Faed Susan 1827 - 1909

Her Life

- Susan Bell Faed was born on 8th June 1827 at Barlay Mill on the outskirts of Gatehouse. She was the fifth child and only daughter of James Faed, millwright and his wife Mary McGeoch.
- At the bottom of this file is a Faed family tree which shows where Susan fits in.
- She was a rather striking girl, taking her good looks from her mother, and would often model for her artist brothers.
- Like her brothers, she attended Girthon School but, as was the wont at the time, she was expected to carry out domestic duties at home. Her father died in 1843 but she and her mother remained at the Mill for some time.
- By 1851 Susan was in Edinburgh looking after her brother Thomas. Her mother Mary was nearby, living with Susan's brother James.
- Susan and her mother returned to Gatehouse by 1861 and were living at 'Fleetbank' on Dromore Road. Mary Faed died there in 1866.
- Susan is known to have painted during this period for she had a picture 'The Country Lass' hung at the Royal Academy in London. Her brother James wrote that "(*she*) painted some beautiful heads" and that he was amazed at the standard of her work when she had no training. She exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy in 1883 and 1884.
- She was married at age 59, on 2nd February 1887, to John Walthew, a widowed cotton spinning manufacturer from Stockport. The wedding took place in Marylebone, London and her brother Thomas was a witness.
- Her husband died in 1889 after only 2 years of marriage. Her brother John's wife Jane died in Gatehouse in 1897, after which Susan went to live with John as his housekeeper at Ardmore.
- Susan was very proud of her brothers' achievements and kept a scrapbook of press cuttings. They in turn seem to have supported her financially whilst she carried out family housekeeping duties and also after her husband died.
- John died in 1902 and Susan continued to live at his house until her death in 1909.
- Mary McKerrow's biography of 'The Faeds' says "She was remembered (*in Gatehouse*) as an old lady of grace, intelligence and of particular charm."

Her Work

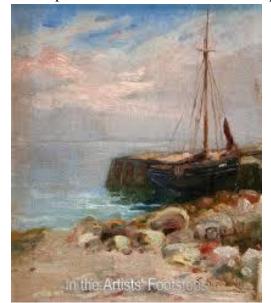
Try following the links below to find examples of this artist's work.. When you have viewed the contents, remember to use your browser's "back" button to return to this page.

WikipediaIn the Artist's Footsteps

Although Susan was good at painting heads, the Artists Footsteps website has two of her landscapes



Galloway Farm



Fishing Boat at Breakwater



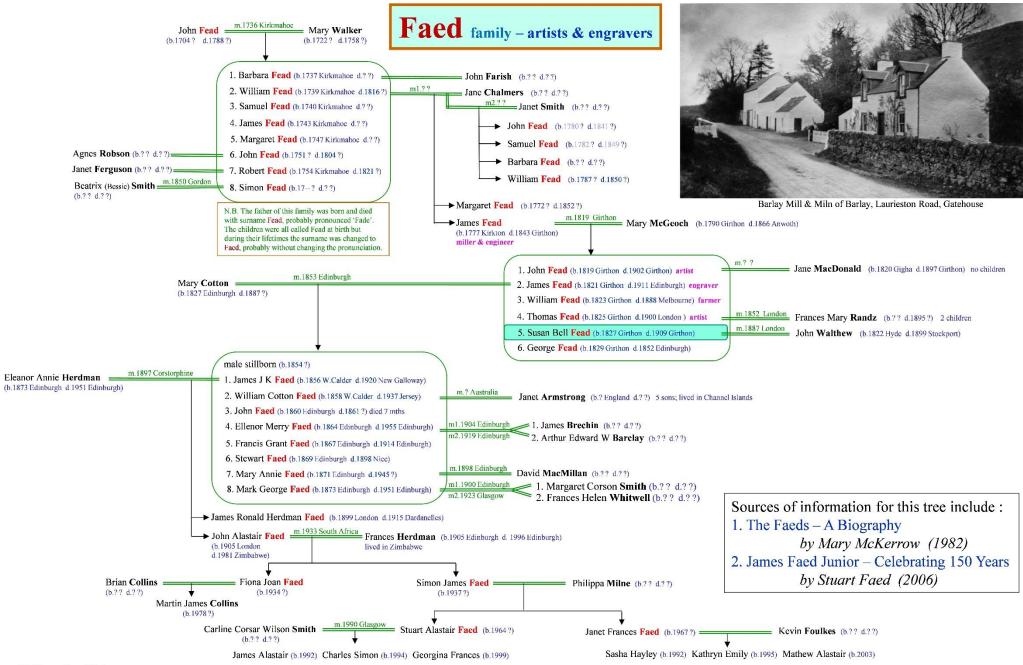
The drawing on the left was created by Susan Faed. It depicts the fictional character Rose Bradwardine from Walter Scott's novel 'Waverley' which was published in 1814.



Susan Faed by Thomas Faed (1840)



Susan Faed by James Faed



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