

Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch

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From the Editor

Summer has arrived to Iowa following a long wet spring. I am sure many of you have read the news of flooding here in Iowa and places further south as our very heavy rains soaked everything. We thank those that sent their thoughts and concerns for our safety.

The flooding here in Mason City affected 800 homes and quite a few business locations. The primary damage was to the city water treatment plant when a levee broke and the floodwaters poured into the basement of the plant where the electrical room was located. This knocked the water treatment plant out for a week, which resulted in the closure of any business that needed water for cooking, cleaning, and other sanitation needs.

But the waters have receded, FEMA is here accessing the damage, and we hope that life can return to normal. We did not personally suffer any losses due to the flood, in fact we were both out of town for most of the week. We have a private well in our country home and some of my employees used our well to get water for their use at home and work.

Roland C. Breyfogle – Follow-up

In the December and January issues of the Sentinel Dispatch we discussed the family of Joshua D. Breyfogle, and in particular one of his sons, Roland C. Breyfogle.

The obituary for Roland mentioned that, "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."

One of our readers dropped us a letter to report that his recollection of Lookout, MD was that it was a northern prisoner of war camp and its reputation for the treatment of prisoners was extreme to put it mildly. So that sent us on the search for more details, and as it turns out it offers us a tighter timeline on Roland's service during this time. Below

is a brief article we found at a website operated by William L. Clements Library of The University of Michigan.

The opening background information on this camp shows a pretty firm time period that Roland could have been stationed at Lookout, MD.

"A prison camp for Confederate prisoners of war was built at Point Lookout, Md., on the tip of the peninsula where the Potomac River joins Chesapeake Bay. In the two years during which the camp was in operation, August, 1863, to June, 1865, Point Lookout overflowed with inmates, surpassing its intended capacity of 10,000 to a population numbering between 12,500 and 20,000. In all, over 50,000 men, both military and civilian, were held prisoner there."

Our obituary indicates that Roland joined the army in the summer of 1864, which is about 1-year after the camp started, and about 1-year before it closed. Just like the rather infamous Andersonville POW camp in Georgia, this northern POW camp had a very high death rate with living conditions being far below any standard we would accept today. And as easy as it would be to dwell on the horrible conditions we prefer instead to mark Roland's service here as a way to establish a specific time period that he was here. We have no idea of what specific service he performed here.

The Westward Movement

Up to this point our newsletter has focused on the Breyfogle family as it began in Pennsylvania and then moved to Lockport, NY and the larger movement into Ohio. At this point it is not possible to continue with research on single movements to the next location as the middle 1800's marked the movement of the family to many locations. So we will begin a broader look at the movement from Ohio to other points in the United States.

Although chronologically the next movement was to Iowa we will begin this broader look by concentrating on Iowa and Kansas. In future editions we will also include work on the Gold Rush, which produced temporary and permanent settlement in California. For those readers who have wanted us to cover the Lost Breyfogle Mine we will let you know that this topic will be covered in our December issue, perhaps as a single topic newsletter.

The Iowa Settlement

Unlike the rest of the Breyfogle family up to this point, our knowledge of the Breyfogle settlement in Iowa is pretty sketchy. In fact, in the work by Lewis W. Breyfogle, the Iowa portion of the family earned a single page in his book of 50-pages. We do not fault Lewis in this omission; rather we respect the fact that research at this time was very difficult as there weren't near as many resources to trace family members.

We offer this paragraph from his book as part of our motivation for tracing the Breyfogle surname:

"All of this meager but enlightening information adds up to the fact that there are dozens of Breyfogle descendants in Iowa, and they have spread to nearby and far away states both. In fact, they have been heard from as far away as California and Texas. It is to be hoped that someone in the family will take up where this present outline leaves off. If so, I believe they will find the members of the Iowa Breyfogles family-conscious and cooperative."

With the information by Lewis, and information from our research, we have a very detailed record of the family here in Iowa, but very little documentation on their lives as they moved to the state. So we begin with a brief history of Iowa before exploring the Breyfogle family itself.

As we know from our study of history in America, the original 13 states lined the east coast of the United States, then in 1803 the Louisiana Purchase expanded the territory, which became known at that time as the far west although we know this area today as primarily the Midwest. The following timeline gives us a feel for how Iowa fits into the grand scheme of things.

In 1673, about 70 years prior to the arrival of Johann Petar Breyvogel in Pennsylvania, the French explorers, Louis Joliet and Father Marquette explored the Mississippi river, which now defines the eastern border of the state. In 1785 The Land Ordinance created a mechanism to admit new states to the Union from what then known as the "Old Northwest Territory" and part of this plan included the "Square Mile Survey", which is the basis for the Iowa survey.

