

COLLECTION of ARTWORKS

The Lodge at Glendorn



It should come as no surprise that the worlds of art and sporting life often intersect.



In 1866, Pittsburgh artists George Hetzel and Charles Linford joined friends on a fishing trip to Scalp Level near Johnstown. This brief adventure would result in an over thirty-year tradition of artists and their students returning to the area to sketch and paint. Such notables as A. F. King, E.A. Poole, Martin Leisser, Joseph Woodwell, Jasper Lawman, William Coventry Wall and his nephew A. Bryan Wall are just a sampling of the many who made the summer trips to Scalp Level.

Although these artists spent a great amount of time together, they had diverse training, influences and styles. George Hetzel's dark forest interiors with filtering light on a rock-lined stream are very reminiscent of works from the Hudson River School. A.F. King who is mainly identified as a still life artist, was a regular to Scalp Level and painted many landscapes. Autumn landscapes filled with vibrant colors lend themselves to a majority of E.A. Poole's works. Some were self-taught while others received formal training from the finest academies of Europe. Despite differing backgrounds and experiences, there was a great camaraderie and a sense of mutual admiration among them.

As Pittsburgh and the surrounding area continued to grow, these artists became more dependent upon trips to Scalp Level and other areas of the region in pursuit of "romantic" landscapes. The result of the city's growth benefited them in creating a market for their landscapes and still life paintings, and steady portraiture commissions. A number of the artists relied on the latter for their livelihood. Many of their portraits of prominent figures of this region still hang in clubs, offices and homes today.

As you move around the estate viewing the works, hopefully beyond the aesthetic, you will be stirred to explore nature and find similar subjects yourselves. This can be accomplished with a fly rod in hand, watching an English pointer working a ruffed grouse or just hiking a trail on a crisp autumn day. Such pursuits encouraged these artists and hopefully their works will inspire you as well.