Summit Historical Minute
March 7, 2017 Council Meeting
History of Worthington Whittredge
Presented by Elaina Turner, Summit High School Senior

Worthington Whittredge was a famous painter who lived in Summit for thirty years. Part of the Hudson River School art movement that took place in the 19th century, Whittredge's artwork is recognizable by its focus on the natural world, depicting scenes that easily remind any Summit resident of the local parks or Watchung Reservation. Following the literary and artistic theme of Romanticism popularized by writers like Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau, The Hudson River School paintings sought to show several themes of American life at the time, such as discovery, exploration, and a deep spiritual relationship with nature. Whittredge was well known in the artistic community, and president of the National Academy for Design from 1874 to 1875. If you have been to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Smithsonian Art Museum in D.C., or a number of other well-known art museums, it is likely you have seen some of Whittredge's work.

Like everything, Whittredge's famous artwork occurred almost by chance. He originally wished to be the owner of a successful daguerreotype business, but, perhaps because even then no one knew what daguerreotype was, it failed spectacularly. For those curious, daguerreotype is a form of photography where photos are developed on a polished metal plate. Despite this rocky start to his career, Whittredge remains relevant to this day for his lovely and realistic renderings of the American countryside.

	A sample of	Worthington	Whittredge's	work is a	available in	the black	binder
locate	d						

Guide to featured paintings:

- 1. The Trout Pool
- 2. The Brook in the Woods
- 3. Noon in the Orchard
- 4. Interior of a Westphalian Cottage
- 5. The Birches of The Catskills
- 6. The Camp Meeting
- 7. The Amphitheatre of Tusculum and Albano Mountains, Rome
- 8. Seconnet Point, Rhode Island
- 9. The Baptism
- 10. Crow's Nest
- 11. Landscape in the Harz Mountains

A Sample of the Works

Of

Worthington Whittredge



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