

THE BREYLINGERS IN AMERICA

The First Generation 1866-1911

FERDINAND JOSEPH BREYLINGER

Ferdinand Joseph Breylinger (F.J., Fred) was born on March 15, 1847 in the home of his parents Franz Xaver Breylinger and his second wife Maria Salome Nescher Breylinger, at 113 ½ Volstadt, Feldkirch, Vorarlberg, Austria. (See Addendum 1)

We really know next to nothing of his years growing up in Feldkirch. We might make an assumption that family life had some ups and downs as he grew up. When Ferdinand was born there were already two children in the house, step sister Katharina, 11 years old, and step brother Franz Xaver, Jr., 9 years old. (In the previous chapter on Xaver I speculated that F.X. Jr. did not survive childhood. That was incorrect.) At the time of the marriage of Xaver and Salome, Katharina and F.X. Jr. had been without their mother for 4 ½ years.

We do not know when Salome came to work in Feldkirch or what her work was. While it is only speculation, it could have been that Xaver hired Salome as a housekeeper. As a Master Stonemason he could have afforded to do that. In any case, Ferdinand was only 1 year and 5 months old when his mother died and the three children were motherless, the second time for the two older children.

After another 5 years passed before Xaver married Katharina Fiel Marxer in 1853 and the home had another woman in it. Eight years went by before Katharina died in 1861. All this boils down to the fact that by the time they left home, the three children had been without a 'mother figure' for several years. It is probably safe to assume that Katharina, as the older sister, had much to do with raising F.J. over his formative years.

The only additional thing known about F.J. before he left for America is found in the paragraph on him in the *History of Green County, Wisconsin, 1884*. It states that "He was reared in his native country and received a liberal education the public schools."

Here might be a good place to bring up the question of why the Breylinger children decided to immigrate, and at that time. Most people who leave their native land see enough reason to leave home, family, and friends in the hope of improving their lives in a place where there are more opportunities. Others leave as a result of wars. And, of course, some flee from prosecution for crimes they have committed. In the case of our family I think we can leave out that third reason. At least I certainly hope so!

In 1864 F.J.'s older half-sister Katharina Breylinger Heinzl, her husband Ludwig Heinzl, a butcher, and their two children immigrated to Dubuque, Iowa. Katharina would have been 28 years old at that point.

By the time the Ludwig Heinzl family left for America many families from Vorarlberg and nearby Lichtenstein had settled around Dubuque, Iowa, and nearby Freeport, Illinois. Since the Breylingers were related to the Marxer and Nescher families from Lichtenstein favorable reports sent back home must have influenced them to join them.

One would think that moving to a country which was in the midst of a great and terrible civil war would be unwise. However, Iowa and Illinois were not battlegrounds. Instead, those two states provided a large number of men for the Union Army, thus opening their jobs for others. Though the total number of Iowans who served in the military during the Civil War seems small compared to the more heavily populated eastern and southern states, no other state, north or south, had a higher percentage of its male population between the ages of 15 and 40 serve in the military during the course of the war. Illinois contributed 250,000 soldiers to the Union Army, ranking it fourth in terms of the total manpower in Federal military service. Both states produced huge amounts of food, clothing, and materiel for the Union Armies and northern cities.

To a great extent, Dubuque, Iowa, became the destination of choice for the immigrants. When the first Austrians and Liechtensteiners arrived during the middle of the 19th century, German language and culture were still deeply ingrained in the inhabitants of Dubuque - themselves immigrants who were mostly German speaking - and therefore made it easy for the new settlers to assimilate in the community. Besides, Dubuque in the 1850s was a boom town - at that time the largest city in Iowa - where during the 1850-1860 decade the population increased from 3,000 to 15,000. New houses - businesses and dwellings - were built at an annual rate of 500, and construction workers were in great demand. Thus, the many immigrants filled the need for workers in the city, beginning with the early arrivals in 1845, among them stonemasons, bricklayers and carpenters. A very close social network developed among the new immigrants. Visits became commonplace; they married among each other and also became godparents for children of relatives and friends. For many however, Dubuque served only as a way station.

A 1916 newspaper Mortuary notice stated that F.J. had learned the trade of tinner (tinsmith) in Austria. That trade is not easily acquired and continues today in what we now call sheet metal work. It is a skill not easily acquired, requiring considerable manual and mathematical ability and experience. His skills could certainly find a

use in America. Business was booming and jobs were plentiful. If one were looking for new opportunities, the time was right.

