

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

DEMILLIÈRE, Augustin

Dieppe c.1755 – USA p.1826

“Mr. Demelliere”, according to his advertisement in *The diary* (New York, 28.I.1797),–

having arrived from Paris, Informs the public, that he takes the best Likeness in Miniature, Oil Colours, or Crayons. He also makes fancy Paintings of all kinds. He will give lessons in Painting and Drawing. His wife will instruct in Drawing and Painting. Those Ladies who would wish to acquire those talents; every thing necessary for Painting and Drawing are to be found at his house, viz. crayons, colours, pencils, port crayons, India ink, painting and drawing paper. Amateurs who wish to see his cabinet of paintings, composed of about one hundred papers of the best masters of Italy, Flanders and France, may see them every day from 3 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, at his house in Pearl-street, No. 24, near the Battery.

Augustin (Auguste is also seen) Demillière was born in Dieppe c.1755, the son of Pierre-Augustin Demilliere (1733–p.1787), marchand, and Anne Ride. He (described as “peintre, natif de Dieppe”; his father by then had moved to Gray) was married, on 6.VIII.1787 in Dijon, Saint-Jean, to Anne Besancenot, the daughter of François Besancenot, also a painter. His wife and son, Auguste Jr (1794–), worked with him in America. He is listed in the commercial directories for Charleston from 1802. It appears he met Sarah Hill there around 1804; although still married he and Sarah travelled to Europe 1805 where an illegitimate daughter was born in Montpellier, 1.VIII.1805. They returned to Charleston on passports granted in Bordeaux, 7.VI.1806, for the 51 year old Augustin Demilliere, born in Dieppe, his “wife” Sarah, aged 30, her two step children Augustin (12) and Martésie (11) and the new baby. He was recorded in Baton Rouge in 1809 and 1816 but by 1811 had separated from Sarah. Augustin, Sr and Jr and Martésie appear in the *Index to the archives of Spanish West Florida 1782–1810*, 1975, *passim*. The artist was last recorded in Baltimore in 1826 returning again from France.

Bibliography

Karel 1992; Lemoine-Bouchard 2008