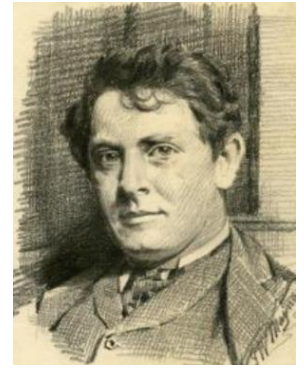


Julian Alden Weir – The Life of an American Painter

Julian Alden Weir was born in West Point, New York, on August 30, 1852. His father was a professor of drawing and his brother, John, was a well-known artist. They both greatly influenced and supported Julian's artistic career.



When he was seventeen years old, Weir enrolled in the National Academy of Design in New York City where he studied art. Four years later, he moved to Paris where he enrolled at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. While he was in France, Weir was introduced to the art movement known as Impressionism, in which artists show the impression of a scene instead of realistic depictions. It often features short, visible brush strokes, and an emphasis on light and shadow.

When he returned to New York in the late 1870s, Weir became an art *instructor*. He met Anna Dwight Baker of Windham, Connecticut, and they were married in 1883.

The year before they were married, Weir purchased a farm in Branchville, Connecticut. This became the place where Weir *honed* his skills as an Impressionist artist. Weir often painted his home, farm animals, family members, and the fields and forest around his land.

Weir and nine other Impressionist painters formed a group called "The Ten." These fellow artists often visited Weir at his farm. They worked *en plein air*, painting outside, where they could experience the landscape. The Ten exhibited their paintings together at galleries in New York, Boston, and Philadelphia.

In his later years, Weir continued to paint the landscapes and countryside of Connecticut. He created more than 450 paintings and won numerous awards for his work. Senior *curator* Erica Hirshler said, "There are several artists like Weir who have been called the fathers of the American Impressionist movement, but Weir was certainly at the heart of it."



Weir's paintings are displayed at museums around the world, and visitors continue to be inspired by his images today. His farm in Connecticut has been preserved as Weir Farm National Historical Park where visitors can enjoy the beautiful scenes that Weir, and other artists, depicted in their paintings.