In August of 1866 F.J.'s half-brother F.X. Jr., at an age of 28, left for Dubuque.

Then in October of 1866 at an age of 19, F.J. left Feldkirch for a new life in America.

F.J.'s eldest son, Leon, told me that as well as opportunities abroad, the specter of war at home was an influence on the Breylinger sons to emigrate. Austria had been involved in the almost constant warring across Europe for many years. Their defeat in 1859 in the Franco-Austrian War was fresh on many minds. The 1864 Second Danish (Schleswig) War had just ended.

Leon went on to say that war with Bismarck's well-trained Prussians was coming. The Austrian army was armed with the old Lorenz muzzle loading rifles, while the Prussians had the new Dreyse breach loading rifles, so the Austrian infantryman would be at a great disadvantage.

Sure enough, the Austro-Prussian War of 1866, also known as the Seven Day War, occurred. It turned out to be the largest use of men, materiel, transportation, and technology in that century, except for the American Civil War. And Austria did indeed lose the war.

F.J. Breylinger sailed on the steamship "Bavaria" of the Hamburg-American Lines, from Hamburg, Germany, arriving in New York on Oct. 15, 1866. (*Germans in America, Lists of Passengers Arriving at U.S. Ports*, Vol. 18, Jun 1866-Dec 1866). He used the Sion-Glueck Travel Agency of St. Gallen, Switzerland. He joined a group of fellow travelers in the house of Zwilchenbart in Basel with the immigrant agents Sion and Glueck. The group then traveled to Hamburg for departure to America. In the list of fellow passengers are a family and a priest who were also from Feldkirch. (See attached newspaper advertisement "Fur Auswanderer".)

F.J.'s activities over the years from his arrival in New York until he settled in Monticello, Wisconsin, in 1872 are shrouded in mystery. All we know of him during that period is found in *The History of Green County, Wisconsin, 1884*. It says that "At the age of nineteen he came to America. He spent nine months in Pennsylvania, working at his trade, then went to Freeport, Ill., where he worked, for a time, at his trade. He then went to Milwaukee and thence to Monroe, where he was employed by Bloom & Ball, to go to Juda and open a tin shop, of which he had charge until 1872 when he came to Monticello."

Considerable searching for any records of Katharina, F.X. Jr or their families in America has turned up nothing. However, these photos turned up in the old Breylinger album:



The four photos above were all taken in the “W. Kasten Photographic Rooms, 87 Stephenson Street, Freeport, Illinois” as was the photo of Franz Xaver Breylinger seen in the previous chapter. Thus the same mystery remains as to where the various family members resided, and when the photos were taken. We know that F.J. worked in Freeport for a time, so it is quite possible that the photos were taken

then. In any case these four photos probably were taken at the same time, judging by the carpet, drapes, back wall, and metal stand.

The labeling on the photo of Fred J. was done by the same person who labeled the photo of Franz Xaver. It is probably safe to assume that the couple are Ludwig Heinzl and Katharina Breylinger Heinzl, and that the children are theirs. Judging by the bibles and icon on the table, the occasion was probably for the children's Confirmation.

On Oct.2, 1871 F.J. and Mary Clementine Willoughby, of Juda, Wisconsin, were married in Juda. F.J. was 24 years old, and Mary was 19.

Mary Clementine was born in Montrose, WI on March 23, 1852. She was the daughter of Peter Boss Willoughby and Sarah S. West.



WIFE OF FRED.
MARY C. BREYLINGER



FRED J. BREYLINGER

By all accounts Clemme, as she referred to around Monticello, was a charming and fun-loving woman. She was very musical and played the melodeon and piano well. From her letters to her Grandson Fred H. we know that she was a loving and caring woman.

In 1872 and not long after their marriage, F.J. must have felt confident about their future as he left the employ of Bloom & Ball in Juda and opened a tin shop with a general line of hardware in nearby Monticello, in a house on the corner of Main Street and Railroad Ave.

F.J. and Mary Clementine had six children:

Leon Joseph, Oct. 2, 1873-Oct. 8, 1951
Claude, Jan. 31, 1875-Aug. 21, 1877
Nellie, Sept. 12, 1879-Sept.12, 1883
Jessie, Jan 27, 1881-June 10, 1883
Otis July 13, 1882-Mar 19, 1921
Ivan Jan 15, 1888-May 1, 1955

Sadly, I have not been able to unearth many more specific details of the lives of the Breylingers from their marriage until fairly late in their lives. Losing three children, one after another, must have been rough for them.



