

Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch

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From the Editor

As 2006 comes to an end we also finish our second year of publication of this newsletter. We have many ideas for articles for the New Year and hope that if you have any news or information that you will send it our way, we very much enjoy adding your bit of history to these pages.

This month we have the opportunity to offer our first birth announcement as well as our first retirement article. Although we are sure this is not the first Breyfogle born or the first to retire in the extended family since we began publishing this newsletter, they are the first official announcements that reached our desk for publication.

We want to thank Wes (Forrest W. Breyfogle, IV) and his father for providing help with lining up the details for the birth announcement and Steve Breyfogle for providing details on his retirement.

Birth Announcement

Forrest Wesley Breyfogle V was born on October 16, 2006 at 3:09 AM at St. David's Hospital in Austin, Texas. He is the first-born son of Forrest W. Breyfogle IV (Wes) and his wife Dawn, weighing 6-lbs 3oz and 19 1/2 inches. Mother and son are home with his sister Abby (Abigail Helen Breyfogle born March 29, 2004).



Birth announcements usually contain a few brief details about the newborn and his/her parents, but we thought that we'd offer some details about this family group since this is the fifth male child in this line to carry the same name.

Forrest W. Breyfogle was born February 4, 1886, the fifth of seven children of George Edwin and Elizabeth (Prob) Breyfogle. His father passed away in 1892 leaving his mother with four children to support (2 children had died previous to the death of George). The

oldest daughter, Nellie passed away two years after her father in 1894 and the second daughter, Cora, married Walter B. Shackelford in 1896.

Forrest and his brothers William and Oscar are listed on the 1900 Federal Census for St. Louis, Missouri as living with their mother. All three boys (ages 10, 14, and 16) are listed as laborers at a tobacco factory. When contacted the current family members can't be positive about the factory that their grandfather and his brothers worked in, but they remember having a barrel around the house that was marked with the Liggett & Myers name.

The Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company, which was founded in St. Louis in 1873 and by 1875, was the worlds largest producer of plug tobacco. This company later produced cigarettes, Chesterfield being one of their brand names that is most recognizable. It is very likely that this was the factory that the Breyfogle boy's worked at to help support the family.

Forrest married Amelia Schossler and they had six children, Edna (1912 – 2002), Forrest W., Jr. (1914 – 2002), Oscar Henry (1917 – 2000), Vincent Lee (1919 to 2003), and twins Norman and Norma Jean (born 1933). We are unable to locate the family on the 1910 Federal Census, but they do appear in the 1920 Federal Census for St. Louis, Missouri.

Forrest W. Breyfogle, Sr. (the first) is listed as a wrapper in a tobacco plant during the 1920 Federal Census while his 1918 WWI draft card indicated he was a carpenter. The 1930 Federal Census shows him as a journeyman carpenter.

Forrest W. Breyfogle, Jr. (the second, AKA Bud) was born on September 21, 1914 in St. Louis, MO and was listed in the 1930 Federal Census as living with his family and working as a Pin Boy at a bowling alley. The census form also records that he had attended school during 1929. Forrest W. Breyfogle, Jr. married Georgia to whom two sons were born. Forrest W., III and Daniel. Family members tell us that he was employed as a carpenter and later worked in mock-up at McDonald (later McDonald Douglas in St. Louis). He worked on the space program's Mercury and Gemini mock-ups.

Forrest W. Breyfogle, III was born in 1946 and has two children, Forrest W. IV (born February 26, 1970) and Carla Jean (born February 2, 1972). Forrest W., III started working for IBM in 1968 as a mechanical engineer and later founded Smarter Solutions, an Austin, TX based company that specializes in helping companies throughout the world improve their bottom line and customer satisfaction through the implementation of techniques that are beyond traditional Six Sigma techniques. He has authored or co-authored

seven books, including "Implementing Six Sigma" in 2004, which won the ASQ Crosby Medal.

Forrest W. Breyfogle, IV (AKA Wes) married Dawn in 2002 and gave birth to their son, the fifth in the line to carry the name, in 2006. Wes works as a VP of Avenue A/Razorfish an interactive marketing company, an Internet development company.

Forrest W. Breyfogle, V was born a little over 120 years after the original namesake and as we look back at the varied careers of his ancestors we wonder what lies ahead of him. What a remarkable span of history.

