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## George Richmond

George Richmond lived from 1809-1896 and produced over 2,500 works; 200 of which are in the National Portrait Gallery in London. He was a member of the William Blake led artist group *The Ancients* and, alongside a huge number of private commissions, he portrayed many well-known people, including King Edward VII, William Wilberforce, Charlotte Bronte and Charles Darwin.

George Richmond is my great-great-great grandfather.

With over fifty more contacts to follow up, this project is ongoing. For further information please visit my website: [www.ellyclarke.com](http://www.ellyclarke.com).

## The George Richmond Portrait Project

by Elly Clarke



Tracing family portraits by Victorian Portraitist George Richmond RA to private homes

### Audio Transcript – **English**

This project is shown as part of the exhibition  
GLASS CRASH FEELING, Goldrausch 2010  
Galerie September & Schaulager Galerie Barbara Thumm  
20.11.2010 – 18.12.2010

## Track List: Photographs and Audio

Key in the track number then press the 'Play' button.



**Ruth and Joseph Lubbock in Suffolk, May 2010**  
**John and Elizabeth Gurney in the Sitting Room**  
**Joseph Lubbock at his Press**

1. The Lubbocks – The Gurneys
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**Sir and Lady James Scott at Rotherfield, July 2010**  
**Arthur and Walter Scott in the hall by the back stairs**

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**Katharine and Jonathan van der Werff in London, May 2010**  
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10. Van der Werffs – Blue Cloth
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**James Hervey-Bathurst at Eastnor, October 2010**  
**Arthur Herbert Somers Cocks outside the kitchen**  
**Lord Gough's Sword in the Hall**

12. James Hervey-Bathurst – Eastnor to India
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**Matt Darby at Kemerton Court, October 2010**  
**Countess Lucy Elizabeth Home in the Dining Room**

14. Matt Darby – Tedious Hostess
15. Matt Darby – Jumble sale pile
16. Matt Darby – Easily Forgotten
17. Matt Darby – Labelling
18. Matt Darby – In the Landscape

## Matt Darby at Kemerton Court

October 2010

### Track 14 - Matt Darby - Tedious Hostess

*Matt Darby:* As I say, I think she was known as a rather tedious society hostess. She was an extremely well connected, very rich society figure, but not very interesting I think. Not a great patroness of the arts particularly. And not intellectual. But certainly a powerful figure. I think that any wealthy countess of that date was, really.

### Track 15 - Matt Darby - Jumble Sale Pile

*Matt Darby:* And as I was saying to you in the dining room, the one that we have was rescued from my Grandmother's skip, or rather jumble sale pile, and fortuitously by my mum, but God knows what my Grandmother had managed to chuck out before then I don't know. It was a wonderful Victorian cluttered house Hirsell and she had rather austere tidy tastes and really chucked out a lot of stuff.

### Track 16 - Matt Darby - Easily Forgotten

*Matt Darby:* One thing I always say about portraits, is... when I'm having general discussion about them, which doesn't happen so often (!) is that it's remarkable how often the sitter is forgotten. It really is extraordinary. It's so easy just to write in oil on the back who it is or something but that is never, ever done. And I would say in a typical South Ken sale - Christies, one of their British picture sales, that of the hundred portraits they might have there, eighty will be unknown. So it's really sad actually how easily forgotten it is. And even within families. Two generations pass and it's gone.

### Track 17 - Matt Darby - Labelling

*Matt Darby:* There are some pictures around here and we've just forgotten who they are. Quite a few. Especially photographs. So one of the things I have had done, and you'll have seen a nice shiny gold-leaf label on Lucy Elizabeth, that's something I've had made. And there's another one over there. Because I just sort of think, I know, my father knows but we're the only people who do know who they are. Hopefully by creating something that is associated with the object that is itself nice it will make it less likely it's forgotten, more likely it's remembered.

### Track 18 - Matt Darby - In the Landscape

*Matt Darby:* Well my great love is landscape and I've been making a landscape out there and I suppose I'd most like to be photographed in it, probably.