Undated photo of the first Breylinger home in Monticello when it was being torn down. Leon was born there.



**F.J. Breylinger and
Mary Clementine
Breylinger**

My father, Fred H. Breylinger (named after F.J.B. and born in 1902) related that he had helped his Grandfather in the hardware store when he was around 8 or 9 years old, and he remembered that the large storage room was “just full of stuffed birds and animals”. Dad went on to say that F.J. was a keen marksman, an enthusiastic hunter, and a noted taxidermist.

In fact, F.J. is listed in *The International Scientific Directory*, Samuel E. Cassino, Boston, 1882, page 15. Following his name are the keys C., which indicates that he has a collection, and Ex., donating that he “Desires to increase his collection by exchange”.

Here are examples of his work which are still in wonderful condition after more than 100 years:







Photos from the Breylinger archives.

On Nov. 1, 1893 Ferdinand Breylinger became a Naturalized United States Citizen.

F.J. loved to shoot and was a noted marksman:



This silver Schutzenfest championship cup, which was won by F.J. and is still in the family, was won at the 1894 Oberen Mississippi Schuetzen Bezirks Schuetzen Fest held at La Crosse, Wisconsin. The O.M.B.S. (Upper Mississippi Shooting District) was an association of shooting clubs from several states, and held major events for their member Clubs. The Monticello Rifle Club was a member.

A note in *The Monroe Weekly Times* of July 25, 1907 stated that:
"Several members of the Monticello Rifle Club will leave here Thursday morning for Milwaukee to attend the annual shooting tournament the Wisconsin Sharpshooters Association, which will commence today and

continue over Sunday. Those who will make the trip include F.J. Breylinger" [and others listed].

Formation of the Bank of Monticello 1896

Back in the days before the turn of the century Monticello was a small town, invigorated by the extension of two railroads through the village. Main street in 1896 looked little like it does today. Most of the business buildings were of wood. The unpaved streets were deep with dust in the heat of summer or greased with mud in the spring or wet seasons. Board walks flanked the street and they were lighted with kerosene lamps set on posts on the street corners. These were lighted by the official lamp lighter at dusk and were extinguished in the morning by thrifty minded citizens who first chanced by.

Monticello was fast becoming an important shipping center with its excellent railroad facilities. Livestock and cheese were the major products of the vicinity. Most of the business in those days was of necessity done with cash instead of checks. In 1889 John Trogner and John Sears opened a private bank in a small brick building near the mill pond. Livestock buyers began paying for stock by check instead of cash and soon business men in general began using the facilities of banking, meagre as they were in those days.

In a few years the need was felt for a stock bank, incorporated under the laws of the state, and operated under the supervision of the State Banking Commission. The community was growing. On March 16th, 1896, a group of enterprising citizens started procedure to make it a reality. Mr. Trogner and Mr. Sears, who were operating the private bank, were interested in the forming of a state bank. In addition to them at that first meeting were Edward Wittwer, Fred W. Humiston, Jacob Marty, Christ Bontly, John Bontly, Albert Fulton, Henry Holdrich, J. C. Steinmann and Fred Knobel. At an adjourned meeting held a week later they were joined by Dietrich Stauffacher, Jacob Wittenwyler, Edgar F. Wright, Dietrich Freitag, David Zimmerman, Oscar J. Persons, Dr. Dwight Flowers and Fred Breylinger. A committee was selected to negotiate with Trogner and Sears for the purchase of their building and equipment.

The investors met again on March 31st, when pledges for stock were signed. Articles of incorporation were drawn and

a set of by-laws were enacted. The capital of the bank was set at \$25,000.00 and April 16th, 1896, was set as the day the new bank would be opened for business.

Pamphlet, 50th Anniversary, Bank of Monticello, Monticello, Wisconsin, 1896-1946

Note that the future Fathers-in-Law, Fred W. Humiston (father of Myrtie Humiston, who married Leon in 1901) and Fred J. Breylinger were organizers and stockholders. Fred W. Humiston, was a Director in

1896-1915, and Leon J. Breylinger was a Director in 1899-1915. Leon was the Cashier of the bank from 1901 until 1915.



