

SA669176

Portrait of Martha Clay (nee Rowley) c.1735; Follower of Kneller.

Price

Sold

Item Reference: SA669176

Date of manufacture: 18th Century

Dimensions

Height = 93.5 cm (36.8")

Width = 78 cm (30.7")

Depth = 5 cm (2.0")

Description

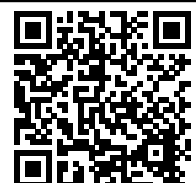
Oil on canvas, the sitter depicted within a fashionable feigned stone oval, all within a very fine carved giltwood 18th century frame: probably painted to commemorate the sitter's wedding to Richard Clay. This charming provincial portrait bears a label verso, dated 1940, naming the sitter as Susannah Clay, but it is much more likely to be Martha, Susannah's mother. As it often the case, when portraits pass down the generations in a family, identities become confused. Susannah was not born until 1739 and the sitter is an adult in the mid 1730s and wearing the fashions of that time. Susannah was the daughter of Richard and Martha Clay (nee Rowley); there was a son, Rowley, born in 1738, another daughter Tryphenia born 1741-died 1742, and Martha born 1742. They lived in a large house called "The Hill" in North Wingfield, Derbyshire. "Looking at the note on the back of the portrait it says Susannah Clay nee Rowley married Richard Clay of "The Hill", but as we know Susannah was the daughter of Richard and Martha baptised 26th Feb.1739; so as we know that is a mistake, also I note that it says gt,gt,gt of ECP which may well be because the daughter Susannah Clay married Thomas...

Internal Ref: 9158

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