When he founded Heritage Museums & Gardens, J.K. Lilly, III hoped that his collection would demonstrate “the excellence and ingenuity of American craftsmen.” The Heritage Collection presents that ingenuity and excellence by displaying highlights from the museum’s 12,000+ collection of American art and artifacts. Arranged into four themed groups (Sense of Place, Work, Home, and Conflict of Ideas), the exhibit illustrates moments in American history and culture. Highlights include: Native American artifacts, art, selections from the extensive collection of military miniatures, antique firearms, ceramics, silver, paintings, toys, furniture, tobacco shop figures, and weathervanes.

Exhibit Highlights

• An area devoted to the work of Cape Cod’s own A.E. Crowell, considered to be America’s best decorative bird carver. Highlights include a life-size Great Blue heron and a bent-neck standing Yellowlegs.

• Selections from the museum’s collection of over 6,000 military miniatures, which faithfully recreate hundreds of American military units from the 17th century to 1900. Revolutionary War and Civil War units are featured, as well the Black Hussars Band of the Pennsylvania Cavalry from 1878.

• Paintings and furniture by Ralph and Martha Cahoon, including “Bicentennial Balloons” by Ralph which reimagines a Revolutionary War battle as if it happened in hot air balloons.

• An extremely rare rifle from Freund & Co., commissioned by Buffalo Bill.

• An American Eagle carved by master 19th century woodcarver, John Haley Bellamy, of Boston.

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