

Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch

April 2009

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Volume 5 – Number 1

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From the Editor

How often have we all said, “time flies when you are having fun?” Well, time flies regardless if we are having fun or not, or so it seems to us. We had a wonderful vacation in October of 2008 to visit our sons in Utah and California and that got in the way of our October issue. Then the year-end came with too many deadlines and not enough time at work. Now as we enter this new year we find that our time simply isn't our own.

We know everyone has been affected in one way or another by this economic downturn and the political turmoil that surrounds all that is going on as we face a very challenging time. Luckily, at this writing, we are still working and holding our own, but in an effort to focus on the immediate needs of business we have decided to make this the final edition of the Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch.

We simply don't feel it is fair to our readers to promise what may not come to pass. So instead of setting a schedule for the future we will discontinue the Dispatch and concentrate our efforts in other areas. We sincerely appreciate the help from those readers that contributed to this effort. We also appreciate the trust you all placed in us with sharing your address so we could share our research with you.

Final Issue of the Sentinel Dispatch

In March of 2005 we published our first family history newsletter. This project was conceived with our visit to the Breyfogle Convergence of 2004. We felt that if we published a newsletter about our family history research we could generate greater interest in the Convergence itself and perhaps spur others to get started with their own family history projects.

Now 4-years later it is time to put this project aside as we strike off in new directions. Our interest in capturing family history has not come to an end, but we also know that the time we spend on this subject suffers with new interests and research. We are in

the middle of restoring a 100-year old downtown business place that my father purchased in 1959.

Dad, at the age of 83, still operates Brey's Radio in Estherville, Iowa in this old building. As we began this project, which is an effort to keep this structure in Breyfogle ownership for the next 50 years, we discovered so much history that was begging to come alive in our hometown that we simply had to get involved with it as well.

So as we close this project up we want to thank those readers who became part-time writers, contributors, and supporters of this effort. We have had great fun with this project and want to end it on a high note. We will still be around, poking our nose into historical events that touched our extended family, and hope that our efforts here have given others the motivation to record your family stories and history.

W. R. Breyfogle – Information Request

We recently came across a book titled, *Autumn Leaves and Other Verse* by W. R. Breyfogle. The copyright date is 1936 in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. We have in our records, two William R. Breyfogles, the first being William R. Breyfogl, son of William Osman and Rebecca P. (Croskey) Breyfogle. He was born July 6, 1868 in California, and passed away in the same state on August 23, 1945. We have ruled him out as the author based on the fact that our second W. R. Breyfogle lived for many years in Canada and had two children born in Canada.

William Roland Breyfogle, son of Joshua D. and Mary E. (Dixon) Breyfogle, Jr., was born June 2, 1872 in Ohio and passed away about 1946 in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada. So we are comfortable that this is the correct person attributed to the book. In fact he has several poems relating to his grandchildren that clearly identify him as the appropriate person.

The book is dedicated as follows:

To all of my kindred here, and memories of those now gone – even the wee grave in Kansas – for each means to me, an affectionate experience. – W.R.B.

In looking at our data, it seems that William is referring to his infant sister, Alice, born 1878 died 1879 in Kansas. All his other siblings survived past childhood and lived in places other than Kansas at the time of their passing, the dates of which are beyond the death of William himself.

So what information do we need? First, inside the front cover of the book in black ink is an inscription in a very stylized hand as follows:

To Theodore
With very best wishes
Brey
12/25/1936

The date of this hand written inscription matches the forward of the book so it is our guess that this book may have had a very limited printing and was presented very soon after the actual printing. It is very possible that this was the very first book he presented after publication.

We do not know who William is referring to, perhaps Theodore is his publicist, editor, or business partner and/or associate. We do not think he is a family member as it appears that we have accurate data that William Roland and Mary Edith (Johnston) Breyfogle had two sons, Robert Joshua and William Arthur.

We have record of children by Robert Joshua, but show a marriage only for William Arthur. If any of our readers have any clues we'd love to hear from you as this sort of mystery tends to tug at us until we know for sure if there is a link.

