Faith Savage, Mrs. Cornelius Waldo

Date
about 1750

Primary Maker
Joseph Badger

Medium
oil on canvas

Description
Faith Savage Waldo (Mrs. Cornelius Waldo) is a three-quarter-length portrait of an elderly woman facing three-quarters to the right; her eyes gaze at the viewer. She wears a white cap with two layers of fabric surrounding her face. The cap is tied in a bow with a narrow white ribbon at her neck. Mrs. Waldo has hazel eyes and a face that is nearly round, with creases to the sides of her nose and mouth. The modeling is stark, and the edges are hard. Her flesh droops along her jawline, and her throat swells between two creases. Mrs. Waldo wears a brown dress patterned with lighter-brown flowers. White sleeves drape below the elbow-length sleeves of a shift. Her shoulders are draped in a plain, solid-white cloth. Her ruffled white bonnet is secured beneath the chin with a bow. The subject sits in a high-backed wooden armchair with blue-green upholstery on the back and seat. In her lap she holds a book that is slightly open, to page forty-six. Mrs. Waldo’s proper left hand rests in her lap, its index finger extended. The hand’s contours are outlined with brown lines but have less detail than the hands in her husband’s portrait. Her proper left arm is awkwardly painted and seems disconnected from her body. Behind the sitter, at the upper-right, is a solid-green drapery with fringed edges and a single tassel hanging from a braid. The rest of the background is a relatively even dark brown, with a narrow band of a light brown along Mrs. Waldo’s proper left arm.

Dimensions
canvas: 127 x 101.6 cm (50 x 40 in.)