

---

# Bitesize History - People

---

## Walter McAdam, artist, 1866 - 1935



**W**e visited his studio at Lochwinnoch the other day. On entering "the Den" of the painter we are agreeably surprised to find it lit by a large end window, which commands a magnificent view of the entire stretch of the Loch. This window is a happy arrangement, as it enables the artist to study sky effects to great advantage. Mr McAdam, we may say, has found material for all his pictures in the beautiful and romantic locality of Lochwinnoch, where he has resided for the last four years.

The largest picture represents the village of Lochwinnoch under an afternoon aspect. The foreground of water-lilies and swans leads the spectator right up to the point of interest in the picture—the village, which lies nestled at the foot of the hills.

"The Way to the Glen," is a subject which visitors to Lochwinnoch will readily recognise. The particular part of the Glen depicted is at the far end of the Lade, and looking right up to the Little Cloak farm. The hill-side is seen under the sunshine of a spring afternoon the trees still void of their summer foliage. The figures of two children making their way over the sluice in the foreground gives aptness to the title of the picture.

---

"The Stillness of Evening," gives us Nature in perhaps its most peaceable mood. A pool in the meadow fringed with a hank of trees in rich russet tones which throw their dark reflections on the water.

With such a profusion of water-lilies in Lochwinnoch it is little wonder that the painter introduces that plant into several of his pictures. Indeed, one is surprised that artists go so far afield as the Thames for subjects of this kind. In "Summer Time," we have again a stretch of the Loch with abundance of water-lilies, and while true to the nature of the place it is essentially English in its aspect. The rest in importance is that representing the familiar Barr Meadow, looking at which the spectator is carried away to the homely harvest field.

Under a pale blue sky the remaining part of the crop looks ripe for the sickle; and the group in the foreground consists of field workers, who appear to be obeying the old adage, "make hay while the sun shines," and a sturdy old grey horse carting off a load of hay.

"The Mill in the Glen " strikes another chord, and shows how prolific the district is in variety of subject. It takes us away back to the days when the water-wheel was one of the principal motive power. The comparatively old-world

subjects are fast disappearing and this one has received at Mr McAdam's hands a most faithful rendering. Deep in the shadows of the mill and the foliage, the river Calder flows placidly by, and life is suggested by the figure of a young girl in the foreground.



"A Spring Afternoon on the Calder." Spring, we may remark, is evidently a season of the year the artist delights to portray, and here he has caught Nature in its tenderest mood, the picture being painted in silver greys, and the white sky is most effective.

Among the smaller canvasses, we noticed some painted near to the Old Peel, where the trees lend themselves to fine artistic treatment — "Twilight " and "Daybreak" being, perhaps, those that will appeal more to painters than the general public.