About the Artist: William Sidney Mount (1807–1868) studied briefly with portraitist Henry Inman (1801–1846) and was one of the first students admitted to New York’s National Academy of Design in 1826. While his earliest works imitated European history painting, in 1830, Mount exhibited his first scene of Long Island country life. So enthusiastically was this received that rural themes occupied the artist for the remainder of his career and earned him international fame.