

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BUCKINGHAM, Marchioness of, née Lady Mary Elizabeth, Baroness Nugent *s.j.*

Carlanstown, Westmeath 1758 – London
16.III.1812

The wife (from 16.IV.1775) of George, Earl Temple, 1st Marquess of Buckingham and daughter-in-law of another amateur pastellist, Elizabeth Grenville (*q.v.*). In 1800 she was given the Irish title of Baroness Nugent to pass to her second son. According to Collins, “her ladyship possessed considerable taste and skill in works of genius, manifested in her drawings and paintings, many of which decorate the superb mansion at Stowe.” She may have been given lessons by (and certainly sat to) Sir Joshua Reynolds; his painting is the subject of her pastel copy. At Stowe her dressing room, hung with white Irish damask, was “decorated with variety of crayons, and of drawings, by Lady Buckingham”. There were portraits by her of her son Richard, Lord Temple, later 1st Duke of Buckingham and Chandos, and another of Lord Buckingham’s two younger children. (Kenny 2013 gives these as three pastels, but the young Lord Temple, Lot 139 in the Stowe sale, 12.IX.1848, appears to be in oils, as may be the double portrait, which presumably shows Mary Anne (1787–1845) with George, 2nd Baron Nugent (1789–1850).) She is shown drawing the young Lord Temple in Reynolds’s group portrait of the family (Dublin, National Gallery of Ireland, inv. NGI 733).

Bibliography

Collins’s Peerage of Great Britain, London, 1812, II, p. 615; Kenny 2013, p. 148; *Stowe. A description of the house and gardens...*, Buckingham, 1788, p. 43; ed. 1797, p. 45

GENEALOGIES [Grenville](#)

Pastels

J.1852.101 The girl with a muff, crayons, a/r Reynolds (Richard, Duke of Buckingham and Chandos; Stowe, Christie’s, 12.IX.1848, Lot 100 n.r., £4/10/-; T. Grissell)