

Mrs. Lavonia Stockelbach, Artist, Author, Dies at 92

Mrs. Lavonia Stockelbach, artist, writer, ornithologist, philatelist and amateur historian, died suddenly yesterday at her home in Verona, New Jersey, as the result of a stroke. She was in her 93rd year.

Mrs. Stockelbach was born in Belleville, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Hunter, and received her early education here. She taught in Plainfield for a year before taking a position as a librarian in Ottawa. There, she met her husband, F. E. Stockelbach, a native of Denmark and holder of a doctorate in chemistry. After her marriage Mrs. Stockelbach lived in New Jersey, where her husband had established a chemical manufacturing plant. Dr. Stockelbach predeceased his wife in 1948. They had no children.

A vigorous and energetic woman, Mrs. Stockelbach travelled widely during her lifetime and

contributed many articles on her tours to The Intelligencer. The last series she wrote, describing an around-the-world ornithological tour she took last autumn appeared in this newspaper after her return. In previous years Mrs. Stockelbach had written articles on her adventures during a tour of Algeria. Original historical research, done while on a trip to Great Britain, resulted in articles on the origin of Hastings County place names which appeared in The Intelligencer in 1953. Another of her interests was philately and she contributed articles on stamps to American publications.

Mrs. Stockelbach combined her love of nature with her considerable talents as a writer and artist to produce articles and an illustrated book on her favorite subjects.

LOVER OF BIRDS

Her interest in birds led her to write and paint the illustration for a book on all the birds mentioned in Shakespeare's works. Her bird paintings were displayed at Stratford-on-Avon during a Shakespearean festival and she also gave lectures on the subject at the festival. Four years ago she contributed a series of articles to The Intelligencer on the floral emblems of Canada's provinces, illustrated with her own sketches.

As perspective an observer of people as she was of her beloved birds, animals and flowers, Mrs. Stockelbach included in her articles shrewd comments on the people she met in other lands and on their way of life. She was a witty conversationalist, as much at ease in an Algerian peasant's hut as she was at the captain's table on the Queen Mary.

She enjoyed excellent health until the day before her death and visited her circle of friends and acquaintances in the Quinte district almost every year. She was last in the city in the fall of 1965, following her world tour.

Mrs. Stockelbach never lost her love for Hastings County and was a staunch and loyal friend of the county until her death. Recently, she had been assisting the authors of a local centennial history by preparing, for inclusion in their book, the data she had collected in England. She had planned to sponsor a centennial year essay contest for school children on the subject of "the Moira River, flowers, birds, geology, et al."

Her affection for the county is summed up in a letter received by a Belleville friend the day before her death. "What a county is Hastings!" Mrs. Stockelbach wrote. "I marvel at the kindness of a number of people, many people. So many happy hours I have spent."

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