Now the second point is in the Index itself, here is an excerpt:

For My Grandchildren
Joan Patricia – Page 6
Enamorita – Page 7
Joy Riders – Page 8
Fritz – Page 9

Joan Patricia Breyfogle is the oldest child of Robert Joshua and Elsie Roberta (McLaughlin) Breyfogle, born April 25, 1933 in Barcelona, Spain. The poem itself refers to "Oh wee one" and we know that the poem is referring to his then 3-year old granddaughter living with her parents in Spain.

We are mystified by Enamorita as we do not know if this is a name, nickname, location, or perhaps a Spanish word that is not easily translated. The final two lines of this poem are:

My love – aged two now comes encore,
To her Grand-dad, sixty-three

At the publication date of this book, December 25, 1936, William Roland was 64 ½ years old and Joan was 3 ½ years old. If William wrote the poem when he was 63 Joan would have been 2 to match the age in the last two lines. So is this poem about her?

In the poem, Joy Riders, William names Joan as well as Peter. Peter Nicholas was the second child of Robert and Elsie, born September 24, 1935 in Barcelona, Spain, so we assume that William

perhaps visited them there as the poem refers to a joyful car ride that he thinks of as:

Hitched our wagon to a star –
(What did we care if 'twas a car)

We did find the final grandchild poem humorous in the fact that Fritz is a Boston Bull Terrier, which is made very evident in the final two lines when he mentions wagging his crooked tail.

We also see a poem titled, Mary, which we assume refers to his mother and another poem titled Kansas – 1876. We will of course explore this poem in depth in our continuing article about the Breyfogle Settlement in Kansas.

If any of our readers have any information about this book, its author, or family members we would greatly appreciate hearing from you. We collect Breyfogle memorabilia in the hope that we can pull some family history out of it, and this book is certainly a treasure.

Breyfogle Settlement in Iowa

As we began this series we felt we would have a number of issues to complete the Iowa history of the Breyfogle family, but with the end of the Dispatch we need to accelerate our efforts to bring our readers up to date.

Solomon D. and Esther (Peter) Breyfogle had 8-children, with Solomon P. Breyfogle being the sixth child by age. As we know Solomon D and his wife Esther lived out their lives in Berks County, PA, with both passing and buried in Kutztown, Berks, PA.

Three of their sons, George Peter, Reuben, and Charles moved to Ohio and spent their lives there. Magdalena, the oldest child, married and lived in Pennsylvania her entire life. Catharine, the seventh child died as an infant. Two sons, Daniel and Israel traveled west to Kansas with Daniel and most of his family died on the trail.

Solomon D. Breyfogle, born November 18, 1812, is noted to have traveled to California during the 1849 Gold Rush and Lewis W. Breyfogle reported stories that he never returned. He also notes that Flora Grumman found Solomon in Iowa but neither of these researchers went any further than recognizing he survived the trip to California and settled in Iowa.

What is known about this family is sketchy at best. Solomon married Margaret Hagerman on April 7, 1842 in Delaware, Ohio. So it is clear that he followed his brothers there from Pennsylvania. There were 6-children for this family with the first three born in Columbus, Ohio. The birth dates for these children begin in 1843 and the third child was born in 1847.

The next child, George Jefferson Breyfogle, was born November 7, 1849 in Mechanicsville, Cedar County, Iowa. We also know that their 6th child, Hattie, was born about 1852 but have not found firm documentation on her. This family does appear on

the 1850 Federal Census for Cedar County, incidentally the name is spelled Brifogle, making it difficult to find, but all the names and other details line up correctly making us sure this is the correct record for the first Breyfogle to settle in Iowa.

Solomon P. Breyfogle passed away on June 15, 1852 and although we can't find a record of his burial location, we are sure he was buried in Cedar County. We make this assumption based on the fact that his widow, Margaret, remarried in February 5, 1854 to Morris Ocheltree and this couple had two children after their marriage. Margaret passed away on November 4, 1879, 5-years before her second husband and burial records indicate she is buried beside Morris Ocheltree in the Sand Hill Cemetery near Tipton, Cedar County, Iowa. It is interesting to note that Morris is buried between Margaret and his first wife Francina along with two other Ocheltree children from his first marriage.

