

Julian Scott House

I do not know the exact date of construction of the house Julian Scott was born in. The Historic Sites and Structures Survey form, prepared by the Vt Division of Historic Preservation lists the property on the Vermont State Register (3/24/92). It identifies the house as the "Shattuck/Patch house and states it was built circa 1840. Walter and Karlene Shattuck owned the property at the time the survey was done, hence the reference to Shattuck. The Shattuck's bought the property in 1947.

Julian Scott scholar and author Robert Titterton interviewed Walton and Karlene Shattuck in 1988. He believes that all the Scott children were born in the house. The Shattuck's stated that when they bought the house it was divided up into numerous small rooms. They also said the "ell" shown in a sketch by Julian Scott was destroyed by the 1927 flood. The Shattuck's predecessor built the current ell addition and dormer off the back side of the house. He also built the barn-like structure towards the back of the property and kept a horse and cow in it. Mr. Shattuck said there were bricks in the wall and during the 27 flood the walls filled up with silt between the bricks and the lathe and plaster. Other changes were the addition of fill from the Grand Union construction site and tiling of the small stream which crosses the property and goes under Rte. 15

The property was transferred to the Shattuck children later in 1988. It was then sold to Dorothy Malone Rising and Charles Rising in 2000 and they owned it until 2017. It served as a Health Clinic operated by Dorothy Malone Rising much of that time. TD Bank foreclosed on the property in 2017, and it was subsequently sold to 384 Lower Main West LLC, in 2019. In 2023 it flooded and the property owner applied for a FEMA buyout post flood. The property was accepted for the FEMA buyout program and transferred to the Town of Johnson in January of 2026.

The above referenced "survey form" was prepared for the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation by John C. Page in March of 1981. I believe he incorrectly identifies it as having been built by Vernon Patch. Deed research indicates Paulina Leach conveyed the property to Vernon A. Patch on 7/14/1896, well after construction of the house. V.A. died and the property was transferred by Administrator's Deed of C.A. Riddle, to Della Davis (who I am guessing was V.A.'s daughter). A handwritten note on the survey form states that "*Julian Scott, renowned Civil War artist was born in this house in 1846*".

A book, entitled "Julian Scott, Artist of the Civil War and Native America; with 97 Illustrations" written by Robert J. Titterton contains a copy of a pencil sketch of the house, drawn by Julian Scott himself. The inscription reads, "*Scott family homestead. House in which I was born in Johnson, Vermont, February 14, 1846, pencil on paper, 8x10 1/2 inches, n.d., Collection of Phyllis Scott Johnson, Fresno, California. House built by Charles Scott in Johnson, Vermont, soon after his marriage to Lucy Kellum. Julian, the fourth of their eight children, was born in this wood-framed cape at midnight between February 14 and 15, 1846.*" There is little doubt that the main part of the house in the sketch is the same as what exists today.

The statement by Julian Scott, as well as deed research, contradicts the information on the above referenced survey sheet that the house was built by Vernon Patch. According to the Find

a Family site, Charles Walter Scott and Lucy Sophia Kellum were married on 7/14/1840, so the date of construction of the house is likely correct at circa 1840. It seems probable that the house was in fact built by Charles Scott.

Charles Scott's occupation is listed in the 1850 and 1860 census as a goldsmith/jeweler (though Wikipedia and other sources say he was a clockmaker). The pencil sketch by Julian Scott shows an ell off the main house which had its own chimney and may have been a workshop for Charles's goldsmith/jewelry business. One can speculate that building a house was something he was capable of.

The same 1850 census list Charles Walter's parents Jonathan and Sophia (and brother Hiram, his wife and two children) as living adjacent to Charles and Lucy's home, but by 1860 both parents were dead and Hiram and family had moved to Morrisville. The 1850 Johnson census lists Hiram's occupation as clockmaker, which might be where the confusion comes from.

Deed research has failed to turn up records of the original purchase of the lot by Charles Walter Scott. While it would be nice to find a corroborating document/deed not all land transactions were recorded in the Town's Land Records especially as early as 1840.