Convergence Survey

As you may remember, our September issue of the Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch included a survey designed to gather data about the 2006 Convergence that was canceled due to low participation. We mailed 116 surveys and as of this writing have received 22 replies and 2 were returned as undeliverable to the address we have on file.

We had hoped for a better response so that planning for the next Convergence could be based on hard data. We assume at this point that the remainder of the surveys will not be returned and we will pass on the survey results to the next Convergence host.

As we said, it is hard to draw specific conclusions with this low response, but the message we did find is that most of the 22 respondents wanted to make sure any future gatherings were located where other travel and entertainment was readily available. We suspected that Mason City, IA might not have met the needs of most families traveling for such an event. We also saw suggestions that perhaps a fall event might work better than summer.

We want to thank all who responded to the survey.

Family Stories

In every family group there are those stories that are passed from generation to generation. In some cases these stories may pick up detail as each storyteller embellishes it as he/she goes along. I think the best example of this is the Breyfogle Mine Story. Most of us have heard the story of the Breyfogle that wandered in the deserts of the southwest United States and found gold lying on a quartz shelf then lost its location.

This story has been retold so many times that it is hard to separate fact from fiction. But newspapers do not pick up most of our family stories nor are they published in books. But they become the stories of our families' lives and are kept alive with each telling of the story. For instance, my great uncle Ivan served 4 years in the Navy and 13 years in the Army during and after World War II. Family members related his stories about cooking during the war with bullets flying all around and some bullets ending up in his frying pan.

In this case this story would definitely create wonder and excitement for a child, but as an adult the story loses its plausibility. Yet retelling the story seems inevitable as it

creates real drama in the retelling. It is important at this point to clarify our thoughts on looking into family stories. We are not suggesting that all family stories are false or embellished, quite the contrary. Many are based on solid facts but detail has been lost over the years.

And so it is with the story that was submitted by Walter "Skip" Breyfogle, the second great grandson of Daniel Breyfogle. The original details of this story of a family dying on the trail westward came from the work of Flora Grumman Genealogy and from Lewis W. Breyfogle in his work titled, "What I Know About the Breyfogle Family".

The story of course is of the death of the Daniel and Theresa (Gaby) Breyfogle family. In her work Flora wrote:

In 1852 Daniel and, his wife, and four children started overland for California. When thirty miles from St. Joseph, Indian Territory, on the Fort Hall Road, but three quarters of a mile from the Agency, Daniel, Theresa, and their daughter Harriet died the same day of cholera. They were buried on rising ground about one hundred yards from the road - Daniel and Theresa in one grave. Before he died, Daniel called his sons to him and told them to return to Ohio, which they did, and there they were cared for by relatives until able to support themselves.

Lewis added the following about this incident:

From what I understand, the boys were taken by travelers going East, where according to a son of Charles, named Oscar Breyfogle (1870 - 1958) they finally reached Delaware, Ohio, where they were reared to manhood by Reuben Breyfogle (born 1811), their uncle.

Death was not new to this family. The nine children of this family were Solomon, Charles, Harriet, Orlando, Daniel, George, Theresa Ann, William and Sophie. Of these children, Solomon, Orlando, Theresa Ann, William and Sophie all died before the family moved west. This left Charles, Harriet, Daniel, and George to travel west, Harriet of course was the child that died on the trail with her parents.

Charles (age 16), Daniel (age 10), and George (age 8), as earlier historians tell us, returned to Ohio with travelers headed east to be raised by the Reuben and Rebecca (Osman) Breyfogle family. Reuben and Rebecca had 9-children themselves, with 8 surviving to adulthood, and it is very likely 8 of them were living at home at the time the 3 orphaned boys arrived to live with them. In discussing Charles, Lewis relates the following:

The story of the death of Daniel and his wife and daughter on the overland trail to California is given in the Genealogy [Flora Grumman work]. I had known of this before I was aware that the Genealogy existed. This is because one of Daniel's three boys, who survived, Charles (born 1836) was the same age as my grandfather, his first cousin, and in later years Charles used to visit his Kansas relatives. It was there that I saw him when I was a small boy.

Charles married Elizabeth Suzanne Cunningham and settled in West Pullman, Illinois, a suburb of Chicago. Charles was well known as a market gardener and they had four children, Harriet Helen, Louis Charles, Oscar Hugh, and Clara Edith.

