

Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch

January 2008

Sponsored by www.breyfogle.com

© Dan Breyfogle

Volume 4 – Number 1

In this Issue

- Publication Schedule – 2008
- Ohio Breyfogles 1850
- Christmas Greeting from Hans Peter Breyfogle
- Mary B. (Reynolds) Breyfogle Follow up
- Annie May Price contribution

From the Editor

I had planned to have a January issue out by mid-January, but the plans changed as time got away from us. I will leave this as a January issue even though it will be published and mailed in February.

Our winter in Iowa continues unabated, it has snowed several times a week and the temperatures hover around and below zero. We certainly hope your winter is less severe than ours.

We had several letters and e-mails concerning the December issue of the Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch and we will share some of those thoughts in this letter. We appreciate all the comments and encourage you to share them with us.

Publication Schedule – 2008

As with 2007, our publication schedule is planned to fall about once a quarter. We missed the self imposed January schedule but hope to get back on track as the year progresses. Our schedule generally calls for about 2-weeks of preparation of the material just before we publish the newsletter so encourage all submittals to arrive in our hands 2 to 3 weeks before the publication dates listed below.

- January 15, 2008
- April 15, 2008
- July 15, 2008
- October 14, 2008
- December 15, 2008 (optional)

Ohio Breyfogles 1850

As we open the new year our goal is to extend our coverage of the movement of our ancestors on a broader range. This means that instead of trying to follow them family by family as they moved across this country, and into Canada, we will begin exploring the different states in each issue. As we look at the movement out of Pennsylvania we know that there was a connection in New York, but the first significant settlement was in Ohio.

But within a few years the family began a westward movement to Iowa, Kansas, and of course California. In our October issue we were discussing the census

records of the families making their home in Ohio. By 1850 the number of Breyfogle households had increased significantly.

Of course we have the Joshua D. Breyfogle family group living in Delaware, Ohio as we have outlined in previous newsletters. But we also now have George P. and Sarah (Zimmerman) Breyfogle, Israel and Elizabeth (Trout) Breyfogle, and Reuben and Rebecca (Osman) Breyfogle all living in Delaware. All three are brothers, sons of Solomon D. and Esther (Peter) Breyfogle. Solomon and his wife did not leave Pennsylvania, but it appears that their sons found Ohio to be of interest as they all showed up during this census period. These three were also cousins of JD Breyfogle and we are sure that they must have all been aware that they were living in the same town as Delaware was not a large metropolitan center.

Another son of Solomon and Esther was living in Columbus, Ohio during this census. This was Charles and Matilda Jane (Cloud) Breyfogle. We also found listings from Benjamin and Nancy Bryfogle, and Jacob and Frances Bryfogle, but don't have anything to indicate that these are in anyway related to our line of Breyfogles.

Christmas Greeting from Hans Peter Breyfogle

We were very surprised and honored to receive a call from Hans Peter Breyfogle of Gundershiem Germany on Sunday morning, December 23, 2007. Hans reported being very busy with family and business matters. He does not use the computer so decided to offer a Christmas message via the phone and we pass on his greetings to everyone.

Hans said he will be working on more research into the Breyfogle surname in Germany and we can look forward to a report in 2008.

Mary B. (Reynolds) Breyfogle Follow-up

The largest edition of the Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch was our December 2007 issue that covered the single topic of this very strong and brave woman who held her family together in the face of financial and emotional stress as her husband traveled to the Gold Fields in 1849 and then her husband and sons enlisted to fight in the Civil War. We have had more e-mail and regular mail on this subject than any topic

presented in this newsletter and we thank each and every person who took time to write.

At some point we will take time to add the additional information that has come in since the initial publication and will have it posted on our website for download. We have also been asked if it is possible to offer this in a re-print for the cost of copying and mail, and we are considering how to do that at this time. But we wanted to take just a bit of space in this newsletter to share a couple of the comments on the issue and to add a little new information that was not available at the time we published this piece.

So we begin with a bit of information that came to us from the Delaware County Historical Society. We marked the death of Roland in our December issue with more questions than we had answers. The historical society provided us with the newspaper article reporting the death of Mary's oldest son and second oldest child. We now know that he was part of the army up until a short period before his death, and although we can't be sure his death was a direct result of battle wounds, his family was most certainly eligible for his military survivors pension.

Death of Roland C. Breyfogle

Capt. Roland C. Breyfogle died last Thursday very suddenly of hemorrhage of the lungs. When the war broke out Capt. Breyfogle was among the first to respond to his country's call. He enlisted as a private in the 4th Ohio Infantry on the 16th of April 1861. At the time he was 17 yrs of age. In December 1862, he was promoted to Corporal upon the battlefield of Fredericksburg for bravery in action. He was severely wounded in the leg at Spotsylvania, May 12, 1864. Later he enlisted in the 186th Ohio. He remained in the regiment until the end of the war when he returned to Delaware and shortly thereafter entered the drug business with White & Constant. In the summer of 1864 he again joined the army as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Infantry. He served at a post at Lookout, MD, and later his regiment was sent to California to look after the Digger Indians. His health failed, and he was sent home.

SOURCE: Delaware County Genealogical Society, The Delaware Gazette, 1858 – 1874, August 5, 1870

We concluded our story of Mary and her life by recording her death and indicating that we knew very little about the last years of her life. In the research work sent to us by the Delaware County Historical Society, we were also pleased to find a short newspaper article concerning her passing. To clarify, we are pleased to know more about her passing, but the very short mention of her passing does very little

to mark the life of a very courageous woman. Perhaps this is the way it is meant to be, those who do so much to hold a family together, those who suffer silently and with dignity through the struggles of life are often not recognized for their efforts. So we offer this simple article with the thought that we as her extended family know of her struggle and celebrate her dignity and example.

