

Lydia Stiles (1806-1887), c. 1828

Eliza Goodridge (1798-1838)

watercolor on ivory

3 3/4 x 2 7/8 (9.5250 x 7.3025)

Bequest of Dwight Foster Dunn, 1937

Weis 57

Hewes Number: 110

Ex. Coll.: sitter, to her daughter Mary Stiles Dunn (b. 1830), to her son the donor.

This miniature of Lydia Stiles was probably painted around the time of her engagement to Alfred Dwight Foster (1800-1852), whom she married in February of 1828. It depicts a slightly older woman than an earlier portrait of Stiles (cat. #109), also by Eliza Goodridge, and is painted with more confidence. Goodridge had learned to moderate her backgrounds and to subtly blend skin tones for a more successful depiction of three dimensions. The sitter wears the same pin as in the earlier miniature and dressed her hair identically, topping the arrangement with a tortoise-shell comb. This miniature and one depicting the sitter in her early thirties, also by Goodridge (cat. #49), both descended through the sitter's eldest daughter, while the earlier miniature was owned by her youngest child. All three portraits were reunited at the American Antiquarian Society in the 1940s.