



Harvey Thomas Dunn

Dakota Images

Presenting homestead life as a frugal, heroic, lonely existence, Harvey Dunn has captured and preserved the realism of our pioneer heritage more than any other painter. He was born near Manchester, Dakota Territory, on 8 March 1884. From 1901 to 1902 he attended South Dakota Agricultural College at Brookings, where he studied under Ada B. Caldwell. After further instruction at the Chicago Institute of Art, he completed his training as a student of Howard Pyle, well-known illustrator, in Wilmington, Delaware.

In 1906 Dunn established his own studio in Wilmington. He was an almost immediate success as an illustrator and worked for such popular magazines as *Scribner's*, *Harper's*, and *The Saturday Evening Post*. During World War I Dunn served as an artist-correspondent for the A.E.F. in Europe. When he returned in 1919, he and his wife, Johanne Louise Krebs, moved to Tenafly, New Jersey, where he lived until his death in 1952.

In 1920 Dunn painted *The Homesteader's Wife*, the first of his pioneer series, and in 1925 began his most popular work *The Prairie is My Garden*. During the 1930s the photographer began to take the place of the illustrator, so Dunn turned to mural painting. In 1935 he painted *Dust* and other works showing drought, and in 1945 he did *Something for Supper*.

In the 1940s Dunn made several trips back to South Dakota. He had always painted prairie scenes, but now he began to devote more time to the pioneer pictures. In 1950 he agreed to exhibit forty-two paintings in DeSmet for the Old Settlers' celebration. Then Dr. Fred H. Leinbach, president of South Dakota State University, talked Dunn into giving the paintings to the people of South Dakota. The paintings are now housed in the South Dakota Memorial Art Center in Brookings.

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