

Neil Jeffares, *Dictionary of pastellists before 1800*

Online edition

BLOOMFIELD, John

Dublin ?–21.IX.1808

A miniaturist said to have used crayons. He may have been connected with the John Bloomfield of Redwood, a magistrate in Tipperary. He was a pupil of West in Dublin in 1764, winning a premium of 15s. from the Dublin Society (and so was probably born c.1750) before moving to England. He was back in Dublin by 1783, advertising from 125 Capel Street:

Miniature Painting. Mr. Bloomfield, who has had the honour and advantage of doing the pictures of not only many of the first nobility and gentry in England and Ireland, but some of the most distinguished characters for genius and taste in either Kingdom, will paint portraits – bracelet, locket, or any size – from one to five guineas each.

A somewhat cryptic reference to him appears in the *Hibernian journal* of 27.VIII.1784, p. 4, referring to two portraits which “are esteemed the sublimest efforts a *miniature pencil* has yet produced.” He died in a debtor’s prison in 1808.

He is possibly the John Bloomfield who married an Anne Campble on 12.I.1799 at St James’s, Church of Ireland, Dublin. A John George Bloomfield was christened to a John Bloomfield and Mary, of New Street, at St Nicholas Without, Dublin, 1.XI.1789.

Bibliography

Crookshank & Glin 1978; Foskett 1987; McGuire 1939, p. 14; Pasquin 1796c; Saur; Strickland 1913