

Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch

October 2007

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From the Editor

Summer is officially over and fall is upon us. The days are getting shorter and we are reminded by the chilly mornings that it won't be long and we will all head indoors for the winter. At least that is the life style here in the upper Midwest. As we prepare for another winter we look forward to more time for research into our family's shared history.

With this in mind we again ask for your help in gathering any and all information that relates to our extended family. We have had several contributions for this newsletter and we want to thank all who have thought about this project and sent us material. We will discuss these contributions in the accompanying articles.

The Ohio Breyfogles

In the past several issues of the Dispatch we have discussed the movement of the Breyfogle family out of Pennsylvania. As you may remember, Ohio was the first significant settlement and as we continue this series we will discuss some of the families that made Ohio their home in the early to mid 1800's.

In looking at the census files we find that Daniel Breyfogle (spelled Brifogle) resided in Delaware, OH with his wife and two small children. This census lists only the name of the head of household so we are guessing that this is the correct person. But the ages line up properly for the children that we have recorded ages. Daniel is the 6th child of Jacob and Maria (Preiss) Breyvogel, making him the third generation Breyfogle. We don't know much about this couple except for a quotation from the work of Lewis W. Breyfogle. Lewis quotes Mrs. Alice Breyfogle Green of Allentown, PA as stating, "My grandfather's name was Daniel. He was born and reared in Indianland, Pennsylvania." We know that the couple had 11-children with at least two of them born in Pennsylvania before moving to Ohio.

We also have an 1840 census file that reports Israel and Elizabeth (Trout) Breyfogle, Sr. and 2-children living in Radnor Township, Delaware County, Ohio. The file indicates two male children under 5 in the household and no daughters. We suspect that the census was taken later in the year as this couple's oldest child, Amelia was born October 1, 1832 and died March 17, 1840. The second child, Forest B. died when he was a month old. Lewis W. Breyfogle, Sr. was born September 17, 1836 and the 4th child, Israel Breyfogle, Jr. was born December 1, 1838.

The two living children are recorded to have been born in Ohio.

Lewis reports in his work that Israel remained in Pennsylvania until at least 1834 working as a part-time farmer as well as a woodworker. Lewis states, "He made everything in wood for the simple requirements of the times – from cradles to caskets." Israel is also credited with following the gold trains in the 1849 gold rush. Lewis mentions that Israel did not find gold, but that he "went to work on February 27, 1850 on building a mill at about \$100 per week, a terrific sum in those days." Lewis also notes that this mill was the mill at Sutter Creek but does not offer further details on this event.

Perhaps the most important fact about those families that made their home in Ohio is that it provided a "jumping off" place for those members that wanted to follow the westward expansion that was really heating up by the mid-1800's. Israel and Elizabeth were a perfect example. Lewis tells us that, "The Breyfogles came to Kansas from Delaware, Ohio in 1866. The whole family came; Israel, Sr., and his wife, Israel, Jr. and his wife, and Mora (born 1844) and her husband, John Coe, a Civil War veteran."

Joshua D. and Mary B. (Reynolds) Breyfogle were also living in Ohio during the 1840 census with their infant daughter Rosella. Records indicate that Rosella was born in Delaware, OH on May 6, 1839 and the census form confirms that they had a single female child under 5 at the time. Joshua D. was the 5th child of Jacob D. and Susanne (Baldy) Breyfogel. Lewis contends that "Joshua D. Breyfogle (son of Jacob d.) was born in Lockport, New York in 1806, but moved some time before 1849 to Delaware, Ohio, where some of his first cousins lived." We suspect Lewis pegged the date based on other events in Joshua's life that are well recorded.

Like Israel, Sr., Joshua traveled to the gold fields in 1849 and recorded his adventure in a diary. Many of our readers that have copies of the work by Lewis W. Breyfogle will remember that Lewis provided a complete transcript of this diary as part of his publication. The diary was donated by Joshua's great grandson, William Arthur Breyfogle to his alma mater, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH. The diary contains daily entries about the travel west and some of the life he experienced in the gold camps.

After returning from California Joshua remained in Delaware working as a tailor and later joined the military to fight in the Civil War, and left a series of letters and diaries that has been published into a

single work illustrating his view of the war and his travels. We plan to publish more details on this interesting person in future newsletters.

Joshua D. and Mary B. Breyfogle had 6-children, all of which are listed as being born in Delaware, Ohio. Joshua, aside from his gold rush adventure and his time in the Union army, did not leave Delaware, OH.

It should be noted that Joshua traveled with his brother Charles to the gold fields, but we did not find any reference in the census files for Charles.

