



Drawing based on:

Isaac Sheffield, (American, 1798-1845)

Portrait of James Francis Smith

1837

Oil on canvas

Frank Loomis Palmer Fund, 1943.467

Some ship captains brought their wives and children with them on long, multi-year whaling trips. Young James Francis Smith accompanied his father, New London whaling captain Franklin Smith, on a voyage in 1837 to Kerguelen Island, called “Desolation Island,” in the South Seas. This portrait was painted on October 12, 1837, when James was nearly six years old, marking his return to New London on the *Ship Chelsea*, which is visible in the background.