In 1788, Julian Dubuque was the first white settler along Catfish Creek, which was prior to the land becoming part of the Union. In 1832 a treaty with the Sauk tribe of American Indians ceded all the land west of the Mississippi to the US. This treaty was part of the end of what is known as the "Black Hawk War."

In 1833 Iowa was officially opened to settlement and in 1838 Congress created the Iowa Territory. It took until 1846 for Iowa to become the 29th state. And the

final date, although far less documented than any of those above, and not found in any history book, was the 1849 movement of Solomon P. and Margaret (Hagerman) Breyfogle and family from Columbus, Ohio to Mechanicsville, Iowa.

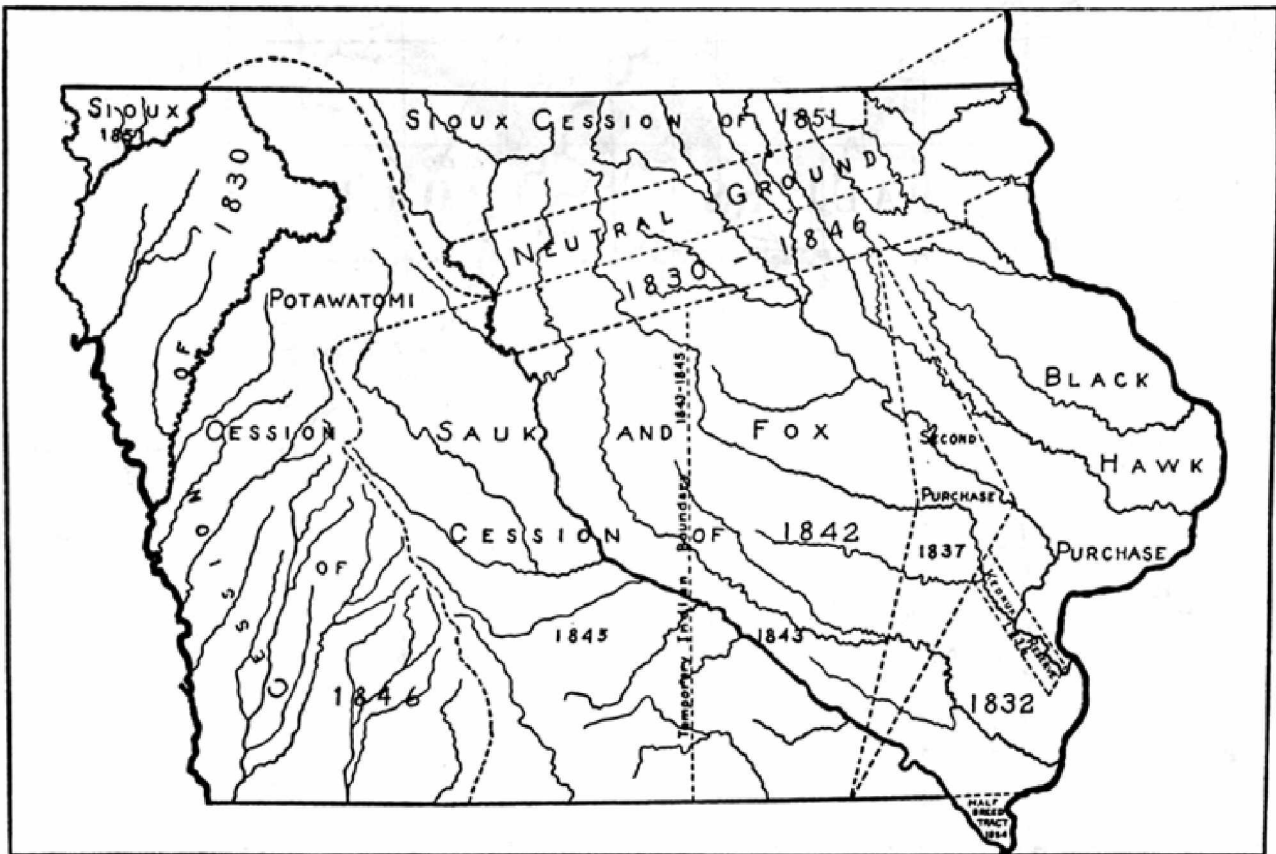
Although our timeline shows that white explorers and settlers were in and around Iowa long before the territory was opened for settlement, the history as it affects the Breyfogle family began about 1829 when the federal government informed the Sauk and Mesquaki Indian tribes that they must leave their villages in western Illinois and move across the Mississippi River.



Chief Blackhawk

The move was made, but Chief Black Hawk, a highly respected Sauk leader, protested the move and in 1832 returned to reclaim the Illinois village of Saukenauk. This action met with action by the Illinois militia who pursued Black Hawk and his band of approximately 400 Indians northward along the eastern side of the Mississippi River,

After a 3-month action the Indians surrendered at the Bad Axe River in Wisconsin, their numbers having dwindled to about 200. This encounter is known as the Black Hawk War. As punishment for their resistance, the federal government required the Sauk and Mesquaki to relinquish some of their land in eastern Iowa. This land, known as the Black Hawk Purchase, constituted a strip 50 miles wide lying along the Mississippi River, stretching from the Missouri border to approximately Fayette and Clayton Counties in Northeastern Iowa.



