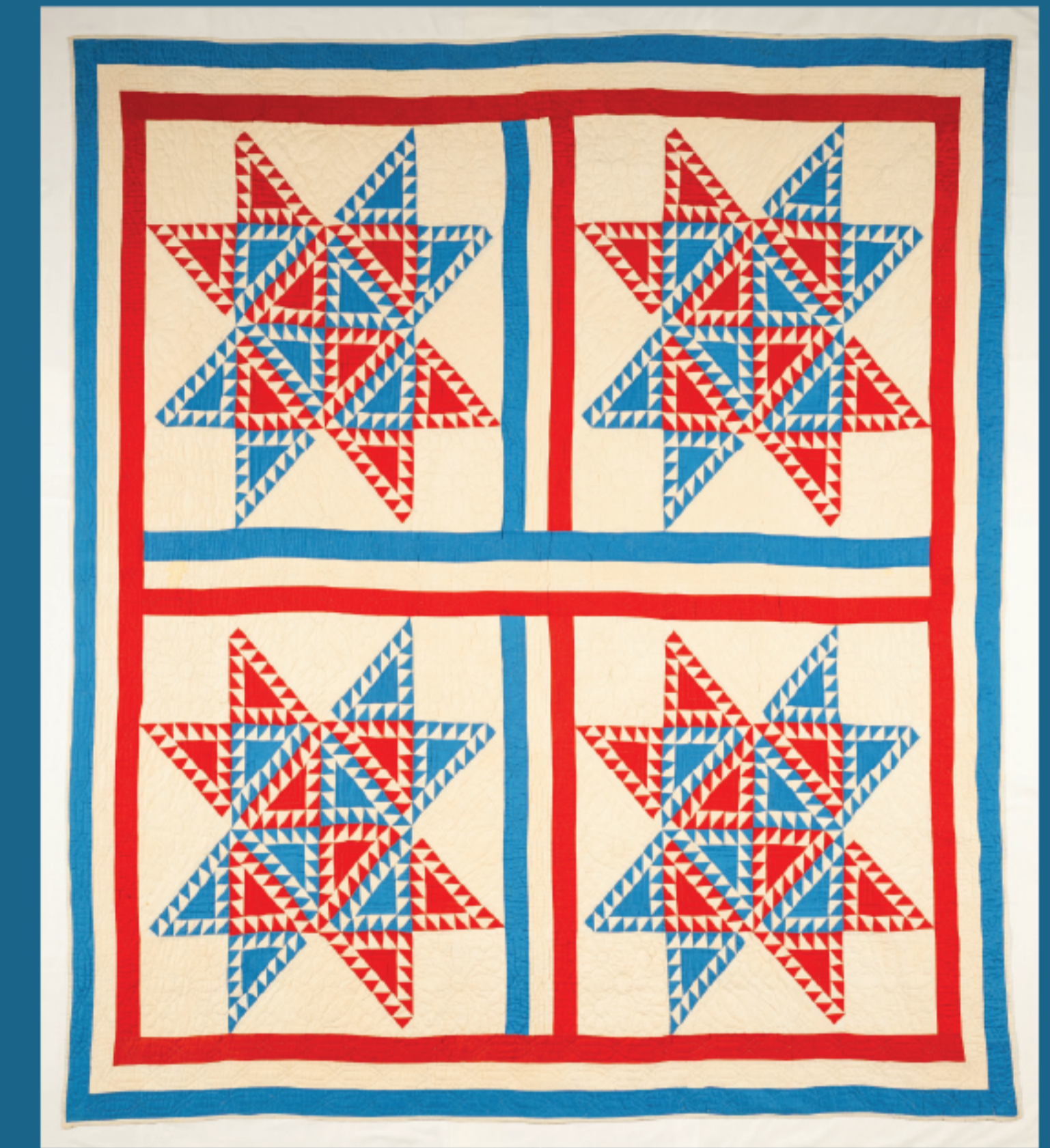
## Stagecoach Inn

### By the People, for the People: Patriotic Folk Sculpture

Explores a rich array of utilitarian and decorative objects, from ship carvings and weathervanes to tavern signs. These three-dimensional works reflect a deep-rooted sense of national pride, honoring heroic figures such as General George Washington and personifying inspiring symbols like Liberty and the bald eagle. Created by largely self-taught artists, these objects embody an earnest, imaginative patriotism that is as varied and spirited as the nation they celebrate.



Unidentified maker, **Eagle on Uncle Sam's Hat**, ca. 1860-70. Carved and painted wood, 24 x 11 x 23 1/4 in. Collection of Shelburne Museum, museum purchase. 1965-251. Photography by Andy Duback.



## The Dana-Spencer Textiles Galleries at Hat and Fragrance

### A Patchwork Nation: Patriotic and Log Cabin Quilts

Presents a selection of bedcovers from the Museum's collection adorned with bald eagles, stars and stripes, and abstract patterns drawn from distinctly American experiences. The exhibition in the west gallery highlights the many variations of the Log Cabin pattern, a motif often linked to the origin stories of two U.S. presidents, underscoring how textiles can convey both national identity and enduring cultural mythologies.

Above: Unidentified maker, **Pieced Star-Spangled Banner Quilt**, 1850. Cotton, 91 3/4 x 92 3/4 in. Collection of Shelburne Museum, gift of John Wilmerding. 2011-35.5. Photography by Andy Duback.

For more information and to view all of the objects on the America 250 tour and related events, scan the QR code.

