

Lot 947 Portrait of Mary Smyth, second Daughter of Thomas Smyth, Esq., married Colonel Benjamin Way. 29 in. x 24 in.

Or

Lot 961 Portrait of Florence Smyth, eldest Daughter of Thomas Smyth, Esq., married John Upton, died 1852. 29 in. x 24 in.



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It has not been possible to identify which of the daughters of Thomas Smyth sat for this portrait by Thomas Phillips. Both auction lots have identical dimensions and no information about the painter.

This portrait of either Florence or Mary is in the Cottrell-Dormer private collection at Rousham House.

Anton Bantock thought that portrait of Mary Way (nee Smyth), lot 947, was possibly owned by a Mr Moat of Whitney. It has not been possible either to confirm or reject this theory. If this were true then this portrait at Rousham would be the portrait of Florence Upton (nee Smyth), i.e. lot 961.

Who were Florence and Mary Smyth?

Florence (b.1769) and Mary (b.1778) were daughters of Thomas Smyth and his wife Jane Whitchurch. After their uncle, John Hugh Smyth, the second baronet, died childless their brother Hugh (b. 1772) became the 3rd baronet, and their younger brother John (b. 1776) became the 4th.

Hugh had no legitimate heirs, and John was unmarried and childless so Ashton Court passed to the grandson of Florence, Greville Upton. Greville changed his name to Smyth to secure his inheritance.

Greville married his cousin (and second cousin), Emily Way, who was the granddaughter of Mary Way. Greville and Emily were 2nd cousins because their grandmothers were sisters; they were cousins because Emily's father, Henry Way, was the brother of Greville's mother, Elizabeth Way.

Mary Way died in 1850 and Florence Upton died in 1852. After Florence's death Greville took over Ashton Court.