Deed research proved challenging in the 1860's timeframe. The property changed hands at least 15 times since 1862. In 1862 there was a successful foreclosure by C.A. Riddle and C.M. Knight against Charles Walter and Susan Pollard Scott. On May 6th, 1864, Riddle and Knight conveyed the property to Lucian Scott, son of Charles and Lucy Scott. Lucian served in Co. F of the Vt Cavalry, U.S. Artillery, was captured at the Battle of Balls Bluff and almost died of starvation at the notorious Libby Prison in Virginia. Lucian leased the property back to Charles and Susan on the same day.

The Battle of Ball's Bluff (also known as the Battle of Leesburg or Battle of Harrison's Island) was an early battle of the American Civil War fought in Loudoun County, Virginia, on October 21, 1861, in which Union Army forces under Major General George B. McClellan suffered a humiliating defeat.

Julian Scott was the fourth of eight children born to Charles W. and Lucy K Scott. In the 1860 census for Johnson seven of the eight children were living at the Scott house. Alice had already died. In order of birth, they were: Alvesta Cleora (1841-1916), Lucian (1842-1894), Alice (1844-1846), Julian (1846-1901), Julia Augusta (1847-1904), Charles Winfield (1849-1912) Henry Percy (1852-1912) and George Gordon Scott (1855-1863). Lucy Kellum died as a result of giving birth to George Gordon in 1855. Charles Walter married Susan Pollard after the death of Lucy in 1860. Charles Winfield also enlisted in the Union Army at the age of 13 and became a bugler.

Lucy Kellum, Alice, Lucian, George Gordon Scott and Charles Walter's parents Jonathan (d. 1851) and Sophia Scott (d 1855) are all buried in the Whiting-Hill Cemetery in Johnson. Charles Winfield Scott is buried in Lamoille View Cemetery in Johnson.

Some time in the mid 1860's Charles Walter and Susan moved West to Berlin Township, Bureau County, Illinois, so the house passed out Scott family ownership after approximately 25 years.

He and Susan are listed in the 1870 census in that place. His Find a Grave Biography says he moved for his health. By the mid 1860's it is probable all his children were gone from the Johnson Homestead and there was little to keep Charles and Susan there. Like many Vermonters after the war, they moved West. Charles died in 1872 in Illinois.

In 1998 the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation erected a roadside marker at the Julian Scott birthplace located at 384 Lower Main St W. The inscription reads as follows:

Julian Scott, Vermont's most renowned Civil War artist, was born in this Johnson house in 1846. At the start of the Civil War, when only 15, he enlisted as a fifer in the Third Vermont Regiment. Scott was awarded a Medal of Honor -- for rescuing wounded under enemy fire at the Battle of Lee's Mills, Virginia. He later studied art under Emanuel Leutze at the National Academy of Design in New York and in 1870 was elected an associate member of the Academy. "The Battle of Cedar Creek," his monumental 1874 painting, was commissioned as a Civil War memorial for the Vermont State House. Scott's Civil War and Native American paintings are acclaimed for their authenticity, detail, and democratic viewpoint. He died in Plainfield, New Jersey, in 1901.

Julian Scott was a very significant historical and cultural figure, locally, statewide and nationally. Not only was he (according to some sources) the first recipient of a Congressional Medal of Honor for Bravery in the Field, but he was also a very significant artist who captured the suffering, struggles and heroism of the common soldier during the Civil War. Later he was hired to paint Native Americans as part of the 1890 census. Many of these paintings are absolutely stunning and represent another significant artistic achievement, capturing a Native American culture in transition.

His work hangs in the Vermont Statehouse (there are four Scott paintings on display including the massive "Battle of Cedar Creek"), the Vermont Historical Society, and the Julian Scott Gallery at the campus of the Vermont State University, Johnson. His work has been displayed in numerous national museums including the Smithsonian, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Drake House Museum, Bennington Museum, University of Pennsylvania Museum of Art, Crystal Bridges Museum of Art, Harvard's Peabody Museum, Indianapolis Museum of Art, and the Zaplin Lampert Gallery.