L to R: Fred W. Humiston, John Barney, F.J. Breylinger

Son Leon related that his father expanded the business into general hardware soon after he opened the store in Monticello. As the business grew F.J. relocated it to the corner of Main and Highland Streets. He went on to say that he began working in the store as soon as he had graduated from Monroe High School in 1892. Leon continued to work there until he began his banking career in 1901.

A note in *The Monroe Weekly Times* dated May 16th, 1906, reported that:

"F.J. Breylinger, the pioneer hardware dealer, has broken ground for a one story brick addition to his present building. The new part will join the old building on the south and in size will be 80x50 feet. When completed, Mr. Breylinger will move his stock of shelf goods into the new part and will use the old building primarily for storage purposes."

Otis Breylinger became a grade school teacher after graduating from high school. He later joined his father in the hardware store around 1900-1901, about the time Leon went into the banking business. After graduating from high school in about 1905, Ivan Breylinger also taught school for some time. He then joined Otis in the family store, after the death of F.J. At sometime before 1911 the business became F.J. Breylinger and Sons. F.J. became increasingly ill in 1909, so it is probable that his three sons took over the business around then.



F.J. Breylinger and Sons Hardware. Otis Breylinger. Photo probably taken in the late 'teens.



L to R: Mary Clementine Breylinger, Myrtie Humiston Breylinger, F.J. Breylinger c. 1908



F.J.B. and his Grandson Fred Humiston Breylinger with Gyp, Fred's dog, in front of F.J.'s second, and final, home.



The house in 1996.

The house was, and is, on Urban Rd. in Monticello. The back yard goes down to the Monticello Pond.

F.J. Breylinger's health had been declining for over more than a year as a result 'of a general breakdown.' During that time he resigned from his position as Treasurer of the School Board, which he had held for several years. In the winter of 1910-1911 he spent some time in the Loofbourow Hospital in Monroe.



Seven weeks before his death F.J. was taken to the White Sanitarium, but his health gradually failed and he was returned to his home a week before he died there at 10:00 PM on May 22, 1911. While we know that F.J. was greatly loved by his family, it is hard to tell from all of the above just what sort of a man he was. Perhaps the best we can do at this point in time is to quote from his obituary in the May 31, 1911 Monticello Messinger:

"Mr. Breylinger was a man who enjoyed the confidence of everybody. He was upright and honorable in all of his transactions of

whatever nature. By reason of the many years in business here he was well known for miles in every direction and the number of his friends measured fully up to the extent of his acquaintances, and the friendship was mutual and lasting.

The deceased was a life-long democrat in politics, was well read, always took a great interest in state and national affairs, but never aspired to an office of a political nature.

The funeral was held from his late home at 2 o'clock on Wednesday last, Rev. A. Muehlmier officiating. Despite the fact that no public notice could be given, the services were attended by an unusually large concourse, many friends from neighboring towns being numbered among those who came to pay their last tribute of respect to the departed. The floral offerings were many and most beautiful, especially noted being a large design from the Monticello Rifle Club, of which the deceased was a Charter Member."

F.J. is interred in the cemetery of the Zwingi Church UCC in Monticello, along with his deceased family members.



The Breylinger Family Plot.

**Eunice Zweifel Breylinger, Robert, Sylvia Hoesly Breylinger,
Otis, Fred J., Mary Clementine, Jessie, Claude, and Nellie**

Monticello Messenger, Aug. 17, 1933 –

**Geo. Graf to Build On Site Occupied By Old
Landmark
Old Hardware Store to Be Wrecked to Make Way
For New Structure**

A real estate deal which means a big improvement over on the north end of Main street was consummated within the past week, when George Graf, who for the past two years or more has operated a soft drink dispensary in the Monticello hotel, became the owner of the business property owned by the estate of the late Fred Breylinger, located at the corner of Main and Highland streets.

The property consists of a 60-foot frontage on Main street, upon which stands the old two-story frame building on the corner and a one-story brick building adjoining on the south. The change in ownership of the property means the razing of one of the old landmarks of the village. In the early days the first floor of the frame building was occupied by the Grange store. The second floor, known as Herrick's hall, was the first and for several years the only dance hall in the village.

Along in the early eighties, the old frame structure was acquired by the late F. M. Breylinger, pioneer hardware merchant of the village, and for many years thereafter it was familiarly known as Breylinger's hardware store. Subsequently Mr. Breylinger built the brick building to the south and the frame structure had since been used for the tin shop and for storage purposes. The M. E. Lynn Hardware company occupied the buildings until about two years ago.

