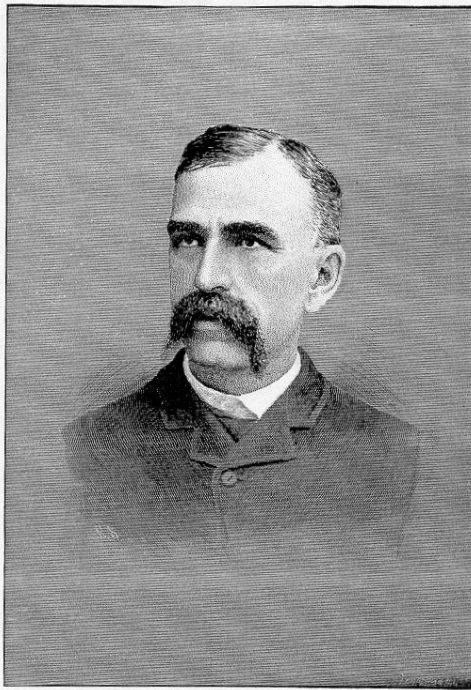


## Charles Wesley Breyfogle Businessman and Politician

*The Garden City National Bank* was chartered and organized on the third day of June, 1887, and opened for business on July 18, 1887, with \$100,000 capital paid in. Dr. C. W. Breyfogle, who projected and perfected its organization, was chosen president, George M. Bowman, vice-president, and Thomas F. Morrison, cashier. The bank, being a regular national bank, confines its transactions to commercial business solely. It is situated on the northwest corner of First and San Fernando Streets, almost in the geographical center of San Jose, and occupies a beautiful suite of banking rooms, fitted up expressly for its use, with a ten years' lease. The eighteen stockholders are among the best known, most competent, and successful businessmen of Santa Clara County. The bank draws directly upon San Francisco, New York, and all the principal cities of Europe, and has correspondents in all important commercial centers.

The Garden City, the youngest of San Jose's banking houses, starts off under very promising auspices. Its brief history so far fills the measure of the most sanguine projectors. At the end of its first eight months' operations the report showed \$177,894.51 in individual deposits; demand certificate deposits amounting to \$48,150.13, and undivided profits of \$5,370.45.



*C. W. Breyfogle*

Dr. C. W. Breyfogle emanates from the heart of the Buckeye State, was born in Columbus, Ohio, in June, 1841. He was graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University, in 1863, having completed a four years' college course in three years. The same year he left college he entered the U. S. army as Second Lieutenant of Company E in the 9<sup>th</sup> Ohio Cavalry, which was assigned to Gen. W. T. Sherman's command. Lieutenant Breyfogle soon rose, by successive promotions, to First Lieutenant and to Captain of his company. His eyesight becoming seriously impaired by an attack of paralysis of the optic nerve, Captain Breyfogle was compelled to resign at the end of fourteen months of service, and seek relief.

After a partial recovery from his affliction, he began reading law in the office of Judge Rankin, in Columbus; but just before he finished the course his eyes again failed, and he had to abandon study. On being cured by homeopathic treatment, Mr. Breyfogle was so pleased with the system that he resolved to master it. He began to study, and, in 1865, graduated from the Homeopathic

Medical College at Philadelphia, and commenced practicing physicians.

Dr. Breyfogle came to California and to San Jose in 1871, broken down in health by overwork in the profession in Louisville, Kentucky. He rapidly recovered, and spent fifteen years in active practice in Santa Clara County, from which he retired to take the presidency of the bank. In

## C. W. Breyfogle – Businessman and Politician

May, 1886, Dr. Breyfogle was elected mayor of the city. And filled the office two years. During his administration a number of measures of great benefit to the city were inaugurated and crystallized into laws. Among them is an ordinance authorizing the issuing of city bonds for \$500,000 for the purpose of making much-needed improvements. This measure met with a determined opposition, and one defeat, but finally triumphed. The new City Hall was commenced, and a general system of sidewalk construction started. In February, 1885, Dr. Breyfogle organized the San Jose Building and Loan Association, with a capital stock of two thousand five hundred shares of \$200 each. The stock was so rapidly taken that, at the end of the first year, the stock was increased to \$1,500,000, in series of one thousand shares each. The association has proved very popular, and is a benefaction to home-seekers of small means. It has erected about eight buildings, mostly in San Jose. In the same year (1885) Dr. Breyfogle also organized the Odd Fellows' Association, for the purpose of building a hall for the order. This enterprise was a flattering success, culminating in the erection and completion of the splendid block on the southwest corner of Santa Clara and Third Streets, one of the finest in the city. Dr. Breyfogle is a member of the Board of Freeholders, and has served in the City Board of Education. This it will be seen that Dr. Breyfogle is an enterprising, public-spirited, cultured gentleman, of whom the city may well feel proud.

SOURCE: Transcribed from *Pen Pictures From the "Garden of the World"*

As the surrounding neighborhood developed into one of San Jose's finest residential districts in the early 1870's, Ohioan Charles Wesley Breyfogle built this house on the northeast corner of Third and St. James streets, facing the latter.