Three of Solomon P. and Margaret Breyfogle's children remained in Iowa throughout their lives with Solomon W. Breyfogle, the second child by age, moving to Arkansas, and Ester Valberga (Breyfogle) Kinzey moved with her husband to Douglas, Butler County, Kansas where both are buried and no children that survived to adulthood.

The Iowa settlement then progressed through the sons, William Milton Breyfogle and George Jefferson Breyfogle as well as Margaret Nancy (Breyfogle) Ocheltree. Little is known of Margaret and her husband Edgar except that Edgar was a nephew to her stepfather Morris. Margaret passed away on January 18, 1894 in O'Brien County, IA and is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Primghar, O'Brien, Iowa. We are unable to find children from this marriage, they were married on March 17, 1878 but do know Edgar remarried and had two children by that marriage.

This is a lot of names, dates, and places that mean little to those not from Iowa. But through this process of elimination we are down to two direct descendents of Johann Petar Breyvogel that are known to have settled in Iowa and began an entirely new branch off the main tree.

William Milton Breyfogle, my great-great grandfather, born August 27, 1843 in Columbus, Ohio, moved with the family to Iowa at the age of 7. Little is known of him until he joined the army at Polo, Illinois as a private on May 2, 1864. His unit, the 142nd Infantry of the Illinois Volunteers, was formed in Freeport, Illinois and ordered to Butler, Illinois on June 18, 1864.

His unit was moved by way of Cairo, Illinois and the Mississippi River to Memphis, Tennessee where they were assigned guard duty for the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. We are unable to find any reports of direct action in the Civil War, but know that William Milton suffered from exposure while guarding

the train as was discharged from the army in Chicago, Illinois.

William settled in O'Brien County, Iowa, Section 20 of Liberty Township in 1870 and we have recorded his final transfer of ownership on his homestead from the original records in the O'Brien County Courthouse in Primghar, IA. We found the original "General Index of Deeds" and in book C 1876 – 1880" we found that William M Breyfogle filed for his homestead on January 7, 1878 at 3:00 PM and made the final payment on May 16, 1897.

William was married to Abigail Myers on December 6, 1873 and they had 8-children. The obituary for William Milton Breyfogle, who passed away April 23, 1933, indicates that in about 1894 he and his family "went to the new region west of the Missouri River in South Dakota." It also reported that they remained there one year and then returned to O'Brien County and took residence in Primghar where he remained the remainder of his life. He was a truck farmer but was disabled the last ten years of his life.

Children of William Milton and Abigail Breyfogle for the most part remained in Iowa and represent most of the Breyfogles living in Iowa today.

George Jefferson Breyfogle, brother of William Milton, settled in O'Brien County as well. We do not have an exact date or set of circumstance that brought him to the area, but he was married to Achsah Verdeen Fields on December 10, 1877 in Calumet, O'Brien County, Iowa. We found him listed living with his mother and step father in Cedar county in the 1870 federal census. George and his wife settled about 2-miles from his brother William Milton and raised their family on that farmstead.

It is interesting to note that several of the children on this couple moved from Iowa to Minnesota and became the basis of those families living in Minnesota today.

In Search of Josiah L. Breyfogle

In our February 2007 issue of the Sentinel Dispatch we presented a copy of an advertisement for a mop wringer that carried the name of Josiah L. Breyfogle and we were unable to identify much about this person on that point in our research.

As we prepared the article for this newsletter about the Iowa settlement we stumbled across a newspaper article from Waterloo Daily Courier, Waterloo, Iowa dated August 28, 1897. We were a bit surprised to find a reference to the Breyfogle name this far back around Waterloo as that is not one of the locations the family settled at that time.

In many cases newspapers of that era, and even today, pick up stories from other papers that are either noteworthy or to fill space, so as we began reading it seemed as if that is what we found. On the

contrary, there is a direct connection to the city of Waterloo and Josiah.