To Erect Spanish Tavern

But now the old and familiar picture is to be changed a lot. Mr. Graf already has a force of men engaged in razing the frame building and in its stead will rise a modern two-story brick veneer apartment in which Mr. and Mrs. Graf will make their home.

The front of the brick building is to be transformed into a Spanish type effect, with facing of either brick or stucco. The interior of the room will be converted into a Spanish tavern, with booths and dancing space in the rear. Facing the east will be an open air "beer" porch with direct access to a rock garden in the rear of the lot. The north half of the space back of the buildings will be reserved for parking space.

It is understood that Mr. Graf acquired the property for a consideration of \$2,000. Contemplated improvements will run in the neighborhood of \$3,500, exclusive of fixtures, according to information obtained from J. C. Steinman, Jr., architect, who is now busy with plans and specifications for the new enterprise.

MARY CLEMENTINE WILLOUGHBY

Mary Clementine Willoughby was a remarkable woman who had a strong influence on many lives. That was certainly the case in her marriage to F.J. Breylinger. She was a fun-loving and musical woman who was also strong-minded. She overcame the sequential death of three very young children, and then had to bear the death of her 39 year old son Otis when she was 69 years old.

Mary Clementine was only 59 years old when F.J. died after their 40 years of marriage. She lived as a widow in their home on the Monticello Pond for another 11 years, enjoying a happy social life among friends and family. Late in that period she met Charles W. Netherwood (Charlie, or CW, as she often called him) of Oregon, WI, which is about 20 miles from Monticello.

Mary Clementine and Charlie married on April 10, 1922, and the couple lived in her home for nearly four years, when they then moved to Oregon. Mary Clementine died at home in Oregon on January 24, 1931. Her funeral was conducted at home, and then in the Methodist Church. She is interred next to F.J. Breylinger in the family plot in Monticello.



**Mary Clementine and her sister
Jessi Willoughby Fogg**

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Mary Clementine Breylinger
**Mary Clementine Willoughby was the
daughter of Peter Boss Willoughby and
Sara S. West.**



PETER B. WILLOUGHBY (Cont.)

attended the funeral. Mary C. (Willoughby) Breylinger, daughter of Peter Willoughby, was a niece to Mary S. (Mallette) Willoughby.

(55) Peter was born in 1822 in Sheridan, Chautauqua County, New York. On Dec. 17, 1848, in Green County, Wisconsin, he married Sarah S. West, who was born July 19, 1831 in New York.

Sarah was the daughter of John West and Avis (Bowen) West. John's father was George West, born in New York. They were Quakers and people of highest character. George and his wife had eight children. Avis (Bowen) West's father was Jennings Bowen, born in New York. He was a farmer and sired a large family. Avis was 87 years of age when she died. She was of Scottish descent.

Children of John and his wife, Avis (Bowen) West

1. George West b. Jan. 7, 1818;
married Susan Winchell Sept. 1, 1840
2. Armida West, b. Nov. 6, 1820
married Capt. Stephen Estay of N. Y.
3. Susan West, b. Feb. 6, 1822,
married Richard Sherman of Erie Co. N. Y.
4. Matthew West, b. May 31, 1824; died 1896
married Sarah J. Decker
5. Thomas S. B. West, b. Apr. 24, 1827;
6. Sarah S. West, b. July 19, 1831; died July 8, 1872
married Peter Willoughby
7. Elizabeth West, b. June 1833,
married Nelson Park of Illinois
8. Jonathan West, b. Sept. 10, 1837, (a twin)
9. John West, b. Sept. 10, 1837 (a twin)
10. Annis West, b. Mar 6, 1839; married James Hill

(90) Peter Willoughby farmed near the town of Montrose, Wisconsin. He entered the Military service June 17, 1861. and served from September 1, 1861 to September 5, 1865 in the U. S. Army, during the Civil War. He was captain of Company H, 8th Regiment of Wisconsin Volunteers. Companies E and H of the 8th Regiment were recruited largely from the southern part of the county. The 8th Regiment carried the live Eagle, "Old Abe", through the war, and came to be known as the "Eagle Regiment" The Eagle went through the war with them and when the war was over, he was taken to the Veteran's Hospital until his death. Peter Willoughby of Belleville received a gun shot wound in his left leg and his middle finger on his right