Breyfogle, a physician, served as captain in the Northern Army during the Civil War. On coming to San Jose in 1871, he took an active interest in local financial affairs. In 1885

he helped to organize the San Jose Building and Loan Assn. Two years later he became founding president of the Garden City National Bank, now Wells Fargo Bank. Other activities found him as Mayor of San Jose, promoter of the 1887 City Hall, and member of the Board of Freeholders.

After Breyfogle's death in 1885 [SIC], his home passed to other ownership and eventually deteriorated into a rooming house before its razing in the late '60's.

C. W. Breyfogle – Businessman and Politician

EDITORS NOTE: This picture scan was from a photocopy of a newspaper article and it was attributed to the Clyde Arbuckle Collection. Research indicates that the city of San Jose authorized the purchase of this collection May 26, 2002. It is assumed that the original photograph of this house is now included in the historical resources at the California Room at the Main Library.

SOURCE: California Today, January 11, 1976, p – 13

D. Bruce Berkinshaw, the Great Great Grandson of Charles W. Breyfogle found this article and offered further details about the house and his ancestors. This picture shows the house in a much later date based on the tree and shrub growth as well as a slight change in a few features on the house.

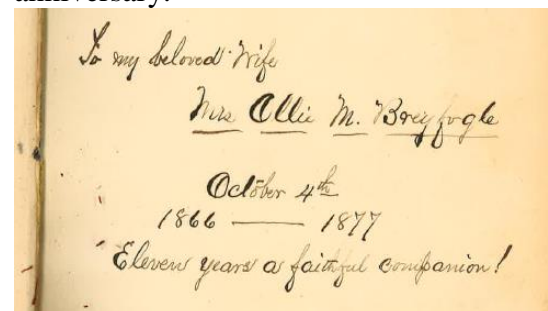


He noted that the stairs on the corner of the house are gone and the door was changed to a window. The article mentioned above reported that after the death of Charles W. Breyfogle the house was turned into a rooming house, which would have resulted in changes in the house to accommodate tenants. This picture was scanned through the glass in the frame and he noted that on the back of the picture there is an inscription by his Great Grandmother Stella Breyfogle Morton that reports, “My home in California. Vida [Stella’s sister] was born here over 70 years ago.”

Also submitted with the picture of the house was this painting of Dr. Charles W. Breyfogle and his wife Olivia H. Mabury Breyfogle.

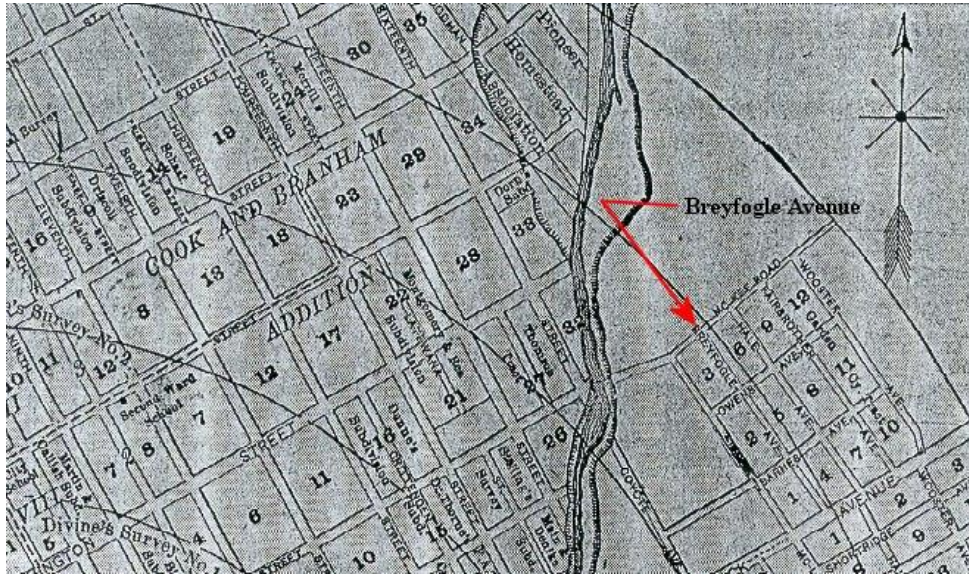


Another memento was a book of poetry by Byron that Charles gave Olivia for their 11<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.





## Breyfogle Recalls S.J. Land Rush By Patricia Loomis, Staff Writer



Early subdivisions, result of the land rush which began before the turn of the century, and some of the old street names are shown on this 1904 map of East San Jose. Breyfogle Avenue, and others change their names to numbers in 1913. Breyfogle intersected McKee Road.

Looking for Breyfogle Avenue on a current San Jose map is about as futile as the century-long search for the famed gold mine of the same name.

The avenue is gone, its “Signposts” now read 25<sup>th</sup> street. And the legendary gold mine in Nevada is still “lost.”