Louis Charles married Mary Aabel and they had five children, Stella Elizabeth, Walter Alfred, Ruth E., Florence M., and Harold L. Walter married Mary Lou Woolley and they had two sons, Walter Alfred and William Lewis. It is at this point that we will let Skip tell his family story and the steps he took to verify the details and add a few facts to the story.

In Search of a Gravesite

From the time I was a child I had heard my father tell the story of Daniel, Theresa and their family. My father had an old family Bible wrapped in brown paper and kept in a drawer of his desk that he said was their family Bible. This story has always intrigued me and earlier this year I went searching the Internet once again trying to find additional detail that related to our family story. This time I came across the website of the Oregon-California Trails Association (OCTA) which led me to the website of the OCTA KANZA chapter in eastern Kansas.

This website contained the email address of chapter president Donald Cooper to whom I e-mailed the basic facts of the Daniel Breyfogel story. I asked if he could lead me to anyone who could possibly determine the location of the burials from the information provided in the family history. Mr. Cooper directed me to KANZA chapter research committee chairperson Ted Hopkins.

Mr. Hopkins believed that the description seemed to fit the vicinity of present-day Highland, Kansas, including the reference to an [Indian] 'Agency'. Even more interesting is that there is a modern cemetery at this location. I learned later that the Iowa, Sac and Fox Indians had reservations in this area and in 1845 a Presbyterian mission was established there for the education of the Indians. This property is now owned by the Kansas State Historical Society and houses their Native American Heritage Museum (NAHM).

A short time later I received an email from Suzette McCord-Rogers, administrator of the NAHM providing additional information. She believes "the 'Agency' refers to the Great Nemaha Sub-Agency located south of the Sac and Fox Mission and very near the cemetery. The cemetery is on a hill and the description seems to fit. Many of the cemeteries in this area were started by Oregon-California trail burials."

We planned to be in Kansas City in October and time was scheduled for a side trip to Highland, Kansas. October 12 was a cool, breezy but sunny day as we drove north about an hour from Kansas City towards St. Joseph. At St. Joe we turned west across the Missouri River and headed towards Troy, Kansas, where we met retired carpenter Paul Dittmore in his shop behind the library. Mr. Dittmore showed us several maps of the area but the most interesting one was a copy of an 1855 survey of the township in which the town of Highland is now located. This map showed the mission, the agency and the route of the old trail. When the location of the existing Highland Cemetery is transferred to this old survey the location of the burials as given in the family history seem to fit quite well.

From Troy we drove northwest towards Highland. The Native American Heritage Museum (former Presbyterian Mission) is about a mile east of Highland. We stopped at the museum and were fortunate to meet with Suzette McCord-Rogers. Highland Cemetery is located a short distance southeast of Highland on a road said to be a part of the old trail. The cemetery is on a knoll that rises to the east of the road. It was an eerie feeling to stand at the top of that hill and know this may be the place where 154 years earlier your sixteen-year old great grandfather buried his father, mother and sister and then started the long walk back to Ohio with two younger brothers.

The picture below was taken near the top of the rise where the cemetery is located with the town of Highland Kansas in the background. The road is below the hill to the left. The



row of trees on the left marks the creek at the bottom of the hill. The earliest grave marker we saw dated about 1862.

The road past the cemetery seemed a little out of place, like it might have a story of its own. Most of us from the Midwest are familiar with the country roads, most of which run either north and south or east and west and usually located on section or quarter section lines. The road past

the cemetery had gentle curves following the contour of the terrain. Just west of the cemetery it dipped down and crossed a small creek as it approached the modern town of Highland at an oblique angle. This certainly doesn't fit the mold of the roads built later by the engineers who followed the lines laid out by the surveyors. There is no way to know for certain if this is the burial location, but everything seems to fit the family stories.

Following Skip's contact with Oregon-California Trails Association their organization published an article about their participation in Skip's search. We have their permission to reprint the article as it appeared in their May 2006 newsletter.

Researching the Breyfogle family gravesite along the St. Joe Road

We were recently contacted by Walter Breyfogle of Virginia, seeking information on the gravesite of some of his ancestors that had died of cholera and were buried near the road about 30 miles from St. Joseph. He has supplied information from a family history giving details of the tragedy where three boys of the family were orphaned.

