**Information from Ferens Art Gallery**

The sitter would appear to be Nathaniel Cholmley of St-Martin's-in the Fields, London, merchant (d.1687 – the same year as the portrait), brother of John Cholmley, also a merchant (d.1693), of whom there are portraits in the National Portrait Gallery, York Art Gallery and a private collection. The latter two portraits identify John as the brother of Nathaniel Cholmley – see links below\*. Nathaniel married Mary (daughter of Sir Hugh Cholmley of Whitby). Their son Hugh\*\* (1684-1755), the MP referred to in the above comment, was father to Nathaniel Cholmley\*\*\* (1721-1791), grandson of the sitter and also an MP.’

We know from Gennari's letters that he also painted a portrait of Mary, but its whereabouts is unknown.   
  
Nathaniel's birth date is not known, but could be narrowed down by estimating the sitter’s age, and dating the costume etc.   
  
It would be interesting to find out more about the Cholmley family during this period, and would be fascinating to throw light on Gennari’s portrait of Nathaniel's wife Mary too. See ‘PORTRAIT OF MARY CHOLMLEY (1667-1748), WIFE OF NATHANIEL CHOMLEY’ by Kneller studio (Christies sale 2002)\*\*\*\*.   
  
\*Links to the portraits mentioned above and North Yorkshire archive list re Cholmley family:

<https://www.npg.org.uk/collections/search/portrait/mw01287/>  
<https://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=244165&sos=3>  
<https://vads.ac.uk/large.php?uid=87184>  
<https://archivesunlocked.northyorks.gov.uk/CalmView/Record.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog&id=ZCG&pos=1>  
  
\*\* History of Parliament pages Hugh Cholmley MP:  
<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1715-1754/member/cholmley-hugh-1684-1755>  
  
<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1690-1715/member/cholmley-hugh-1684-1755>  
  
\*\*\* History of Parliament page Nathaniel Cholmley MP  
<http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1754-1790/member/cholmley-nathaniel-1721-91>  
  
\*\*\*\*https://www.christies.com/lotfinder/Lot/studio-of-sir-godfrey-kneller-1646-1723-3935039-details.aspx