

Kimball Mrs Elizabeth

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Former Belleville Resident

Uncle George, her favorite uncle, went over Stephen's stories with him and together they refined them. Daisy said "He loved a joke — his own or anyone else's and I think he got more pleasure out of Sunshine Sketches than anything else he wrote." Agnes Leacock and her son, Stephen were very close emotionally as well as intellectually.

She was well educated in England and it was from her that Leacock inherited his sense of humor. They would often discuss his works together.

When Leacock died in 1942 he died having never outgrown his essential qualities of generosity and thoughtfulness, she says.

Her brother, Stephen, confirms the facts outlined in her book. He still resides in the Belleville area and, when interviewed, he recalled his fishing expeditions with his uncle when he visited him at Old Brewery Bay. Although he was only a child also when he knew Leacock, he remembers that he rarely seemed depressed. "There were always a lot of grown ups there whenever we visited Uncle Stephen at his home" said Mr. Burrowes, "and we children would have preferred to be elsewhere playing although we liked Uncle

Stephen very much. He was always kind and good with children but we did get homesick."

Leacock owned a couple of sail boats, one called the "West Wind".

"Aunt Beatrix was very quiet and she loved children. Their son now resides in Toronto but when we were young we used to visit him as mentioned in the book. Leacock was especially good to my mother since she was the youngest sister and he felt it was his responsibility to look after her."

There is another brother, Dick, who also lives in Belle-

ville. He and his family live in the family home where he grew up. Dick Burrowes mentioned that he had read many of Leacock's works and he noted that the facts mentioned in his sister's book are quite valid.

He remembered an incident involving Stephen Leacock which was quite amusing. Having decided to provide his own eggs rather than buying them on the market, he bought a number of hens. However, since feed was so expensive, he decided to raise his own. Consequently, he bought a horse to till the ground, built a shed to house it and the hens

and when he had finished the price of the eggs was certainly no bargain.

The hens eventually ended on the dining roomtable.

Mr. Burrowes mentioned that he was only a child when he knew his uncle but he remembered Jones the gardener in particular. Jones was Premier Frost's valet in the First World War.

The boys spent much of their time in the boat house where Uncle Stephen wrote Sunshine Sketches. He recalled that his uncle was always a kind man, a characteristic which children would be sure to remember.