Scott was featured in a production of "This Place in History" in 2019. In that video, the Director of the Vermont Historical Society, Steve Perkins, described Scott as one of Vermont's most famous artists. Notably, Mr. Perkins discovered a Scott sketch in an "autograph book" donated to the VHS which was signed and dated (1874) by Scott, so it is assumed he must have been in the state at that time

Civil War scholar, historian and author, Howard Coffin was part of an effort to acquire a Scott painting. The painting, titled "The 4th Vermont Forming Under Fire" or the "Vermont Brigade at Chancellorsville" was discovered by Champlain Valley Union High School history teacher and author Tyler Alexander. It was purchased by Vermont Country Store owner and art collector, Lyman Orton, who has generously loaned the painting to the state. It is now one of four Scott paintings on display in the Cedar Creek room in the statehouse. It is a remarkable work of art. Coffin discusses the painting in an interview, which can be seen on Facebook. When initially

contacted about the pending demolition of the structure, Mr. Coffin was horrified and strongly believes it should not be demolished.

The following is copied and reprinted from a Wikipedia page on Julian Scott:

Julian Scott was the fourth child, of eight, born to Charles Scott, a clockmaker, and his wife Lucy Kellum. Lucy Scott died in childbirth and Charles Scott remarried, in 1860, to Susan Pollard.

During the American Civil War, Julian's elder brother, Lucian, served with the 4th Regiment of the U.S. Artillery, was wounded at the Battle of Ball's Bluff, was taken prisoner in December 1864 (author's note: I am not sure this date is correct. The Battle of Balls Bluff was in 1861) and almost died at Libby Prison of starvation. Julian's younger brother, Charlie, enlisted at age 13 and became a bugler. After the war, Charlie moved to Missouri, then to Boston, where he became a physician. His brother, Percy, became an attorney in Illinois.

Scott married and had one daughter but, later, he and his wife separated.

Biography

Scott received his early education at the Lamoille Academy, known today as Johnson State College where the main gallery is named in his memory. Scott continued his studies, graduating from the National Academy of Design in New York and subsequently studied under Emmanuel Leutze until 1868. During the Civil War, Scott enlisted in the 3rd Vermont Infantry on June 1, 1861, at the age of 15 as a fifer and, in February 1865, received the Medal of Honor for rescuing wounded soldiers while under enemy fire during the Battle at Lee's Mills, Virginia.

When the war was over, he traveled to Paris and Stuttgart to continue his education. Scott's 1872 masterwork, the Battle of Cedar Creek, is located at the Vermont State House. The painting illustrates the contributions of his home state of Vermont in the American Civil War and is significant for its absence of glorification of war and instead shows the suffering and human sacrifice associated with war. Scott traveled west as part of a census party, painting Native Americans in New Mexico, Arizona, and Oklahoma. Many of his works from this expedition now hang in the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Art.

In recent years his painting "Going Home" has received scholarly attention, especially by Brian Jordan, and is reproduced in one of his recent books. This painting features a black civilian, presumably an ex-slave, leading the procession of Union soldiers in a presumably northern direction. This depicts the kinship felt by many Union soldiers after the war with newly freed slaves as they viewed their enlistments as a form of slavery and now they and the former bondsmen were both free.

In conclusion, Julian Scott is a remarkable, significant and important state and national historical and cultural figure with deep Vermont connections. His contributions have been recognized often by numerous state, national and private sources. His military experience and his artistic talent combine to provide a unique record of a slice of American history. The site of his birth and early development provides a direct and important connection to his legacy and represents a significant piece of our shared state and national history which should not be demolished and lost forever. Preventing the demolition of this house and developing a model for its ongoing use and preservation presents a unique opportunity and challenge which I fervently hope can be

successful. We are fortunate that this property still exists and should diligently work to preserve and protect it.