

**A CHILDHOOD IN
BRITTANY EIGHTY
YEARS AGO**

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A childhood in Brittany eighty years ago by Anne Douglas Sedgwick

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ANNE DOUGLAS SEDGWICK

**A CHILDHOOD IN
BRITTANY EIGHTY
YEARS AGO**



"Keransifan and I, sitting on our wheelbarrow, were allowed to go on eating in peace"

*A Childhood
in Brittany
Eighty Years Ago*

by
Anne Douglas Sedgwick

*With illustrations by
Paul de Leslie*



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A CHILDHOOD IN
BRITTANY

This little sheaf of childish memories has been put together from many talks, in her own tongue, with an old French friend. The names of her relatives have, by her wish, been changed to other names, taken from their Breton properties, or slightly altered while preserving the character of the Breton original.

A CHILDHOOD IN BRITTANY

CHAPTER I

QUIMPER AND BONNE MAMAN

I WAS born at Quimper in Brittany on the first of August, 1833, at four o'clock in the morning, and I have been told that I looked about me resolutely and fixed a steady gaze on the people in the room, so that the doctor said, "She is not blind, at all events."

The first thing I remember is a hideous doll to which I was passionately attached. It belonged to the child of one of the servants, and my mother, since I would not be parted from it, gave this child, to replace it, a handsome doll. It had legs stuffed with sawdust and a clumsily painted cardboard head, and on this head it wore a *bourrelet*.