

.Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

SANDERS, John, Jr

London 1749 – Clifton 4.I.1825

The son of either John Saunders or of the putative John Sanders, Sr (*qq.n.*). The inscription on a 1778 engraving after his own painting (another he made around the same time is in London, Royal Academy of Music) of the infant musical prodigy William Crotch, “I. Sanders Pinx.t et Fecit Norwich. Nov 1778” (the British Museum has this as by Joseph Saunders) and the Norwich connections do suggest a relationship with Saunders. Sanders, or Saunders, was a pupil at the Royal Academy Schools from 21.VIII.1769, winning a silver medal the following year and exhibiting from 1775 to 1787, giving addresses of 33 Great Ormond Street to 1781 (jointly with Norwich 1779–81), 6 Great Ormond Street 1782 (and on 21.XII.1781 when he insured the property with the Sun Fire office); 66 Great Queen Street 1783–87; Great Russell Street (1788). In the *Norfolk chronicle*, 23.VIII.1777 “Mr Sanders of the London Royal Academy for Painting” announced his intention of moving to Norwich to reside “constantly here as a portrait painter in oils and crayons”, and wished not to be considered “as an itinerant painter, being desirous of gaining the Esteem and Respect of those on whom he will be happy to rely.” On 28.XI.1778 the *Norfolk chronicle* reported that the scenery at the New Theatre at Yarmouth had been painted by Mr Sanders of Norwich and Mr Oram of London. An advertisement dated 29.XII.1779 appeared in the *Norfolk chronicle*, 1.I.1780:

MR SANDERS PORTRAIT-PAINTER, being removed from St Michael's Coslany, to the house late Mr William Barton's, in the Cockey Lane, Norwich, begs Leave to solicit the Encouragement of the public, as he means to continue to take LIKENESSES in Oil, Crayons, or Chalk, of all Sizes, Miniature excepted.

Specimens may be seen as above.

Mr SANDERS proposes to clean or repair the Collection of Pictures of any Nobleman, or Gentleman, being acquainted with a Method of preserving them, known to but very few Persons who undertake that Employment.

“John Sanders of the parish of Saint Andrew in the City of Norwich” married Rebecca Arnold “of this parish” in St-Martin-in-the-Fields, London 9.VII.1780; they had five daughters and a son, the painter John Arnold Sanders (1781–1860, born in Norwich).

He returned to Norwich, advertising again in the *Norfolk chronicle*, 5.VIII.1780, this time denying a report that the pictures he had produced in his previous stay were not his own work, and citing the RA catalogues as evidence. He had also purchased the collection of old master paintings of George Ward of Lambeth, now for sale.

Myrone 2022 suggests he was the John Sanders, portrait painter of Lincoln's Inn who took an apprentice, James Moffatt, in 1786.

A notice in the *Kentish gazette*, 21.X.1788, has him in Margate, about to return to London, 101 Great Russell Street.

The artist appears to have moved to Bath around 1790. Numerous advertisements for lessons in painting in oil colours, crayons etc. from his house at 9 Lansdown Crescent

appeared in the *Bath chronicle and weekly gazette* (e.g. 14.XI.1793 and 20.II.1794). He executed portraits, topographical views etc. in oil and (recorded examples are all between 1773 and 1786) pastel. Walpole described a 1774 exhibit (presumably in oil) as “very lively”.

The *Bristol Mercury*, 24.I.1825 carried a noticed of the death, on 4.I.1825, “at his son-in-law's, at Clifton, at an advanced age”, of “Mr Sanders, Sen., father of Mr J. A. Sanders, artist, of Bath.” He was buried on 8.I.1825 in Clifton, “aged 75”, making it unlikely that he was born in 1750 (one source even suggests he was the son of John and Alice, baptised in Kidlington 25.XII.1750). Among other possibilities he might be the John, son of John and Mary Sanders of Red Lion Street, baptised at St Andrew's Holborn, 26.IX.1749.

John Hodges Benwell (*q.n.*) is often described as his pupil, but this seems to be a confusion with Joseph Saunders (*q.n.*).

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Graves 1907; Myrone 2022; Oxford DNB; Sée 1911; Sloman 2002, p. 202; Stewart & Cutten 1997; Waterhouse 1981; Wright 2006; Index of Bath artists

Pastels

- J.6536.101 Ralph CARR (1768–1837), of Stannington, Northumberland, and Barrow Point Hill, Middlesex, barrister, pstl, 38x27.5, inscr. *verso* (London, Sotheby's, 7.IV.1977, Lot 160 n.r., as a/r John Saunders) [cf. Vaslet]
- J.6536.102 Sir Thomas LOUIS, [Bt (1758–1807), rear admiral, RN], pstl, 25x20 ov. (T. W. Waller; sale p.m., London, Christie's, 10.VI.1910, Lot 81 n.r., 3½ gns; Leggatt 1911). Exh.: Paris 1911, no. 148
- J.6536.103 Gentleman in a blue coat; & pendant: J.6536.104 lady in a white dress and green cloak, pstl/ppr, 36x28, sd √ “JSanders/Norwich Octbr/1771” (London, Sotheby's, 4.VII.2001, Lot 161 n.r., est. £800–1200, £700 [=£840])
- J.6536.105 Young lady, Royal Academy 1777, no. 318
- J.6536.106 Young lady, Royal Academy 1778, no. 272
- J.6536.107 Lady, pstl, Royal Academy 1782, no. 383
- J.6536.108 The deserted girl, Royal Academy 1775 [? h.c.]
- J.6536.109 Jacob and the Angel, Royal Academy 1775 [? h.c.]
- J.6536.11 Two small portraits, crayons, Royal Academy 1776, no. 276
- J.6536.111 Child, crayons, Royal Academy 1782, no. 383
- J.6536.112 Children, crayons, Royal Academy 1786, no. 421