

# McGlashan

Helena Mary Fraser (Lena)

1926 - 2004

## Her Life

Helena Mary Fraser McGlashan was born on 8th September 1926 in Paisley. She was known as Lena. Her father was Jeffrey Blackstock McGlashan (1888 - 1956) a lawyer. He was born at Rutherford Manse, Gatehouse where his father, Robert Blackstock McGlashan, was minister of the Anwoth & Girthon United Free Church of Scotland.

Lena's mother was Marion Thomson Fraser.

After her grandfather's death the McGlashan family continued to live at 'Rutherford', as the old manse was then called, and the United Free Church joined with the Church of Scotland.

Lena trained at the Glasgow School of Art. Later she trained as a radiographer and worked at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley.

She married Robert Muir Watson in 1954 in Paisley, after which she continued to paint but always used her maiden name of McGlashan. She was particularly fond of painting flowers and regularly exhibited her work in Kirkcudbright and Paisley.

She is known to have lived at Burnfoot, Skyreburn for a time and also at the Clauchan of Girthon but in 1981 she moved to Kirkcudbright, to a house in the High Street previously owned by artist David Sassoon. She lived there with her husband Robert, mother Marion and youngest daughter. Her mother died in Kirkcudbright in 1999.

Lena died 2nd July 2004 in Edinburgh and is buried in Anwoth Churchyard.

## Her Work

Lena McGlashan was the grand-daughter of Rev. Robert McGlashan and as such she spent time in Gatehouse during her youth. We know she liked to paint flowers, but we don't know if she did so when she was in Gatehouse.

She is known to have painted some local scenes including one of the Big Water of Fleet Viaduct.

She is not listed among the artists on the Kirkcudbright Galleries website 'In the Artists Footsteps'.