## James Hervey-Bathurst at Eastnor Castle October 2010

### Track 12 - Hervey-Bathurst - Eastnor to India

*James Hervey-Bathurst:* We're in Eastnor Castle, which is the house built by the uncle of Herbert Cocks. The room that we're in was my grandfather and also my father's study my grandfather was the grandson of the man in the portrait. So it's nice that we're actually in this room. He was born locally and he wasn't in line to inherit the house or the estate, so like many younger sons men of that age he went out to India to seek his fortune. But he went out as a civil servant rather than in business. Went on to join the staff as a political advisor to General Gough at the time of the second Sikh war of 1848 and his distinguished himself in the battle that ended the war, after which the Sikh Nation joined the Empire, which is the battle of Gujarat, where he was wounded and he obviously protected Lord Gough because he was on his immediate staff. Lord Gough gave him his sword as a token of thanks, which we've still got today and he also brought back from the battlefield quite a lot of Sikh Armor, which is on display in the house.

### Track 13 - Hervey-Bathurst - Battle of Gujarat

*James Hervey-Bathurst:* I was going through some boxes belonging to my Grandmother the other day and I found a rather battered red volume called *The Second Sikh War* by R E J Fackwell, and when I opened it I saw that it belonged to Arthur Herbert Cocks Esq. CB and that he'd annotated it to say that there were things interesting and worth reading on certain pages. So having had the book rebound I've now got to page 220 where the incident in which he was involved is described as follows:

"The enemy poured a heavy fire into the 14th Light Dragoons, whose skirmishes often resolutely repulsed the daring foe. Warner's troop of horse artillery here rendered good service and it's far rested the advance of the Cucharas who swarmed in clusters. A large party of these men penetrated to the rear of the heavy guns and approached Lord Gough. The personal escort, a troop of the 5th Light Cavalry under Lieutenant Stannas, gallantly interposed and by means of firearms soon achieved the complete destruction of these men. This gallant officer however received a severe wound on this occasion. Mr. Cocks of the civil service, who accompanied the chief, sought a personal encounter with one of the Cucharas. The Sikh dismounted and succeeded in inflicting a bad wound on Mr. Cocks' leg. But the latter fully avenged himself, dispatching the ruffian by a well-delivered thrust. This intrepid civilian, one of the Sommers' family, the worthy side of such a gallant race, was stretched on a sickbed for a length of time afterwards. It was feared that he would be compelled to undergo amputation but he is now restored to health."

And that's the end of the description.

## Ruth and Joseph Lubbock in Suffolk May 2010

### Track 1 - The Lubbocks - The Gurneys

*Joseph and Ruth Lubbock:* The two... John... and Elizabeth Gurney. ... First cousins. She died young of tuberculosis and as legend had it also died young because he hurt his back nursing her but that doesn't sound very convincing. Anyway, they died sadly with no children.

### Track 2 - The Lubbocks - An Engagement:

*Elly Clarke:* So since you've had the portraits here, have they always hung in this room?

*Ruth Lubbock:* Yes

*Joseph Lubbock:* Yes

*Ruth:* And I think the first time I remember them was in the house, his parents house, we were standing in front of them looking at them and for the second time he asked me to marry him! The first time I said uh uh and the second time I said yes. In front of those pictures! ... You've probably forgotten that!

*Joseph:* I'd forgotten that!

*Ruth:* Yes I bet you had!

### Track 3 - Ruth Lubbock - The Quakers

*Ruth Lubbock:* They were a wonderful lot the Quakers and as you probably know, they were the founders of a lot of the banks because their word was their bond - they could be trusted. And in East Anglia there's a lot of money from the wool trade and who do you trust? What do you do with the money? And the answer was the Quakers because they were honest. And unlike the banks now they were trusted. And they had a great mission of care to the community. Even when we were young that was so.

### Track 4 - J Lubbock - Bomb Disposal

*Joseph Lubbock:* I took an Engineering Degree at Cambridge and made my living as an Engineer until I was 45. My first job after qualifying was building the prototype spitfire fighter... And I spent some time doing bomb disposal, which wasn't a very nice job but anyway I didn't get blown up doing it.