Our final 1840 reference to the Breyfogle family (all spelled Brifogle by the way) was Reuben and Rebecca (Osman) Breyfogle. Reuben was the fifth child of Solomon D. and Esther (Peter) Breyfogel (Solomon was the son of George making Reuben a member of the 4th generation Breyfogles). Reuben, born March 2, 1811 in Berks County, PA, moved to Ohio sometime before 1837. We note this date as their third child, William Osman Breyfogle was born in 1837 at Delaware, OH. We do not know the birth locations of Amanda and Esther born 1833 and 1835 respectively. Flora Grumman notes in her work that, "He (Reuben) accompanied his brother to Delaware, Ohio, in his youth, and from there went to Kansas, later returning to Delaware, where he died." Flora does not record which brother he arrived with, but Lewis W. Breyfogle records that, "George was the first of the Breyfogle brothers to move to Delaware Ohio and surrounding communities." George Peter Breyfogle was the 2nd child of Solomon D. and Esther (Peter) Breyfogel and Reuben's older brother.

The 1840 census records 2 sons under 5 and two daughters between the age of 5 and 10, which lines up with the recorded dates of their children. Amanda, the oldest was 6 or 7, Esther was 5 or 6, William O. was 2 or 3, and Henry was 1 or 2. Of course the actual age is dependent on the actual census date so it is hard to be specific except to say that they all fell in the appropriate age group.

Reuben was noted in later census data as being a farmer and family stories relate how he and his wife "raised the three orphan sons of his brother Daniel when they returned following their parents death on the trail to California." Reuben and Rebecca remained in Delaware the remainder of their lives and are both buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery (Elmwood section) in Delaware, OH.

Later census files indicates that other family members moved to Ohio, perhaps based on the success of these early settlers and the promise of cheap land. The latest census released for research is the 1930 period and we have many references to the family located in and around Delaware and Columbus at that time. (to be continued)

Civil War Soldiers from Ohio

There are many sources of information on the Civil War, its causes, politics, and the horrible cruelty on

both sides of the conflict. It is not our purpose as a family historian to evaluate any war or conflict nor do we feel qualified to conduct an extensive discussion of the intricacies of the war or its strategies. But we do feel that the Civil War, like so many other major war efforts, was such a significant part of our national history as well as our family history that we'd be remiss in not mentioning the events and those that are known to have participated.

In searching for our surname we ran across so many references to the military service during the Civil War that we thought we'd feature those that served in this edition of the Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch. Our primary source is the website www.ancestry.com and rather than footnote every item we thought we'd note it at the start of this article.

William D Breyfogle, June 23, 1861 Company C, 4th Infantry Regiment, Ohio, wounded twice

Joshua D. Breyfogle, Sr., May 20, 1861 Company C, 4th Infantry Regiment, Ohio; February 3, 1863 Company C, 10th Cavalry Regiment, Ohio

Joshua D. Breyfogle, Jr., June 19, 1863 Company B, 13th Cavalry Regiment, Ohio

Israel Breyfogle, May 27, 1862 Company C, 86th Infantry Regiment, Ohio; May 2, 1864 Company D, 145th Infantry Regiment, Ohio

Roland Charles Breyfogle, April 21, 1861 Company C, 4th Infantry Regiment, Ohio; February 26, 1865 Company C, 186th Infantry Regiment, Ohio

Henry S. Breyfogle, February 8, 1865 Company C, 186th Infantry Regiment, Ohio

*Clark Breyfogle, February 17, 1864 Company C, 18th Infantry Regiment, Ohio

*Wesley Breyfogle, August 19, 1861 Company C, 18th Infantry Regiment, Ohio, disability discharge

George E. Breyfogle, August 21, 1861 Company K, 53rd Infantry Regiment, Ohio

Charles W. Breyfogle, August 18, 1863 Company E, 9th Cavalry Regiment, Ohio, disability discharge

William Lermartine Breyfogle, September 1863 Company E, 9th Cavalry Regiment, Ohio

* These names are not identified on our database so we do not know the connection to the main line of Breyfogle's. If you have any information about these names please let us know.

1913 Ohio Statewide Flood

Although this topic does not fit the description of events in the early period of Breyfogles in Ohio, we were sent two postcards by one of our readers who couldn't be sure that they were connected to our family. As we stated earlier in this edition, the Breyfogle family was living in Ohio since about 1840 and some remain as residents today. We are sure that the great flood of 1913 had impact on their lives



Flooding at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and Main Street, Delaware, OH 1913

so we present this short report to go along with the postcards.

One source pointed to the Flood of 1913 as the greatest natural disaster in Ohio history. As in many parts of the country, before any form of flood control was established, spring flooding was commonplace. But the heavy rains in March 1913 exacerbated the flood conditions.

According to reports, the rain began to fall on Easter, March 23rd and fell in substantial amounts through the 27th. Most reports show 7 to 8 inches in the period with some areas receiving 10 to 11 inches.

