

Lot 960 Portrait of Sir John Smyth, fourth Baronet of the second creation, died unmarried, 1776-1849. 29 in. x 24 in. (copied from earlier miniature)

This portrait is now in the Bristol Museums, Galleries and Archives collection. It is currently in Store.



Image: K5541 ©Bristol Culture, photography by Public Catalogue Foundation/Dan Brown.

It was donated to Bristol Museums by R. Stride in 1985.

The portrait dates from about 1830 and was copied from an earlier miniature.

It is possible that the miniature was one of those that Rolinda Sharples was known to have painted of Sir John.

Rolinda recorded in her diary in the summer of 1829:

"In the latter end of the summer I went to Ashton Court to paint a sketch of Sir John Smith's [sic] carriage, and 4 horses. Sir John was very polite ... When the sketch was completed, Sir John much pleased with it & a copy was requested which I executed, and from a sketch I had

made of Sir John 2 miniature copies on ivory for his sisters ... I have commenced another copy large as life, Sir John to sit for the finishing to be hung up amongst other family portraits".

In the Hector Paterson images from the 1920s it can be seen hanging to the right of the door to the Long Gallery and above the door leading to the Inner Hall in the Panelled Lounge.



Image: Mb6055©Bristol Culture

Who was Sir John Smyth?

Sir John was born in 1776 and was the son of Thomas Smyth and his wife, Jane Whitchurch.

Thomas was the younger son, and his elder brother John Hugh, who had married Elizabeth Woolnough, inherited the title from his father and became the 2nd Baronet.

Thomas had predeceased his elder brother, John Hugh, when he died childless in 1802.

The title then passed to Thomas and Jane's elder son Hugh who became the 3rd Baronet. Hugh died in 1824 with no legitimate heirs so the title passed to John, the subject of our portrait, who became the 4th Baronet.

When John died unmarried and childless in 1849 and the male line died out for the 2nd time.

Ashton Court passed to his great-nephew Greville Upton who was 13 at the time. Hugh and John's elder sister, Florence Upton who was aged 80 at the time, managed the estate until Greville came of age, took over the Estate and assumed the name of Smyth.