

John James Audubon: Birdman of America

Rufus Griswold was a Baptist clergyman turned Journalist.

Following nearly three years of editing GRAHAMS MAGAZINE which was recognized as one of the premier literary vehicles of Early Nineteenth Century North America, he became Associate Editor for a variety of newspapers published at New York City and Boston.

During this time, while reviewing Audubon's The Birds of America for one of his employers, Griswold decided to focus his efforts on preparation of a Biography of this controversial Author/Illustrator.

Upon further investigation, he learned that Audubon had established a family-home overlooking the Hudson River not far from present-day Manhattan.

Accordingly, he ventured forth one bright day to personally interview John James Audubon at "Minniesland", the name he and his wife of many years had chosen for their 14-acre Estate.

Scene 1: Minniesland, N.Y. 1845 (at entrance)

Rufus Griswold

Lucy Audubon

Griswold: GREETINGS, FINE LADY !
IS THIS THE HOME
OF Mr. John James Audubon ?

Audubon: YES, SIR,
IT IS.
MAY I KNOW
WHO IS CALLING ?

Griswold: MOST CERTAINLY !
MY NAME IS "Rufus Griswold".
MY BUSINESS IS
TO ASK Mr. Audubon
A FEW QUESTIONS.