The greatest damage occurred in and around Dayton, but the entire state was affected as the postcard images clearly show. Things were so desperate that officials in many parts of the state used dynamite to destroy canal locks in the hope that the water would be channeled away quicker. Many historians point to this action as the permanent end to canal transportation in the state.



Railroad Tracks near Sugarcreek, Ohio
<http://sheridan.geog.kent.edu>

Reports after the flood record at least 428 people died during the flood and more than 20,000 homes were totally destroyed. Many factories, railroads, and other infrastructure faced major losses.

Following the flood many state residents were determined to do something about the flooding and several engineers were hired to develop a plan for flood control. Dayton, Ohio and the surrounding area on the Great Miami River was the first proposed project with a series of earthen dams as well as modifications to the river channel in Dayton.

Governor James M. Cox supported the plan, helping to gain passage of the Vonderheide Act, which is also known as the Ohio Conservancy Law, in 1914. The law gave the state the authority to establish watershed districts and to raise funds for improvements through taxes. In 1915, the Miami Conservancy District was created in response to the Vonderheide Act. It became the first major watershed district in the nation.

Another on-line source indicated that although the damage was great, it was fortunate that the rain began in the southern part of the state allowing much of the run-off to occur before the rain in the northern part of the state reached its peak. We were unable to locate any specific information about flood control projects that may have occurred in Delaware at this time.

We would like to thank Donald Breyfogle, Las Vegas, NV for thinking of us with these postcards.

50th Wedding Anniversary



Richard and Colleen Breyfogle, Sioux City, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with an open house reception from 2 to 4 p.m. Sept. 15 at First United Methodist Church, Fellowship Hall, 1915 Nebraska St.

Their children are Sue and Tim Barta, Mankato, Minn., and Tom Breyfogle, Topeka, Kan. They have one grandchild, Sarah Barta.

Mr. Breyfogle and the former Colleen Bomgaars were married Sept. 14, 1957, at First Christian Church, Sioux City.

Mr. Breyfogle is retired after 41 years from Toy National Bank as Senior Vice President. Mrs. Breyfogle is also retired. She was employed at Prudential Life Insurance and with ladies clothing at Fishgall's, Williges, and Jeans. She is a member of PEO, Beta Sigma Phi, and Unity Circle. The couple are members of First United Methodist Church, Sioux City.

David T. Bryfogle

Gertrude and Tom Bryfogle, Jim Thorpe, PA, sent us an article concerning their son David T. Bryfogle and his recent award of excellence. We would like to share a portion of the article with you.



Edward C. Coulter Managerial Excellence Award

Mr. Bryfogle was appointed as head of the Naval Telecommunications Department in 1999. This organization develops plans and policies and manages more than 300 military billets supporting 36 worldwide Special Intelligence Communication Centers. David graduated from West Chester State College in 1967 and joined the navy the same year.

During his career he served in many positions in the navy, including communications technician, and served two tours in Viet Nam. During a 3-year tour in the Philippines he met and married his wife Hatsuko. They have two sons, Thomas and Sean.

Mr. Bryfogle retired from the navy on December 31, 1988 and returned to work in several civil service positions in the Washington DC area. During his military and civilian service he has received numerous honors including, Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award, the Bronze Star, Air Medal, Purple Heart, Navy Commendation Medal (four), and the Navy Achievement Medal (five).

His parents report their pride in his achievements and mention that the entire community is very proud of

him as well. We join them in thanking him for his service to our country and thank his parents for sending us the information.

For those unfamiliar with this spelling of the Breyfogle surname, we mention that at this point in time we do not have a direct connection between the surname Bryfogle with the traditionally spelled Breyfogle, Breyfogel, and Breyvogel. But the fact that Jim Thorpe, PA is about 40 miles north of Kutztown, PA we are continuing to wonder if there is a connection that goes back to the 1700's and Johann Petar Breyvogel.

Obituaries

As much as we know that death is part of life, it is always difficult as editor to work with the loss of extended family members when we receive these notices. But we feel it is important that we mark their passing and encourage other readers to send along these notices as necessary.

Edith Josephine Conquest

Edith Josephine Conquest (nee Swanson), age 87, of Austin, TX formerly of Crown Point, IN passed away on Wednesday, May 30, 2007.

She is survived by her children: J. David (M. Diann)



Conquest of Pittsford, NY; Douglas J. (Patricia L.) Conquest, D.D.S. of Round Rock, TX; K. Daniel (Sue Ann Gerlach) Conquest of Charlottesville, VA.

Grandchildren:

Deborah C. (Mashoor) Bany Ata of Rochester, NY; Joanna C. (Dr. Keir) Thelander of Gabon, Africa; Jennifer C. (Dr. Stephen) Turner of Charlottesville, VA; Andrew L. Conquest

of Austin, TX; Christopher J. Conquest of Arlington, VA; Evan D. (fiancée Jessica Bradberry) Conquest of Round Rock, TX.