Daniel Breyfogel, his great-great grandfather, with wife Theresa and four children started overland from Ohio for California in 1852. The account states "When thirty miles from St Joseph, Indian Territory, on the Fort Hall road, but three quarters of a mile from the Agency, Daniel and Theresa and their daughter Harriet died the same day (May 8, 1852) of cholera. They were buried on rising ground about one hundred yards from the road – Daniel and Theresa in one grave. Before he died, Daniel called his sons to him and told them to return to Ohio, which they did, and there they were cared for by relatives until able to support themselves."

The eldest son Charles was 16 years old at the time, while Daniel was 10 and George 8. A son of Charles said that "the boys were taken by travelers going East, where they finally reached Delaware, Ohio where they were reared to manhood by Reuben Breyfogle, their uncle." One of these sons was Walter Breyfogle's great grandfather.

Thirty miles from St. Joseph would place the gravesites near Highland, KS and the Iowa, Sac and Fox Mission. To look for more precise information on the location of the graves, we contacted Suzette McCord-Rogers of the Native American Heritage Museum (originally the Iowa, Sac & Fox Mission) and OCTA member. After looking at original survey maps and comparing the description of the burial place to the area, she has "ascertained they were most likely buried in what is now the Highland Cemetery.

The Agency refers to the Great Nemaha Sub-Agency which was located south of the Sac & Fox Mission and very near the cemetery. The trail goes by the cemetery and possibly through it at one time. The cemetery is on a hill and the description seems to fit. Many of the cemeteries in this area were started by Oregon-California trail burials. The graves if marked at one time are no longer marked. She concludes that the Mission

sits on a feeder trail from Iowa Point to the St. Joe road and is north of the trail and agency." This information was given to Walter Breyfogle, who plans to visit the area this summer. Several Breyfogles joined the California gold rush, and Walter has given us a copy of Joshua Breyfogle's diary describing their trip to the gold fields in 1849. Submitted by Ted Hopkins

SOURCE: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/orgs/kanza/newsletter/200605.pdf>

Steve Breyfogle Retirement



We received a note from Steve Breyfogle the other day that indicated that he retired on August 31, 2006 with a combined total of 39 years of federal service. Some of you may remember that Steve has occasionally contributed articles for the Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch so I asked Steve to provide a brief bit of information about his retirement since we consider this a real milestone.

Steve was born and raised in Sioux City, IA, the son of Elwood Fields and Shirley Ann (Steck) Breyfogle. He graduated from high school in Toul, France in 1966 and enlisted in the Army on February 14, 1967 and retired from active duty on February 1, 1988. During Steve's Army career, he served several tours in Kaiserlautern, Germany, Giessen, Germany, Furth, Germany; Sinop, Turkey; Long Binh, Viet Nam; Augusta, Georgia; Fort Huachuca, AZ and finally, Washington, DC. Most of his career was as a Finance Sergeant, with 4 years as a Personnel Sergeant.

Steve entered Civil Service on April 26, 1988 and worked for Army Intelligence and Security Command at Fort Belvoir, VA. Steve married Barbara Spellane in February 1970 in Sioux City, IA and their two children were born in Landstuhl, Germany while stationed there. Their daughter, Stephanie, and her husband Jon lives in Woodbridge, VA and have a son, Nathan, aged 4, with another baby on the way. Steve and Barbara's son, Kristofer, lives in Fredericksburg, VA. Now if you are like me you realize that Steve has retired twice, once from the Army and once with the Civil Service. But hold on, he is now employed with the DoD Counterintelligence Field Activity, so will there be a third retirement here? Steve and Barbara make their home in Woodbridge, VA.

Breyfogle Timeline

We recently attended a presentation at MacNider Art Museum here in Mason City that featured the nationally known artist, Charles Fritz. This artist, a native of Mason City, has been working on a series of paintings about the Lewis and Clark Expedition. In the event that you have forgotten your history, we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of this expedition and there are many events all across the nation to mark this significant bit of history.

As we listened to the artist present his historical research that was the basis for nearly 100 oil paintings I tried to remember what the Breyfogle family was doing during this time period. We all remember the Johann Petar Breyvogel came to Pennsylvania in 1744, but what was going on when the Lewis and Clark Expedition began and ended?

