

5/22/03

Alvin L. Briggs 1839-1920

A. L. Briggs was widely known locally in his later years as a fine watercolorist. His paintings were usually small, rectangular and in a horizontal format. The subjects were local scenery including trees, sheep, small streams or lakeshore. He especially did well at painting sky and clouds and once stated, "I paint atmosphere." His paintings are characterized as being wispy and in very soft pastel colors with greens and blues predominating. Such works are usually mounted in narrow gold frames behind wide mats. One hundred years ago his work was proudly displayed in many finer homes. The pictures are most often signed A. L. Briggs or sometimes A. L. B.



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A great aunt of mine who knew him and owned several of his paintings told the following story: It seems he once submitted some paintings for approval in a New York City art gallery where they were readily appreciated until he was asked to

appear in person. Due to a speech impediment caused by a cleft palate, he declined and his watercolors were rejected.

A. L. Briggs had a wife named Adeline and three sons. Alvin and Adeline are buried in Mount Albion Cemetery.

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