

In Miniature

by **Lynne Belluscio**

This last week Nancy Chiafolo stopped by and donated two portraits of Emily and Marietta Ingham. The exquisite miniatures were painted on thin slivers of ivory by Phineas Staunton who was Emily's husband. I suspect that they were painted in 1846 or '47 when Phineas and Emily were married, yet Emily looks so young. (Emily was born in 1811, so would have been 35 in the portrait.) These are the only known miniatures painted by Phineas Staunton.

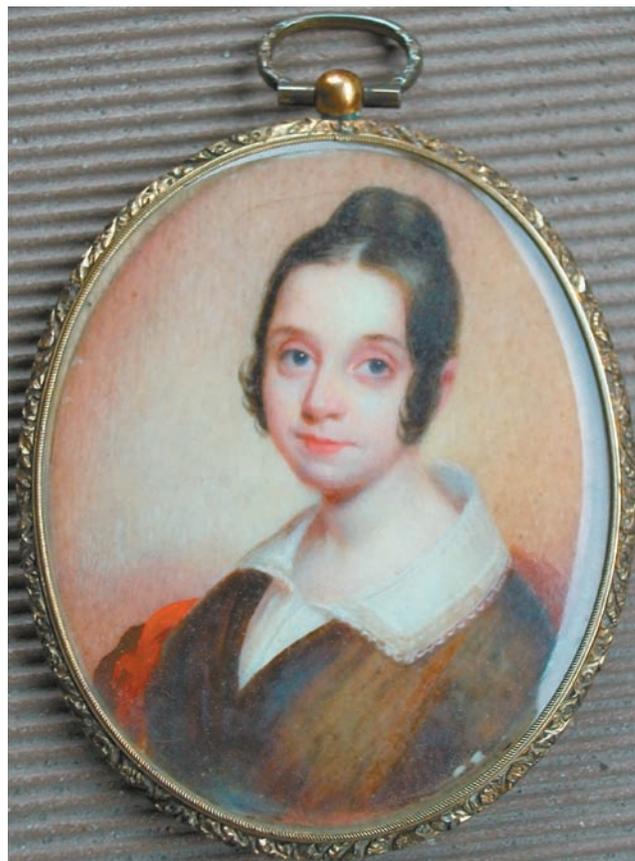
Miniatures on ivory were painted in water colors and the technique required to paint such a fine small portrait was not easily mastered. Many artists never painted miniatures. The ivory was cut in thin slabs from elephant tusks and it provided a very smooth, almost luminescent surface. Unfortunately, the paint often did not adhere to the ivory. Many artists mixed their own paint and mistakes could not be covered over. (I found it interesting that last year we were celebrating the dedication of Staunton's largest canvas – the portrait of Henry Clay on the floor of the Senate 7 foot by 11 foot and now I'm looking at a portrait that is less than 3 inches tall!) The miniatures are certainly fine examples

of Staunton's artistic ability. The oval portrait of Emily is in a case with a small window on the back for a small lock of hair, although it is empty. Marietta's portrait is in a red leather case.

Nancy had called me a few weeks ago, to see if we were interested in the portraits and I could hardly contain my excitement. The reason why Nancy had the portraits is because she is a descendant of both the Ingham and the Staunton families. Her great, great, great grandmother was Emily Ingham's twin sister, Julia. And Julia's son, married Phineas Staunton's younger sister. (I had to think about that relationship, but they were not blood relatives).

I've tried to put together the family genealogy and it is a little confusing, but it is very interesting. Marietta and Emily Ingham, the founders of Ingham University in LeRoy, had twelve brothers and sisters. Emily and her twin sister, Julia were born in 1811. Emily and Julia, were 14 years younger than Marietta. Emily was raised by her older sister Marietta.

In 1827, while Emily was still in school, sixteen-year-old Julia married Benjamin Hays. (Emily did not marry Phineas Staunton



Emily Ingham

until 1847 when she was 36 and they had no children.) Julia and Benjamin had a son, Julius Augustus Hays who was born in 1830. In 1852, he married his uncle Phineas Staunton's younger sister, Amelia. In 1860 they had a daughter Emma Staunton Hays. Tragically, Amelia died in 1863, and three-year-old Emma came to LeRoy to live with her grandmother Julia and her aunts, Marietta and Emily. She attended Ingham and according to family history played the piano and loved the flowers that grew in the gardens on the campus. She married Frank Humphrey and they had five children.

The oldest was Ella Amelia Humphrey, but when her father died in 1902 her mother took two of her sisters, Louise and Alice to California. Louise had tuberculosis. Ella remained in Granville, Ohio and attended Granville Female Seminary and then the Chicago Art Institute. She taught art at Dennison University and Broadus College. In 1907, Ella married Alonzo Ferris Nichol and they had two children, Henry and Katherine (Kitty) Henrietta. Kitty, who was born in 1915, married Dr. Howard Ickes in 1939

and it was their daughter, Nancy who brought the portraits to the Historical Society.

Many years ago, Kitty Ickes made contact with the Historical Society and through her generosity, the large portraits of Emily and Marietta Ingham that hang in the back parlor, were repaired, cleaned and restored. She visited the LeRoy House several times, and in 1992, visited the Ingham exhibit. Dr. Ickes died after a long illness and Kitty remarried and I remember well the visit she and her new husband made to LeRoy. Both of them were well into their 80s and their trip was quite an excursion, but Kitty was so interested in sharing her family history and the Ingham University story.

The tiny portraits remained in the family, and Kitty's daughter, Nancy wanted to make sure that they would become part of the Ingham collection here at the Historical Society. The two miniatures have been passed down through six generations of the Ingham and Staunton families and now they have come back to LeRoy. We plan to put them on exhibit next summer.



Marietta Ingham