PETER B. WILLOUGHBY (Cont.)

hand. In March of 1862 at Island No. 10, he suffered from poor food and bad water, which he was compelled to use. He was afflicted with rheumatism at Lake Chicot, on the Red River Expedition in the spring of 1864, from hardships and incident to hard marches. He also incurred heart disease on the Red River Campaign and partial deafness at the siege of Vicksburg in June of 1863. When Captain Perkins of Company C was killed in action, Lieutenant Peter Willoughby was placed in command of that Company. Peter was promoted to Captain Nov. 19, 1863. A good many shells burst near him at Mansuna Prairie early in May of 1864. He was wounded by one of the shells. Peter was taken sick on the march from Nashville, Tenn. to Eastport during winter of 1864-1865. He was in the battle of Spanish Fort March 27, 1865. He became sick at Demopolis, Alabama when he was mustered out, Sept. 5, 1865. In his claim for a pension, he mentioned the persons who would be most likely to know of his physical condition. They were his cousins, Howard, Waldo and Willis Willoughby as well as several friends. He received \$15.00 per month retirement, not very much for all his wounds and the loss of a finger and his bad leg. He was mustered out at age 41. He was 5 feet 11 1/2 inches tall and had blue eyes and black hair.

After retiring from the army, he lived in Juda until 1873.

(55) Sarah died July 8, 1872 and was interred in Juda Cemetery, Juda, Wisconsin.

(91) After Sarah died, Peter moved from Juda, Wisconsin to Fowler, Benton County, Indiana where he resided until 1883. He moved to Frankfort, Clinton County, Indiana and lived there until 1891. Then he moved to Bloomington, Monroe County, Indiana where he lived until his death, April 15, 1895. Peter died in Indiana and his body was brought back to Green County, Wisconsin for burial in Juda Cemetery.

Children of Peter B. Willoughby & Sarah S. West

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|--------|--|---------------------------|
| i. | Ellen (Willoughby) Pyott, | born 1850, |
| | married James H. Pyott on Jan 14, 1870 | |
| A- ii. | Mary (Willoughby) Breylinger, | born Mar.23 1852 |
| iii. | Clementine Willoughby | born 1852, (twin to Mary) |
| iv. | Willis Willoughby | born 1860 |
| v. | Jessie Willoughby | born 1868 |
| vi. | George A. Willoughby | died Feb. 8, 1872 |
| vii. | Ursula Willoughby | died Aug. 31, 1865. |

Peter B. Willoughby biography used with permission: *Our Hutzel, Schultz, Blackford and Willoughby Families, A Genealogy*, compiled by Alice E. (Willoughby) Moser, 1992

(I urge anyone interested to look on the Internet for the story of the Eagle "Old Abe" with the 8th Regiment of Wisconsin Infantry Volunteers. It's a great story.)

CHARLES WALTER NETHERWOOD

Charles W. Netherwood was born in Watervliet Center, New York on January 14, 1843. He was the son of Joseph and Emma Netherwood, who were born in Huddersfield, Yorkshire, England. The family moved to Wisconsin and settled in Oregon in 1856. Charles was educated in an Episcopal Church private school in Troy, New York, and then at a district school in Oregon and in the old Evansville Seminary. After coming west he managed to go to school in the intervals of farm work.

He was moved by patriotism and enlisted as a private in Company E, Twenty-third Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, the date of his enlistment being August 5, 1862. His regiment went from Camp Randall to Cincinnati, to protect that city from the threatened attack of Kirby Smith; saw service in Kentucky; joined Sherman at Memphis and was attached to Gen. A.J. Smith's division of the Thirteenth Army Corps and made a great march on Christmas day, 1862. His regiment wintered at Young's Point, where disease made great ravages, only two hundred and fifty of the entire regiment being able to carry muskets, the remainder being ill or wounded.

Breaking camp in the spring of 1863 the regiment went to Vicksburg, taking part in that memorable campaign and participating in all the battles, including Champion's Hill. In that fight Mr. Netherwood was picked up for dead after being struck by a piece of iron fired from a cannon. The commander of the battery informed him after the war that he had loaded his guns with bits of locomotive, broken up for the purpose. He did not, however, go to the hospital, and was present at the battle of Black River Bridge, although not able to fight.