### Track 5 - J Lubbock - Turn to Art

*Joseph Lubbock:* I was always interested in art, but I got less and less interested in anything to do with engineering and more and more interested in art... So a time came when it was just about possible financially to move from one thing to the other so of course I did. And been painting in some form ever since. But mostly these books that you've just seen. I did some portraits at some time. I have some two or three in the back there, of the family. And some in the other room... but really I've concentrated on these books. Of which I've done what twelve...

*Ruth Lubbock:* Thirteen.

*Joseph Lubbock:* Thirteen

## Sir and Lady James Scott July 2010

### Track 6 - James Scott - Grey Matter

*James Scott:* My name's James Scott and we're in the sitting room at Rotherfield, which is my home, it has been my family's home for two hundred years. And the reason we're here is because we've been looking at pictures of my great-grandfather's eldest brothers done by George Richmond in the 1850s and they were... very clever young men. Absolutely brimming with gray matter. Unfortunately this didn't extend to the practical side of life, 'cos they went off to Australia and lost an enormous amount of money trying to set up a kind of ranching type operation in Queensland and indeed my own great-grandfather was writing five-figure cheques to pay off the loans from the Duke of Grafton's trustees in the middle of the first war - so fifty years later or so... So they were a bit of a fiasco. But they certainly made lovely pictures.

### Track 7 - James Scott - Queensland

*James Scott:* For instance in Queensland there's a mount Arthur Scott named after Arthur Scott and after their mother there's a Lake Lucy, which they named... No, I think they got up to some fantastic - or by our standards fantastic - acreage out there before the whole thing went fuff.

### Track 8 - James Scott - Younger Sons

*James Scott:* I think the basic problem... I think the basic scheme was that they would develop this place as a place where younger sons could go out to and sort of start afresh while the eldest son sort of you know perhaps inherited something in England. But of course none of these people were cut out for anything or remotely any use to anyone. So they were dealing with entirely the wrong sort of raw material.

### Track 9 - James Scott - Tension

*James Scott:* No, we've got quite a lot of letters. But mainly there's this tension between someone on the ground in Australia trying to make a go of something that's jolly nearly impossible and someone else several thousand miles away issuing rather bossy instructions. ... And certainly the thing what it did do, my great-grandfather was much younger, wasn't involved at all, was completely put off certainly any kind of borrowing because he ended up paying off the bills, but also put off any sort of partnership and the problem of being liable for your partner's debts. He was very, very concerned about that. 'Cos he, unlike the others, as the forth son with no expectations, he actually went off and worked in a bank just worked away and had a career and resolutely refused to become involved. They tried to get him involved but he wasn't having any of it.

## Katharine and Jonathan Van der Werff in London May 2010

### Track 10 - Van der Werffs - Blue Cloth

*Katharine van der Werff:* He's always come alive, because of the letters he's written during the Mutiny that my father kept. And I was always amused that he took time off during the fighting to write a letter to his tailor, ordering more cloth for his next garment.

*Elly Clarke:* And did it say what kind of garment it was?

*Katharine van der Werff:* Well I seem to remember it was blue... Can you remember what it was darling?

*Jonathan van der Werff:* No

*Katharine van der Werff:* Blue cloth, I do remember. He was very worried about the weight of the cloth... Most extraordinary in the hot India to be thinking about all that.

### Track 11 - Van der Werffs - Victoria Cross

*Katharine van der Werff:* The women weren't out there then.

*Jonathan van der Werff:* No

*Katharine van der Werff:* When he was a young man.

*Jonathan van der Werff:* Not until after the mutiny really, when things changed completely.

*Katharine van der Werff:* And then his first wife was with him out there with him. And then she died. Then he had many, many years out there alone, which must have been very lonely. And then he had his daughter who is my great-aunt. And it was her who had the picture.

*Katharine van der Werff:* And his son's was a soldier and went out to India and...

*Jonathan van der Werff:* ...won a Victoria Cross on the North-West frontier

*Katharine van der Werff:* Roughly where they're all fighting now.