

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

MIDDLETON, Lady, née Margaret Gambier

1730 – Teston 1792

Daughter of a barrister, James Gambier; in 1761 she married Sir Charles Middleton, RN, later First Lord of the Admiralty, created Lord Barham in 1805 after her death. Their daughter Diana (1762–1823) married Sir Gerard Noel Noel and was created Baroness Barham *suo jure*. “The credit of individuality will not be denied of Lady Middleton”; she numbered Sir Joshua Reynolds, Dr Johnson and William Wilberforce among her acquaintance, and she played a role in the abolition of slavery. In a letter probably of 10.IX.1788 Hannah More wrote to thank her for the offer of a portrait of either “the Archbishop or the Moralist”, but encouraging her instead to portray a living sitter – Sir Charles, Elizabeth Bouverie or Lady Middleton herself. Some of her oil portraits of members of the family of the Earls of Gainsborough are at Exton Park.

Bibliography

Georgiana, Lady Chatterton, ed., *Memorials personal and historical of Admiral Lord Gambier, GCB*, London, 1861; *Memoirs of Georgian, Lady Chatterton*, 1901

Pastels

J5378.101 Lady O'BRIEN, née Anne French (1747–1819), dau. of Robert French of Monivea, ∞ 1768 Sir Lucius Henry O'Brien, 3rd Bt, half-length, head and figure turning to left, hair worn tight and powdered, a cap or turban on the left side of her head, pstl, 53x43 (Dromoland Castle 1949). Lit.: Donough O'Brien, *History of the O'Briens from Brian Borombe*, 1949, p. 267f n.r.