

Fact or Lore?

Lemuel Shattuck, a founding member of our organization, gazes out from this family portrait, which includes his wife and daughters... but is somebody missing?

Lemuel Shattuck and Family, 1850

BASS OTIS 1784-1861, Boston and Philadelphia

Oil on Canvas

Gift of Lillian F. Thompson, 1920, RC281

According to legend, the husband of Sarah (at front, in profile) was originally depicted. But after the couple separated, he was painted out, as if he'd never belonged to the family. To see if this was true, we had the painting x-rayed.



Lift to find
the results