It seems that Josiah would visit his niece and family, F. E. Cutler in the Waterloo area and as you will read in this transcription, he moved their in about 1889. Here is the article as presented to the readers in Waterloo.

Another Death

Josiah L. Breyfogle Passes Away Early This Morning

Josiah S. [L.] Breyfogle died at 4:30 this morning at the home of F. E. Cutler, in Park row, after a lingering illness of several months. During all this time he was tenderly cared for by his niece, Mrs. F. E. Cutler and members of the family and friends. But the complications of diseases which set in could not be overcome and death finally relieved him from his sufferings.

Mr. Breyfogle was born in Pennsylvania, Dec. 25, 1823, and was 73 years old at the time of his death.

At the age of 12 years, he left his home in Lockport, N.Y., where he entered a store as errand boy. From that position he grew to a clerkship and later was owner of the largest dry goods store in the city. He retired from the business in 1888.

He was founder of the Universalist church at Lockport and was a trustee until he moved away. He was always an ardent worker in the church and Sunday school and his faith and In belief gave him comfort to the last.

Friends will be permitted to attend short services which will be held at the home at 4 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. There will be given a prayer by Rev. A. R. Tillinghast, followed by a few remarks.

The remains will be taken to Lockport Sunday night for burial, accompanied by Mrs. Cutler, and funeral services will be held there.

Mr. Breyfogle leaves one son, Louis C., living in New York City.

SOURCE: Waterloo Daily Courier, August 28, 1897

In our earlier research we were not aware of Josiah L. Breyfogle, the younger, we had documentation that Josiah L. Breyfogle as the son of Jacob D. and Susanne (Baldy) Breyfogle, who was born about 1806. A funeral notice in the Lockport Daily Journal, August 31, 1897 pointed to the possibility of the son as this death notice would have made the senior Josiah 91, which certainly a death notice of that day would have noted the advanced date.

So armed with the Waterloo, Iowa report we now know that following the August 29 service at the Cutler home, his body was taken to Lockport for a funeral service as noted in the funeral notice we just cited. So that mystery is now solved, but the next mystery is the identity of his wife and of course, where in the world did Louis C. Breyfogle end up?

A Letter From Mary (Reynolds) Breyfogle

Our December 2007 edition of the Sentinel Dispatch was a single topic edition that highlighted the story of May (Reynolds) Breyfogle, the wife of Joshua D. Breyfogle and her children. As you may remember, Joshua D. Breyfogle led an adventurous life as a 1849 Gold Rush participant and as a soldier in the Civil War. He left diaries, letters, and an entire book was written about his exploits using the Civil War letters saved by his family.

At the time we published this work we commented that it was sad that not one piece of writing came from Mary and only a few letters from the sons that were in the Civil War at the same time as their father. Shortly after publishing this work Annie May (Lovelace) Price contacted us and offered to send all she had of her mother's work on this subject.

Eva May (Breyfogle) Lovelace had a keen interest in the research into the Breyfogle surname. As part of her work, much of which became part of Lewis W. Breyfogle's publications, included a series of transcriptions of documents that she had access to in her travels to gather information.

Eva did her work the old fashioned way, as some would think of it. She traveled to see people and documents, and instead of trying to make photocopies of the documents, she transcribed them in long hand to preserve them for future use. To the best of our knowledge, none of this work has been published before.

As much as we'd love to transcribe all this work into this final issue we must restrict ourselves to a single letter. But this letter is in our opinion, the single most important document that is essential to our research on this Mary (Reynolds) Breyfogle. The first transcription in the packet of information is a letter that Mary wrote to her son. We presume it was to Roland. We again want to thank Annie for her contribution and will at some point have all this information on-line at www.breyfogle.com.

Tuesday Eve-March ?

My dearly beloved son,

This is not an answer to your letter (for we had none lately,) but to let you know that the money came all safe - \$30.00.

There is no news here except John got back last Saturday. Aunt Martha is settled in her new home. It is a sort of Earthly Paradise, so

Breyfogle Sentinel Dispatch

Mason City, IA 50401
USA

To:



A street scene in Paola, Kansas, 1860's