Breyfogle Avenue was the victim of a City Council move to create some semblance of order out of the confusion over street names that had been increasing since the great land boom of the 1880s.

In an ordinance effective Jan. 1, 1913, the council erased all names from streets running north and south in the east part of San Jose and substituted numbers.

Beginning in pueblo times, streets east of Market square as far as 11<sup>th</sup> had been given numbers, but in the years that followed names had been interspersed with numbers in a system less hodge-podge nearly as confusing as the asphalt wanderings that show up on today’s maps of the much larger city.

For instance, prior to 1913 Whitney Street lay east of 11<sup>th</sup>, then came 12<sup>th</sup>, Priest, 13<sup>th</sup>, Crittenden, 14<sup>th</sup>, Latewana (who?), 15<sup>th</sup>, Webster, etc.

Most easterly of the streets were those in the Garden City tract, a subdivision laid out in 1887 on part of the old Sullivan ranch east of McLaughlin Avenue between Santa Clara Street and McKee Road.

## C. W. Breyfogle – Businessman and Politician

A syndicate which brought the land and promoted the sale of lots was composed of Mayor C. W. Breyfogle; councilman O. A. Hale (co-founder of the department store chain); C. M. Wooster, president of the county Board of Trade; George Fairbrother; col. E. F. Barnes, and F. Owens. Naturally, streets in the tract were named for these six men.

Breyfogle, Civil War veteran and retired homeopathic doctor who had come out from Ohio in 1871, was a promoter of no mean ability. One of a three-man committee of the San Jose Board of Trade (forerunner of the Chamber of Commerce), he advertised and promoted the San Jose area so effectively the resulting land rush saw real estate sales run up \$1 million in one week and the county recorder had to triple his staff.

Special trains were made up in Los Angeles and the Bay cities to bring potential buyers to San Jose. On Aug. 18, 1887, 6,000 persons arrived for the auctioning of lots in the Garden City tract. There was free food and drink, entertainment and speeches, and the day ended with the syndicate \$106,000 richer.

Average price for a lot 40 by 125 feet was \$314.11, according to a newspaper report on the auction. Terms were one-third cash and the balance in six to 12 months at 6 percent interest.

The tract became part of the separate community of East San Jose incorporated in 1906, but which joined its larger sister city by annexation in 1911.

Breyfogle, who died in 1903 [SIC] at the age of 53, was founder and president of the Garden City National Bank, built at First and San Fernando streets (home of Wells Fargo Bank when it was torn down a few months back). He also organized the San Jose Building and Loan Association and the Odd Fellows Association which built the hall at 3<sup>rd</sup> and Santa Clara streets that was used until a few years ago.

He served as mayor from 1886 to 1888 and was a member of the state Board of Health in the 1890's.

He and a brother, Edwin S. Breyfogle, also a homeopathic physician shared an office on the northwest corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and St. James streets until Dr. Charles retired and his brother moved the practice to San Francisco.

There was another Breyfogle in San Jose in the early days – William O. – building contractor and city street superintendent, who was a cousin of the doctors.

William had made the first of three trips to Californian in 1851, and later brought along a cousin, Jacob, the man who stumbled on the rich Nevada gold outcropping and died of a poisoned arrow before he could relocate the claim.

Although Breyfogle Avenue was wiped out with the stroke of a pen, the search for the lost Breyfogle mine goes on.



The Drs. Breyfogle Had Offices at Third and St. James Streets

EDITORS NOTE: This full-page article included the writer's version of the Lost Breyfogle Gold Mine, which is transcribed into another document since it does not apply directly to Charles W. Breyfogle.

SOURCE: San Jose News, San Jose, CA, May 17, 1974

#### American Civil War Soldiers

Name: Charles W. Breyfogle  
Enlistment Date: August 18, 1863  
Service: Distinguished Service  
Side Served: Union  
State Served: Ohio  
Unit Numbers: 1712  
Service Record: Enlisted as a Lieutenant 1<sup>st</sup> Class on 18 August 1863 at the age of 22. Promoted to full Lieutenant 1<sup>st</sup> Class on 31 August 1863. Commission in Company E. 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Ohio on 31 August 1863. Promoted to Full Captain on 07 December 1863. Resigned and received a disability discharge Company E, 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment Ohio on 03 October 1864.

SOURCE: Military Records of Individual Civil War Soldiers, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)



C. W. Breyfogle – Businessman and Politician

The picture below shows Dr. Charles Wesley Breyfogle, his wife Olivia H. (Mabury) Breyfogle, and their daughter Stella, also known as Cree or Crea. Stella was born April 16, 1870 in Kentucky and appears to be three or four years old in this picture.

This couple's second child, Charles Edwin Breyfogle (AKA Ted) was born December 21, 1875. Based on the estimated age of Stella and the birth of the Charles this picture most likely was taken in 1874 or early 1875.



SOURCE: Bruce Berkinshaw, April 2013