



*Portrait of Captain LeGrand Morehouse*  
**John Mix Stanley**  
Oil on canvas, 1838  
Gift of Mrs. Ralph Reuling and Mrs. A.R. Tipton

## Portrait of Captain LeGrand Morehouse



### John Mix Stanley (1814-1872)

John Mix Stanley was a major figure in nineteenth-century American art, yet his life and art remain unexplored. Born in New York state, Stanley spent his early artistic career as an itinerant portrait painter in Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois. He was an ardent adventurer who traveled to the American West in the 1840s and 1850s. Throughout his journeys, he painted portraits of Anglo-Americans, but he became most known for his depictions of American Indians, Western landscapes and frontier themes.

Stanley painted Captain LeGrand Morehouse in 1838 in Galena, Illinois when the 'sitter' was 24 years old. Morehouse was already a man of considerable reputation as a steamboat captain. One of eight vessels under his command was the 'Dubuque' which called at Muscatine and a number of other upper Mississippi River ports. Morehouse purchased a farm near Montpelier in Muscatine County in 1839.

### Collection Connection

While the Muscatine Art Center's Mississippi River Collection includes paintings, drawings, maps, photographs and documents pertaining to communities all along the Mississippi, some items within this collection highlight stories and people connected to Muscatine.

Captain Morehouse is one example, and Muscatine native William Bunn is another. Bunn graduated from the University of Iowa with a B.A. in 1934 and a M.A. in 1936. He studied with Grand Wood from 1935 through 1937 and intermittently until Wood's death in 1942. Bunn entered multiple competitions for commissions to complete WPA mural projects in Iowa. He won the commission for the Dubuque Post Office with this study, *Steamboat Sidewheeler Dubuque*.

William Bunn

Study - A View of the Steamboat Sidewheeler Dubuque on the Mississippi; "Landing Packet"

Watercolor & gouache on paper, 1940