Great-Grandchildren: Luke P. Thelander of Gabon, Africa; Sarah L. Thelander of Gabon, Africa; Aden M. Bany Ata of Rochester, NY; Lilly K. Turner of Charlottesville, VA.

Sisters: Marian M. (Joseph) Jollief of Sanibel, FL /Crown Point, IN; Thelma R. Swanson of Cape Coral, FL.

Sisters-in-law: Ferne Swanson of Charleston, SC; Ann Swanson Peugh of Menomonee Falls, WI

Uncle: Richard (Roberta) Breyfogle of Paint Lick, KY

Many nieces and nephews and a host of friends in Indiana and Texas.

Preceded in death by her husband: Leslie K. Conquest

Parents: Charles and Esther (Breyfogle) Swanson and brothers: Walter S. Swanson and Jon O. Swanson

A Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, July 1, 2007 at 4:00 PM at the First Presbyterian Church, Crown Point with Rev. Jim Friedewald officiating.

Mrs. Conquest was a resident of Crown Point, IN for 85 years, a 75 year member of the First Presbyterian Church of Crown Point, a faithful volunteer at the Resale Shop, a member of the 49 & Holding Club, Guild Circle, a Craig's Clothing employee for 26 years, a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Eastern Star, former First Lady of Orak Temple, and a member of Riley Home Extension.

Memorials may be directed to the First Presbyterian Church of Crown Point Building Fund, 218 S. Court St., Crown Point, IN 46307. Flowers are gratefully declined.

Geisen Funeral Home, Crown Point in charge of local arrangements.

Richard A. Breyfogle



Richard A. Breyfogle, 81, of Sioux City passed away on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2007, at Indian Hills Hospice Wing.

Services will be 11 a.m. Monday at First United Methodist Church, with the Rev. Roger Madden officiating. Services will conclude at the church. Visitation will be 4 to 8 p.m. today, with the family present 6 to 8 p.m. and a prayer service at 7 p.m., at Meyer Brothers Colonial

Chapel. Online condolences may be sent to www.meyerbroschapels.com.

Rich was born on June 13, 1926, in Calumet, Iowa, to Earl and Ethel (Grimm) Breyfogle. The family moved to several different places while Rich was young. The family then settled in Sioux City when he was a young teenager. Rich attended Central High School before enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1944. He served in the Pacific Theater as a machinist 3rd class. He was discharged in 1946, but was called back to serve during the Korean Conflict in 1950 and was a Machinist 2nd Class. Rich was honorably discharged

in 1952. After his service in the Navy, Rich returned to Sioux City, where he resumed his career at Toy National Bank.

On Sept. 14, 1957, he married Colleen Bomgaars at First Christian Church in Sioux City. Rich later attended The Graduate School of Banking at the University of Wisconsin in Madison during 1965, 1966 and 1967. He retired from Toy National Bank in 1987, as a senior vice president after 40 years.

He was a member of First United Methodist Church for nearly 50 years. He was also a member of The AIB, The Independent Bankers of Iowa and participated in several civic and charitable organizations in Siouxland. He enjoyed tending to his lawn and vegetable garden, fishing, golfing at the Sioux City Boat Club, collecting coins, playing cards and going to coffee with all his friends, but most of all, spending time with his granddaughter, Sarah Jane. After retirement, Rich enjoyed making new friends while transporting cars for Knoepfler Chevrolet and driving for Randall's Formal Wear.

Rich is survived by his wife of 50 years, Colleen Breyfogle of Sioux City; a son, Tom Breyfogle of Sioux City and his special friend, Jennifer Fleming of Ocala, Fla.; a daughter, Susan Barta and her husband, Tim of Mankato, Minn.; his granddaughter, Sarah Jane Barta; and two brothers, Roger Breyfogle and his wife, Cora of Mesa, Ariz., and Gerald Breyfogle and his wife, Gerri of Tucson, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Fields Breyfogle; and a sister, Lois Reiser.

A Final Note

We received the notice of Richard's passing just as we were completing work on this edition. The loss of any family member is difficult, but have it occur so close to the celebration of their 50th anniversary surely had an impact on the family. We offered an on-line condolence from the entire extended Breyfogle family.

Changing Address Soon?

If you have, or will be changing your address please let us know so that we can correct the mailing list. It seems we have several returned newsletters with each edition and in many cases are unable to find a new address. We want to continue sending you newsletters and need your help in keeping our list current. Remember, we do not sell, trade, or in any way distribute your address to anyone.

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

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Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch

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To:



The Great Flood of 1913 – Delaware, Ohio