Death of Mary B Breyfogle

Mrs. Mary B. Breyfogle, one of the pioneer residents of this city, died yesterday at her home on Park Ave. The deceased who was 82 yr 17 da old, has been in very feeble health for some time. She has been a resident of this city since early childhood. She leaves two child, a son now living in Springfield and a daughter of this city. The funeral will take place from her late residence.

SOURCE: Delaware County Genealogical Society, The Delaware Gazette, 1895 – 1899, March 22, 1898

A Public Thank You

In the next article we will add additional information about the Mary B. (Reynolds) Breyfogle story that we featured in our December issue. We were very privileged to have been contacted by Annie May Price, the daughter of Eva Lovelace, and she shared some very important information with us concerning the Joshua D. Breyfogle family. As some may remember, Eva Lovelace was one of the people who worked very hard on the research in the Breyfogle surname. Her work, accomplished long before the Internet and electronic age, has not been as widely distributed as that of Lewis W. Breyfogle and Flora Grumman. But her contribution was very significant as can be witnessed with the packet we received from Mrs. Price.

We do not have the space in this newsletter to reproduce the information she sent so are planning a reprint of the Mary B. Reynolds story with her information added. Annie has mailed us handwritten transcriptions of several letters from the JD Breyfogle family, and the information they provide is nothing short of amazing. In our research we have never seen anything published from Mary or her children beyond a few letters from the boys in the war.

So thank you Annie, your contribution has added greatly to our information and we promise to get this information out to our readers very soon. Your mother's work is very much appreciated and the fact that you saved it all these years is a testament to the value you place on it as well.

Mary B. (Reynolds) Breyfogle

Reader Comments

It is not our goal to editorialize on the comments we receive but to merely point out the divergence of

opinion on the same subject. We mention this because we selected two comments to publish in this continuing discussion. The first comment came from a male perspective, and he mentioned his prior military background and life's experiences as support for his comments, which follow.

Our first comment was in the form of a letter to us, and since we do not have permission to reproduce the comments as written we will paraphrase the reader's thoughts on the subject. This reader suggested that perhaps Joshua D. Breyfogle's untimely suicide was the result of Mary turning a cold shoulder to him upon his return to Ohio following the war. The writer also felt that what we now know as Post Traumatic Shock Disorder (PTSD) was probably the underlying factor in his depression following the war.

In our research on the subject of his final demise we suggested that his letters seemed to be pointing to a form of depression or perhaps mental illness, although we did not try to diagnose his condition. We can certainly understand how the horrors of war can have a profound effect on soldiers and in no way want to minimize or downplay the negative effect it has on the soldier and his family. Having said this we will again point out that our goal in presenting Mary's story was to try to tell it from her point of view as she seems to have been the forgotten person in the Breyfogle Family History research projects. So we do agree that Joshua D. Breyfogle probably did deal with more than his share of horror, rejection, and self-doubt, but his actions certainly did not make his wife's life very easy.

This leads us to the second comment we would like to share. We selected it, and the first to illustrate the very different view of the same story read by two different people, and I might add two people on opposite coasts of the US. We had permission from Mary Jane Foster to reproduce her comments as we chose, so offer them as we feel her thoughts support our original goal, and we thank her for the use of her e-mail.

"Mary Reynolds Breyfogle must have been a remarkable woman, and her children were lucky to have her as the strong person she was while she held the family together when her husband chased off in search of gold or military honors. Being a modern and rather impatient woman, I'd have had trouble being that nice about it! She paid her dues, and then some.

"I can only imagine how I'd have felt if my husband had happily run in at dinnertime to announce that he'd signed up to fight in an active war and persuaded two of our sons to join him. I think my heart would have gone somewhere into the soles of my shoes and remained for quite a while.

In addition to your thoughts on the early death of her son, Arthur, I'd add poor nutrition to the possible underlying causes. Even though they weren't in true starvation mode, money was short, so their diet probably wasn't ideal. That, combined with the cold weather and hard work, would have left them all susceptible to illness and less able to recover. Even today, I'm reading WHO and other reports that children in underdeveloped nations suffer from this problem.

"Also, I'd do the amateur psychologist role and throw in bipolar problems as Joshua's possible mental issues. He seemed quite manic when running off to find gold and later to save the Union, in between getting himself fired as Marshal for dissipation and negligence, and finally in a depression ending in suicide after the war. His manic mode, writing so many letters home from the war (that man had way too much spare time!) seemed very self-focused, considering that most of his family was at home with Mary. He also seemed very UP or DOWN for long periods of his life.

"The latest Newsweek magazine has a related "Death of a Nation" article, discussing the Mathew Brady photos of the war deaths and the effects of the Civil War on the nation. They cite a book, Republic of Suffering, by Drew Gilpin Faust, which notes that "despair seeped through countless letters and journals of soldiers and civilians," with so many battles where the fields were literally blanketed with dead soldiers.

"Still, the writer noted that twice as many soldiers died of disease as from gunfire, quoting a U.S. Surgeon General as saying the war occurred "at the end of the medical Middle Ages." (Also applicable to young Arthur's death back home). It was a tough time to raise a family, even with more resources than Mary had at her disposal. These looks back in time always leave me grateful to be living in the current era, regardless of our modern challenges."

Correction

In our December issue we mentioned the date that Joshua D. and Mary B. (Reynolds) Breyfogle were married. Unfortunately the fingers and eyes did not line up and instead of noting the date as July 28, 1838, we recorded the year as 1938. We thank the reader that caught this error.

Contact Information

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

Mason City, IA 50401
dan@breyfogle.com

Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch

Mason City, IA 50401
USA

To:



www.breyfogle.com A Family History Website