

SA191469

Charlotte, Lady Owen of
Orielton c.1810; Circle of Sir
Thomas Lawrence.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA191469

Date of manufacture: 1800

Description

Oil on canvas laid on board in cassetta frame, glazed. Charlotte, Lady Owen of Orielton near Pembroke. was born Charlotte Lewis Phillips of Llwynyrwn, Llangynin, Carmarthenshire and created a scandal when she and John Lord (later Sir John Owen) eloped to Gretna Green to be married in 1800. She was not a great heiress; Llwynyrwn was a minor place and she had two brothers. John Lord (born 1776) was the heir to the ancient and large Orielton estate. (The Owen of Orielton family played a prominent part in the history of Pembrokeshire for nearly three centuries. The estate of Orielton in Castlemartin came into the possession of the Owen family by the marriage of Hugh to Elizabeth Wirriot in 1571.) John's mother was an Owen and he was the nearest relation when Sir Hugh Owen died in 1809 without issue – the last of the old line. He changed his name to Owen and pursued a political career which brought him a baronetcy in 1813. Charlotte died in 1829 without issue and Sir John remarried and had more success with heirs. Sir John was impetuous, (witness his elopement with Charlotte) and a spendthrift, the money spent in furthering his political ambitions eventually bankrupting ...

Internal Ref: 8695

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