Westward expansion from the original 13 colonies had begun shortly after the end of the Revolutionary War, but the far west in the late 1700's was limited to a few states west of the original 13 colonies. On July 4, 1803 President Thomas Jefferson announced the purchase of the territory previously claimed by France. Most historians note that the two-term administration was known for having strong presidential and party leadership and fiscal economy.

But the purchase itself brought a great deal of criticism at the time, but by today's standards this is noted by most to be the most momentous single achievement in all of American History. In the spring of 1803, prior to the announcement, Meriwether Lewis was picked as commander of an expedition, also known as the Corps of Discovery, to explore the region and he immediately wrote to William Clark asking him to join him and share the command. That summer a large keelboat was constructed in Pittsburgh, which is about 300 miles from Kutztown where the Breyfogle family made their home.

Late in the summer of 1803 Lewis sailed the keelboat down the Ohio River to make a winter camp upstream from St. Louis. The actual expedition began May 14, 1804 and concluded with the successful return to St. Louis on September 23, 1806. When the explorers reached the Pacific, Clark estimated they had traveled 4,162 miles from the mouth of the Missouri to the Pacific. His guess was within 40 miles of the actual distance.

This brings me back to where I started, just what was the Breyfogle family doing during this time? Our current research indicates that Johann Petar Breyvogel had four sons, all born by before 1750 and we have family connections for George and Jacob Breyvogel. George Breyfogel married Catharine B. Dreibelbis and their 5 children were born between 1775 and 1784. Their daughter Esther D. Breyfogel married Johann Jacob Hinterleiter and we know Ester's daughter Lea was born in 1812, 6-years after the end of the expedition.

George and Catherine's son Jacob D. Breyfogel married Susanne Baldy about 1802 about 2-years before the expedition began and we show 8-children for this family. We do not have actual birth dates for the first four children but do know that Josiah L. was born about the end of 1805 or very early 1806 and Joshua D. Breyfogle were born in September 17, 1806. Both of these children were born near the end of the expedition and their birth location was found to be Lockport, NY.

Solomon D. Breyfogel, the third child of George and Catharine was married to Esther Peter about Jun 18, 1805 and their daughter Magdalena was born December 25, 1805 near Kutztown, PA. George Peter, their

second child, was born November 24, 1806 just two months after the end of the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Jacob Breyvogel married Maria Preiss and our research indicates they had 9-children, all born before the end of 1801. We know little of the children of this family, but do show that Susannah Breyvogel the third child of this couple was married in September 20, 1808, almost two years following the official end of the expedition.

We know that Daniel Breyvogel, the sixth child of Jacob and Maria married Maria Brey, but they would have been children at the time of the expedition. Based on current information, the Breyfogle family for the most part, had not moved outside of Pennsylvania. As indicated above, we do know that at least two of the children of Jacob and Susanne were born in Lockport, NY, which is about 380 miles northwest of Kutztown, PA.

Based on our current research there were about 27 descendents (and living spouses) of Johann Petar Breyvogel alive at the time of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. We cannot be sure how much our ancestors knew of this expedition, nor what they thought of it, but we do know that this purchase was widely covered in the press with arguments on both sides of the issue.

Jefferson's action, which was to make a purchase by treaty, had no constitutional basis, but historians note that the timing and price were far too attractive to pass up. At least one historian noted that this purchase fueled Jefferson's successful re-election. We of course have no idea of the Breyfogles' political leanings at the time or if they were inclined to vote, but our research does indicate that the 1804 election was a landslide for Jefferson with 92% of the electoral vote going to Jefferson. The Federalist candidate Charles Cotesworth Pinckney picked up votes in Connecticut, Delaware, and a small portion of Maryland. Pennsylvania's 20 and New York's 19 electoral votes went for Jefferson.



Captains Lewis and Clark Departing for the Northwest Passage, 1804 by Charles Fritz

You may contact us by mail or e-mail with comments, articles, or questions:

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To:

Look inside for information about Forrest W. Breyfogle, V. He is pictured here with his cousin Aubrey Bryant, born one day later in the same hospital. Aubrey was 30 minutes from being number 300,000,000 so she was all over local television the day she was born. What a start to life!



www.breyfogle.com A Family History Website