

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

WHITAKER, John

fl. Dublin 1793–96

Whitaker signed the plate of his portrait of Mrs La Touche as “Crayon Painter & Engraver”. It appears to derive from a pastel of a member of the La Touche family by Hamilton said to be Anne La Touche, Mrs Jefferyes. We have not come across any example in pastel, although Whitaker may be the author of the anonymous pastel of Mrs La Touche’s sister-in-law (*v.* Irish sch.). Several further engraved portraits (of John Keogh, Edward Byrne and Robert Shaw) were advertised in the *General evening post* or the *Hibernian magazine* up to 1796. The only documentation about Whitaker appears to be in evidence he gave at the trial for sedition of Dr William Drennan, 25.VI.1794, in which he was identified as an apprentice to the Dublin engraver and printer William Paulet Carey in .II.1793. All seem to have been United Irishmen. Alexander 2021 plausibly suggests that he may be the John, son of N Whitaker and Mary Byrne baptised in St Catherine’s Dublin, 24.X.1772. A John Whitaker married a Jane Chambers in Dublin in 1792; this may account for why Carey told the court that his apprentice did not live with him.

Bibliography

Alexander 2021; Mary Pollard, ed., *A dictionary of members of the Dublin book trade 1550–1800*, 2000

Pastels

- [J.7928.101](#) Mrs Peter LA TOUCHE, née Elizabeth Vicars (1759–1844)
~grav. Whitaker, as “The widow and orphans’ friend”, *Hibernian magazine*, .II.1796, p. 1. Lit.: Cullen 2004, p. 125 repr.
~?a/r Hamilton, Anne La Touche, Mrs Jefferyes