INDIAN LAND CESSIONS

This opened the eastern edge of Iowa for settlement and in June of 1833 the settlement began with settlers arriving from Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Indiana, Kentucky, and Virginia. Unlike the states they came from, Iowa presented the settlers with challenges they had not previously dealt with. These challenges were also some of the major reasons for settlement.

Iowa is bordered on the east by the Mississippi River and on the west by the Missouri River. In between these two rivers the state is crisscrossed with many rivers of varying size. The only tree cover in this entire area was near the rivers themselves and some of the hilly areas near the rivers. The remainder of the state was primarily covered with prairie grasses.

This meant that early settlements were primarily along the rivers as trees were needed for homes and fuel. It is reported in the "Iowa Official Register – History of Iowa" that along these rivers there were many log homes, but the settlers needed to substitute other materials for fuel and fencing.

In southern Iowa there were many outcroppings of coal, which was a very good fuel source, other areas used dried prairie hay tied in knots, corn cobs, and dried animal droppings. Northwest Iowa was completely devoid of trees for the most part so the settlers used prairie sod to build homes.

Fencing was a major challenge and it is reported that stone fences were popular as were dirt ridges and steep trenches. The most successful fencing for the early settlers was the Osage Orange hedge and was used until the 1870's when barbed wire was invented.

In our next edition we will explore Cedar County where Solomon and Margaret settled and the movement of the family beyond this eastern Iowa area.

Breyfogles in Kansas

The very first mention of Kansas as it relates to the Breyfogle family comes in the work of Lewis W. Breyfogle when writing of his grandfather's family he writes, "In 1865, my grandmother (born 1839), the wife of Lewis W. Breyfogle, and their small son both died suddenly of an intestinal virus disease. My grandfather's diary ends there, and after about three years it starts again in Johnson County, Kansas. John W. Breyfogle, Sr. (born 1872) says the Breyfogles came to Kansas from Delaware, Ohio in 1866."

He goes on to relate all those who came with him, and we will cover this more completely in future editions. But for now we have established that our family surname history in Kansas began about 1866, so we feel it is important to give a bit of history of the state of Kansas prior to this time as a historical reference.



Fort Leavenworth was built in 1827 just inside Indian Territory to guard travelers on the “Western frontier.”

The California Trail and Oregon Trail both used parts of the Santa Fe Trail for their route, both of which opened in the 1840's.

It is not the purpose of this research and newsletter to get mired down in political topics, but we would be remiss not to mention the number of Indian tribes that signed treaties with the US government and agreed to be resettled in Kansas as their new “permanent home”. In the articles we

As we begin our look at Kansas and the family's movement into this state we find that this area of the country shared at least one thing in common with Iowa. The land area, although radically different in the landscape of Iowa, was part of the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 as was Iowa. Prior to this purchase the land had been explored by Spanish conquistadores about 1541 and later the French fur trappers traded with the Native Americans who lived in this area.

It should also be noted that following the 1803 acquisition of this land, the Lewis and Clark Expedition left St. Louis and headed west to spend three days at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers in what is now known as Kansas City, Kansas.

In 1806 Zebulon Pike passed through the region and labeled it the “Great American Desert” on the maps he was drawing. Once historical resource contributors this label as the basis of U.S. policy for this region for the next 40-years, which was to set it aside as land for Native Americans.

It was also noted that after briefly being part of the Missouri Territory it was returned to an unorganized territorial status in 1821. Coincidentally, in 1821 the Santa Fe Trail was opened across Kansas, which became the country's transportation route to the Southwest. This trail connected Missouri with Santa Fe, New Mexico and is very well known throughout the history of the west and southwest.

Beginning in the 1820's the entire area that would become Kansas was “permanently set aside as Indian Territory”, which meant it was closed to settlement. Because of heavy trade up the Missouri River from St. Louis the US government established several posts throughout the area.

we have seen on this topic nearly every well known tribe name seems to have at one time or another ceded land in the eastern half of the US to the government and moved west, most to the Kansas Territory before again being moved further west.

In reviewing the history of this area of the country we found that by 1850 many white settlers had begun illegally “squatting” on land set aside for the Indian tribes. And as part of these settlements, there was a move to open the entire area for settlement. Congress began the process of creating the Kansas Territory in 1852 when petitions were presented at the first session of the 32nd Congress.

