

JOHN ENDECOTT (1589-1665), c. 1873
George Southward (1803-76)
after c. 1665 portrait by an unknown artist
36 x 28 3/4 (91.440 x 73.0250)
oil on canvas
Gift of William Crowninshield Endicott, 1873
Weis 51
Hewes Number: 43

Ex. Coll.: Possibly commissioned by the donor, c. 1873.

Fifty-four years after the Corné copy of John Endecott's portrait arrived at the American Antiquarian Society, a second copy after the original was given by William Crowninshield Endicott, a descendant of the colonial governor and a member of the Society. He wrote, '[W]hen visiting the building of the Society at Worcester, I saw a copy, or what was intended for a copy, of the portrait of John Endecott. It struck me as so imperfect, and that it did such poor justice to the original, that I then resolved to give the Society a good copy of the original picture. Circumstances have delayed the accomplishment of this purpose but I have finally succeeded in obtaining a very excellent copy.... It was painted by Mr. Southland (*sic*) of Salem from the original portrait, now in the possession of my father.'¹

George Southward was born in Salem, Massachusetts, and spent most of his adult life there. As a young man he was a partner in the firm Kimball & Southward, a boot and shoe shop in Salem where, around 1838, he allegedly exhibited his first painting in the store window.² Southward studied art in Boston with the portrait painter Joseph Alexander Ames (1816-72), accompanying him on a visit to Rome in 1848.³ He eventually established his own studio on Central Street in Salem, where he produced portraits, miniatures, landscapes, and still-lives.⁴ This image of Endecott was mentioned in the artist's obituary: 'Among his master-pieces may be enumerated his portrait of Pope Pius IX, a copy of Stewart's (*sic*) Washington, a copy of a portrait of Governor Endecott and one of Guido's 'Aurora'.⁵

¹ William Crowninshield Endicott to Stephen Salisbury, October 16, 1873, published in Stephen Salisbury, 'Memorial to Governor Endecott,' Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society (October 16, 1873): 113.

² William Leavitt, 'Notice of the Southward Family in Salem,' Essex Institute Historical Collections 14 (January

1877): 79.

³ Boston Globe, February 21, 1876. Southward's obituary states that he 'spent much time in [Ames's] studio, giving himself chiefly to copying portraits, in which he excelled.'

⁴ Examples of Southward's work are in the collection of the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts.

⁵ Boston Globe, February 21, 1876.