

EDITORS NOTE: This piece came to us from Bruce Berkinshaw as part of several photographs he had scanned for our use. Most of this comes from the work of Lewis W. Breyfogle but is presented here as it does reference the Berkinshaw family's connection to the Breyfogle surname.

Genealogical research of the Berkinshaw Family Tree by David Bruce Berkinshaw and Edwin Robert Berkinshaw.

This chapter deals with the BREYFOGLE Family or lineage from our maternal grandfather's mother, a Breyfogle, to John Peter Breivogel's arrival in America from Germany in 1744 or thereabouts.

I will present first an outline, then a discussion of the male side of the Breyfogles as it concerns the Berkinshaw Family. David BRUCE Berkinshaw has the information on the gap between Dr. Charles W., his daughter Crea and her son, Ted McDonald (Edwin Charles McDonald), our grandfather.

- 1) DR. CHARLES WESLEY BREYFOGLE (1841-1895) was the oldest child of,
- 2) CHARLES and Matilda BREYFOGLE (Charles 1816-1884) Charles was the youngest child of,
- 3) SOLOMON and Ester BREYFOGLE (Solomon 1780-1817) Solomon was the son of,
- 4) GEORGE and Catherine BREYFOGLE (George 1747-1827) George was the son of,
- 5) JOHN PETER BREIFOGEL

There is some confusion about when John Peter Breivogel came over from Germany, but it is thought by my source to be about 1744. Many German immigrants at this time had the spelling of their names changed because usually when they registered, Englishmen or Frenchmen transcribed their names according to pronunciation rather than the spelling. Thereby, Breivogel was changed to Breifogel, to Breyfogel, to Breyfogle. John Peter seems to have been married within about a year after his arrival and fathered a child by 1747. On the tax roles in Berks county of the Ruscomb Manor township in 1752 there is a Peter Breifogel recorded. Again in 1758 in Rockland Township his name was found on the tax roles. Confusion exists because it is not certain that this Peter Breifogel is the same man as John Peter Breifogel, however, there appear to be no other immigrants to America that time with the Breifogel name. the only other Peter Breifogel, it could be confused with would have been John Peter's son, yet the son Peter would not have been old enough to have filed tax returns at the dates sighted. The taxes paid by John Peter were not

of any great amount indicating he was an artisan of some kind who probably combined part time farming with another trade. It is thought his trade was leather work because both his son and a grandson were cordwainers (leather workers), though it is not known for sure what his work was. If one was not a prosperous farmer in America during the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, then one probably worked a trade, of which the choices were usually woodmaking, leather work, and blacksmithing. Note that the industrial revolution had not arrived to America.

George Breyfogel, John Peter's son, was born in 1747 and lived until 1827. He married rather late in life at around the age of 29 to a once previously married woman name Catherine Dreibilleis who was two years his senior. George grew up in Berks County and served with Revolutionary War troops from that county. "He became a substantial landowner. That he was a citizen of know repute is attested to by the fact that in the organization of Kutztown, he was one of the town's first two supervisors, and from 1819 to 1821 (he was 72 to 74 rs. Old) he was Chief Burgess. Also, a tax list is signed by him as assessor. This information is from the 'History of Berks County' by M. C. Montgomery." He was wealthy enough to purchase a farm northeast of Kutztown where he and his sons lived and raised their children. They owned and lived on the farm from 1797 to 1849.

George Senior's son Solomon, was born Jan. 11, 1780 and lived only 37 ears until Nov. 11, 1817. His early death was a mystery because ironically his strength and vitality were a family legend. He died of a facial tumor, the kind easily removed today without complications. Solomon married around 1803 to a woman by the name of Esther Peter (born 1782), however, upon Solomon's early death, George Sr., who was still alive at the time, had his bachelor son George Jr., age 35, marry Solomon's widow. She produced 13 children, 7 by Solomon and 6 by George Jr.

Charles Breyfogel (1816-1884) was the youngest child of Solomon and Esther. At the age of 15 he journeyd from Kutztown to Columbus, Ohio. It was a trip of approximately 475 miles and took at least 25 days by horse power and since Charles walked most of the way, it must have taken much longer. He was given a job in Columbus as an apprentice tailor and stayed with the trade for awhile. However, still at an early age he branched out, a naturally able and industrious man. He married Matilda, daughter of Colonel Cloud, who was a well known military figure of that day. They had 12 children. In 1849, the lure of gold in Calif. was too great to keep him in Ohio, so he traveled by wagon train to Calif. in search of his fortune. He was one of a few who actually did bring back large sums of money. He made \$20,000.00. He used his gold to good advantage.

