

Sturrock

Alick Riddell

1885 - 1953

His Life

Alexander Riddell Sturrock, known as Alick, was born in Edinburgh on 10th June 1885.

His parents were Alexander Allan Sturrock (born 1846 in Roxburghshire), and Katherine Riddell (born 1851 Selkirkshire, died 1927). The couple married in 1874 at Traquair, Peebleshire.

In 1891 the family were living in Edinburgh. Father Alexander was a bank clerk and he and wife Katherine had 4 children, Alick being the youngest. In 1901 the family were in the same house but father Alexander was now a bank accountant.

Alick attended George Watson's School in Edinburgh before starting an apprenticeship as a lithographer. At the same time he attended classes at the Edinburgh School of Art.

In 1916, during the First World War, he enlisted in the Royal Scots where he attained the rank of Captain. He served in France and was wounded in the Battle of Arras in 1917.

On 21st of October 1918 he married Mary Arbuckle Newbery, the daughter of Fra Newbery, who had been head of Glasgow Art School. The wedding took place in Corfe Castle, Dorset where the Newbery's lived after retirement.

His subjects were mainly landscapes, and exhibited with Eric Robertson, W O Hutchison and others in 1912 and 1913, and again after First World War as part of the Edinburgh Group.

He visited Gatehouse of Fleet, Kirkcudbrightshire from the early 1920s. He first stayed at **Rutherford Cottage**, and lived at **Victoria Cottage, Boatgreen** from 1926-1934.

Whilst living in Gatehouse, Alick had an active social life. He was a keen fisherman, enjoyed curling with Anwoth Curling Club and was captain of Gatehouse Golf Club. He was generous with donations to encourage local artists and to provide prizes for the golf club.

He also enjoyed drinking sessions in the Anwoth Hotel with fellow artists and ex soldiers Hamish Paterson and Mac Fleming.

In 1934 the Sturrocks left Gatehouse and returned to live in Edinburgh.

Alick was treasurer of the Royal Scottish Academy 1938-1947; Exhibited at Royal Academy; Royal Scottish Academy; Royal Scottish Society of Painters in Watercolours; Aberdeen Artists' Society; Royal Glasgow Institute of Fine Arts; Liverpool.

During the Second World War he was engaged in providing camouflage to buildings, which was as a way to keep artists employed. The large canteen at Rosyth Naval Docks was one such project in which he was involved.

Alick is known to have visited Gatehouse again in the early 1950s, staying at The Old School House, Anwoth. He painted 'Skyreburn Bay' about this time.

Alick Riddell Sturrock died suddenly whilst on holiday at St Abbs, Berwickshire on 16th May 1953.

A detailed description of the life of A R Sturrock is contained in the booklet "Gatehouse Days -Remembering A R Sturrock RSA" by David A I Steel.

The text of this publication is included here :-

[Gatehouse Days.](#)



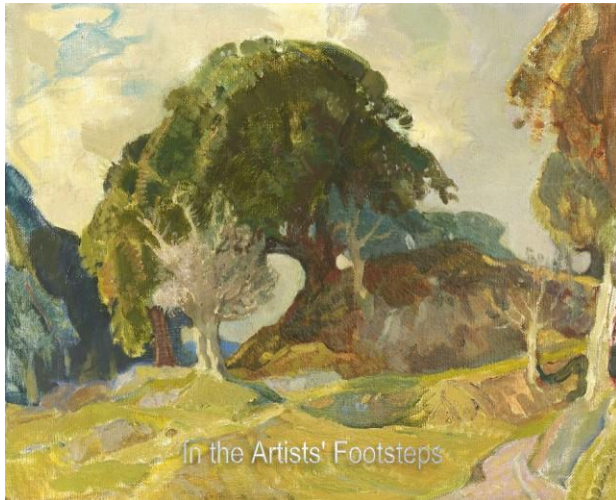
His Work

Try following the links 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.

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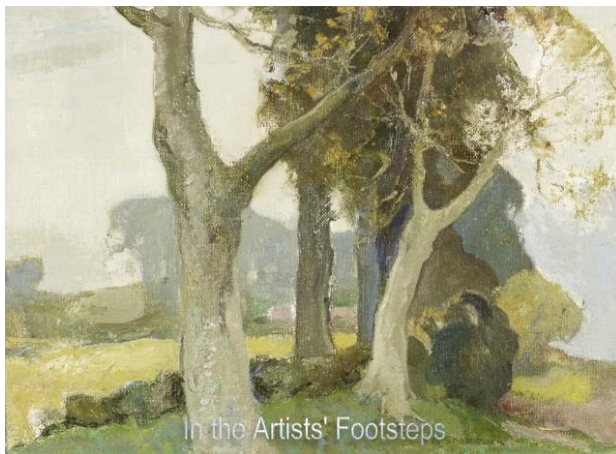
Bridge over the Fleet



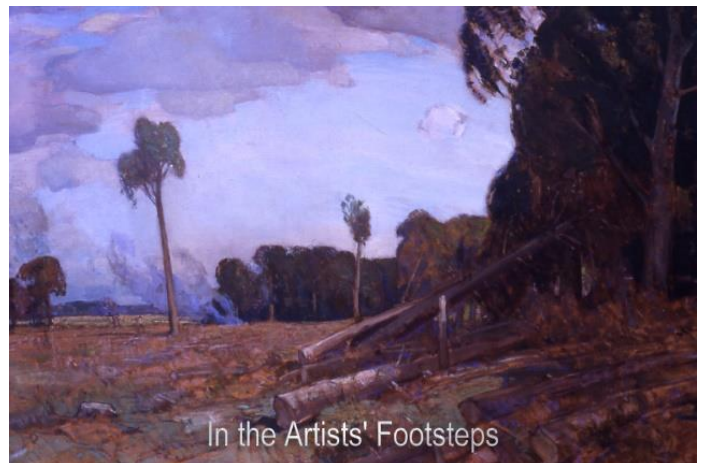
Anwoth Woods



A Group of Trees, Little Boreland (Gatehouse)



Farmland Near Anwoth

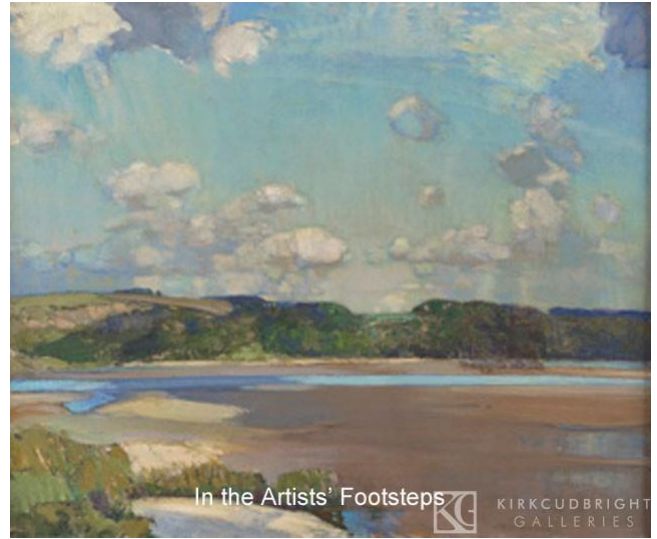


Felling Timber, Cally



Trees at Little Boreland

The original of this painting was awarded by Club Captain Alick Sturrock for the Gatehouse Golf Club Champion in its inaugural year. It was won by William Hay.



In the Artists' Footsteps  KIRKCUDBRIGHT GALLERIES

Skyreburn and the Fleet Estuary