Shaping Nature’s Image  
The Works of John Douglas Woodward

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Shenandoah Valley Westminster-Canterbury (SVWC) was honored to be asked to display a collection of drawings and paintings by American landscape artist and illustrator, John Douglas Woodward (1846-1924). This fascinating exhibit will be available for viewing in SVWC’s Lawrence Gallery from March 10 through May 6. An opening reception will take place on Friday, March 10 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and the public is welcome.

The collection is the property of Shrine Mont, Episcopal Diocese of Virginia in Orkney Springs. Woodward’s widow, Maria Louise Woodward, donated a large number of works to Shrine Mont and had Art Hall built there to serve as her husband’s memorial. There are plans to refurbish Art Hall to better preserve Woodward’s works.

So who is this gifted artist? John Douglas Woodward was born in Middlesex County, VA in 1846. His family moved to Kentucky in 1849, and as Douglas grew up, he became drawn to art. In 1863, the family fled to Canada during the Civil War and Douglas ventured to NYC to study at the National Academy of Design and Coopers Union. While oil painting was his goal, it was tough to earn a living doing so. There was, at that time, a huge demand for illustrators.

During his 50-year career, Woodward was one of the country’s “best-known painters and illustrators,” producing hundreds of scenes of the United States, Northern Europe, The Holy Land, and Egypt. This exhibit includes samples of Douglas’s sketches and oil paintings, and the accompanying narrative helps to tell the story of one of America’s and Virginia’s real treasures. For more information, contact Kitty Zuckerman, Marketing Communications Specialist, at 540-665-5915.