This entire process was complicated by the rising anti-slavery movement and the battle of establishing new states without first declaring if they were to allow slavery. On May 30, 1854 congress, after heated debate, passed the Kansas-Nebraska Act establishing the Nebraska Territory and Kansas Territory.

Following the passage of this act the federal government sent Indian Agents to begin negotiations to remove the Indian tribes off land that by treaty had become their “permanent home.” The sources we found on this topic included a significant list of treaties and dates, far too much information for this newsletter.

Within a few months of the passage of the Kansas Nebraska act there were treaties with the Delawares, Otoes, Kickapoos, Kaskaskias, Shawnees, Sacs, Foxes, and many other less well known tribes. These treaties opened a strip of land as far as 200 miles west of the Missouri border to white settlement, which is the area the Breyfogles settled later

The passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act established the borders of Kansas Territory at the

Missouri border on the east and the summit of the Rocky Mountain range on the west (now Colorado). The southern boundary was the 37th parallel and the northern was the 40th parallel. Arguments raged over the southern border as it related to the Osage and Cherokee tribes. This led to the Cherokee Strip controversy, which we will discuss in the next issue as we continue looking at the history of the territory that would soon become home to the Breyfogles, many of whom played a major role in developing the cities we know today as well as the state.

Letters to the Editor

In our April 2008 newsletter we were discussing the Lewis and Elizabeth (Trout) Breyfogle, Sr. family and their home near Dublin, OH, which sparked this letter from a reader:

I was just reading your latest Dispatch. Not being aware of the Ohio Breyfogle history before leaving St. Louis and moving to Columbus, OH; I am overwhelmed with a feeling of having "come home". I live in Dublin, OH and have for a number of years. Every day I pass by or over the bridge. I have to wonder if I have walked on the property that used to be owned by a Breyfogle. I have lived in a number of homes in Dublin and work at the Columbus Zoo that is in Delaware County just minutes from Dublin. You know the Jack Nicklaus Memorial Golf Tournament held every May is in Dublin. It is indeed a growing area.

Sincerely, Marsha Vaughan

This second e-mail prompted me to remember having received information for use in a later newsletter, which to this point hasn't happened. So we thank Mary Jane for her patience and the gentle reminder:

Hi Dan,

I enjoyed the latest newsletter, which arrived today, and was interested in the Ohio materials, since it connects directly with my own look at our history. When I sent you the materials on my grandmother, Grace Breyfogle Jones [January 2006 Newsletter], I included the attached excerpts from Lewis' handwritten journals, which I have. Much of what he writes about is the mundane business of farm life, but it's still interesting for us now. Time has browned the pages and made a few words unclear near the margins.

The first entry, dated April 12th, 1964, indicates that if the families weren't on the same farm, then they were on adjoining properties: "Father still in town. Mike carried out potatoes in forenoon. In afternoon we divided the sheep, made fence across lane."

Wednesday, April 15th – Mike cutting stove wood. I went to Millville to be qualified as supervisor (?-unclear). Father came back in afternoon. He and I ditched orchard field in evening."

Wednesday, April 20th (these dates can't be right) – "Mike and Metzger plowed in bottom in the forenoon. Harrowed in oats in orchard afternoon. Father and I sowed oats, picked seed corn in forenoon, cut tree for paling (?) and grubbed stumps. Sowed grass seed in afternoon. Weather clear and frost in morn."

The only cities mentioned are Millville and Delaware; I know Delaware is just above Columbus.

This journal was an interesting record of their work and lives, and at the back are several contracts and agreements between Lewis and others regarding leased land, money lent and similar transactions. Also, we have some dandy recipes for home remedies, including ointments, liniments and such for farm animals and people. A treatment for children ages 10-15 years who have diarrhea and dysentery includes rhubarb, saffron, cardamom, bicarbonate of soda, peppermint oil, white sugar, brandy and water. (That's a pint each of brandy and water, and the child dose is 1-2 teaspoons.) Wow, times have changed . . .

Someday when I have loads of time, I do hope to transcribe more than what's attached, but at least we have a few highlights to share.

Thanks for continuing the work and research. For history fans like me, it's always very interesting.

Mary Jane Foster

Just for Fun

A little girl asked her father, "How did the human race appear?"

The father answered, "God made Adam and Eve and they had children and so was all mankind made."

Two days later the girl asked her mother the same question.

The mother answered, "Many years ago there were monkeys from which the human race evolved."

The confused girl returned to her father and said, "Dad, how is it possible that you told me the human race was created by God, and Mom said they developed from monkeys?"

The father answered, "Well, dear, it is very simple. I told you about my side of the family and your mother told you about hers."

Contact us

Do you have news for the newsletter? We will gladly publish any and all Breyfogle news that reaches us for publication. We will be happy to write from your notes if you wish to offer just a few notes to get us started. Our next newsletter will be published about October 14th. You may contact us by mail or e-mail with comments, articles, or questions:

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