

What the Doves Built

In 1830 William Dove (1794-1877) came to America from England and settled in Geneva the following year. His son John and grandson William G. followed him in the mason trade and also made bricks. Arthur's brother Paul continued the brickyard until the mid-1930s.

The Doves were known for their institutional buildings. William G. Dove built the first Geneva Hospital (1897) which was torn down in 1964. Their work in Geneva which still stands includes the Dove Block (1878); Medbury Hall (1901) and the first library at Hobart College (1886); the parish house of St. Peter's Episcopal Church (1902); and Collins Music Hall (1893).



East North Street houses (pre-1902)

The 1902 city atlas showed four properties on East North Street that belonged to William Dove. Almost identical, they may have been built on speculation or for rental.



First Baptist Church (1894)

This was the church's second building and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2002. The upper spire was removed after being struck by lightning.



Belhurst Castle (1885-1889)

A restaurant and hotel for many years, Belhurst Castle was originally built as a house for Louis and Carrie Collins.



North Presbyterian Church (1876)

In 1989 the North Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church on Pulteney Park merged into The Presbyterian Church in Geneva. The building is now used by Faith Community Church, St. John Bosco Chapel, and Children's Hours School.



St. Francis DeSales School (1873)

The first Roman Catholic school in Geneva, the tower was later removed and the school was enlarged.

What Dove Saw: 1884 – 1901

In the 1880s Geneva was a growing village with some industry along the waterfront. Arthur's first house in Geneva was near the countryside. Newton Weatherly took him hunting and fishing, showed him how to identify plants, and gave him canvas to paint. They both spent much time around the Canandaigua Outlet in northern Ontario County.

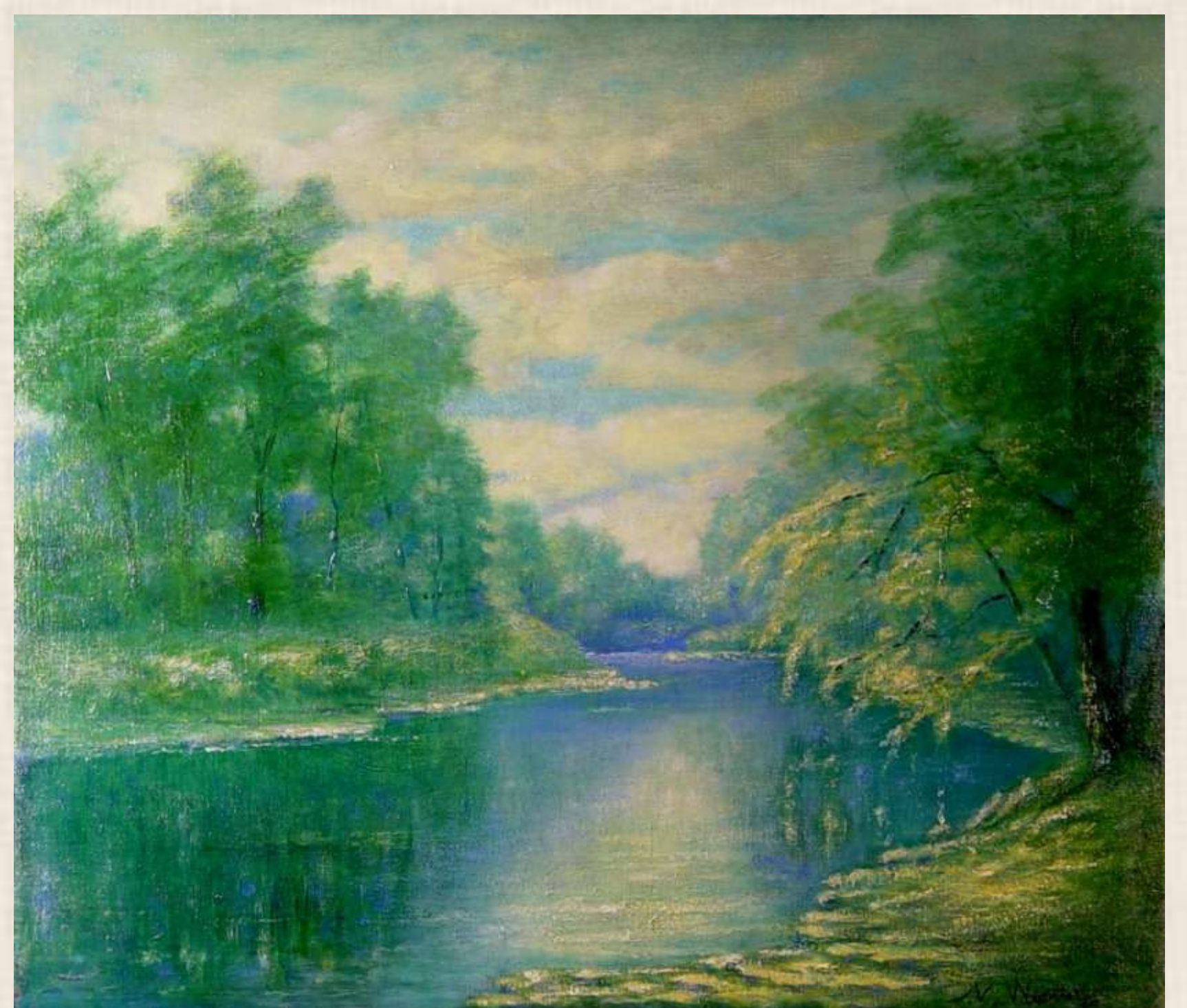
The family's second home at 512 South Main Street had an eastern view of Seneca Lake. Many of Arthur's later paintings were abstractions of things found in nature. The sun, moon, and water were inspirational.



Beginning in the 1790s, Geneva developed along the waterfront and slowly spread to the north and west. Farm land and countryside began a few miles from downtown.



South Main Street, shown here near the Doves' second Geneva home, was unpaved until the 1890s.



Canandaigua Outlet, Newton Weatherly, undated, Geneva Historical Society Collection

Dove's Illustrations

In the early 1900s, magazines relied on artwork to catch the reader's eye and make stories more appealing. Dove moved to New York City in 1903 to become an illustrator and within a year was in demand. By 1904 he was financially secure enough to marry Florence Dorsey, a former neighbor from Geneva. He worked steadily until 1908 when the couple went to Europe for 15 months. While Dove turned his attention to painting after Europe, up to 1930 he continued to illustrate when he needed money. His style ranged from detailed pastels and charcoals to pen and ink sketches.

The below illustrations are in the Geneva Historical Society Collection.



Scribner's, December 1927, for "The Flea, The Pup and the Millenium" by Don Marquis
"Briefly, she worshipped him."



This unknown and undated illustration is a good example of Dove's pen and ink work.



Scribner's, May 1927, for "Tarnished" by Will Rose
"He knew the next ten flivvers [old cars] by name."



McClure's Magazine, May 1908, for "The Radical Judge" by Anita Fitch
"It was the quaint custom at funerals in Fairville to follow mourners in line from the grave."



Saturday Evening Post, July 1906, for "Millie and the Opera Game" by Eleanor Gates

"Stumpy. He bowed and flopped his ears."