On May 22 he was twice wounded with gunshots, one in the lower jaw and the other in the shoulder; was taken to the field hospital, and on June 4 was sent to Memphis, where a portion of the lower jaw was removed, and he was sent home on a furlough in September. A surgeon at Memphis told him he could never do service again; but after reaching home a surgeon from Camp Randall ordered him to the front. He was not permitted to remain long, however, the surgeons in active work soon procuring his discharge and he was mustered out with the rank of corporal on November 21, 1863.

After the war he attended a commercial college at Madison; then was clerk in a store at Edgerton one year; later tried farming unsuccessfully, not having the necessary physical strength, and he returned to clerking, at Oregon. An attempt at broom-making was a failure, his poor health and disabled arm preventing his success, after which he went south and obtained a position as second clerk on a steamer; but being unable to perform the duties of that position, on account of physical disability, he was compelled to resign and return home.

Then in 1869 he received a commission as postmaster for the town of Oregon and kept that position until 1893. He became president of Oregon Manufacturing Company and was the builder and owner of the main business block, which included a prominent structure called Netherwood's Hall. *(1906 History of Dane County Wisconsin)*

He also served many terms as town treasurer and president, and represented the town on the county board of supervisors. A teetotaler even in his younger days, he was instrumental in getting early legislation passed curtailing the sale of liquor. He was credited with starting Wisconsin Senator Robert LaFollette on his distinguished career by urging him to run for Dane Co. district attorney. Many years later, in recognition of his early adherence to progressive principles, he was given the honor of escorting Phillip LaFollette, the senator's son and governor-elect of Wisconsin, to his 1935 inaugural.

In 1937, at age 94, he was initiated into the Shriners, having been a Mason 73 years. That same year he was made custodian of the Grand Army of the Republic's Memorial Hall at the state capitol. He died a year later, 4 Jul 1938, and is buried in Prairie Mound Cemetery, Oregon, Wisconsin. Charles Netherwood was a member of the Methodist church. He married three times, in 1866 to Eva Bedford who died only a year later, second to Lucy H. Gilbert nee Sayles, a widow with daughter Ada. He and Lucy had six children: Harry, Eva, Lucy, Pearl, Bertha and Perry. His third wife was Mary Clementine Willoughby Breylinger, of Monticello, WI., whom he married in 1922.

Ref: Biographical Review of Dane County, WI. Chicago: Biographical Review Pub. Co. 1893, Vol I, pp 304-306. and 1880 History of Dane County, Wisconsin

Fred H. Breylinger, Mary Clementine's grandson, remembered his Grandmother and Charlie very fondly, saying what a loving and fun-filled marriage they had. He recalled that one at least one occasion when Charlie made some funny remark, Mary "jumped" on Charlie's lap and they laughed in glee.

He went on to say that with the slightest urging, Mary would sit at her melodeon and play and sing old favorites for the enjoyment of all. Late in life she gave the melodeon to Fred and his bride, Bernadine Johantgen, for their new home in Los Angeles. In a Feb. 11, 1930 letter to Fred and Bernadine she related that her father "went to war in 1861 and came home in 1865. He had his sister Nell to come to Janesville to pick out a 'pianny' or organ or melodeon, so she took the melodeon. It cost \$150. The home we lived in in Juda not so large so she took the melodeon and when she got married she took the melodeon in and traded it for a sewing machine and Pa took a colt down there and traded it back for the melodeon because he was so lonesome for it, and when he got to Frankford, Indiana he said if I would keep Jessi till he could get a place for her he would give it to me,

so that is the way I got it. At last you have got it so you can play, and I wish I could drop in on your cozy little place and play some of my old love songs on it." The melodeon is still in the family.



Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Netherwood.

Into his '90s, Charlie was noted for carrying the U.S. flag on foot in 4th of July celebrations.

The Netherwood home in Oregon, Wisconsin



Oregon Civil War Vet Meets Gunner Who Wounded Him

Chance Meeting Acquaints
C. W. Netherwood With
Man Who Fired Shot
64 Years Ago

By WILLET MAIN KEMPTON
AFTER 64 years of continual pain from a wound received in the Civil War, Charles W. Netherwood, 82 year old veteran of Oregon, Wis., accidentally discovered the man who fired the cannon which injured him.

James Thornby, a stranger in Oregon, went to Mr. Netherwood's home to obtain some information he assumed the Oregon pioneer could give him. Mr. Netherwood answered his questions and told the white haired southerner he had been appointed postmaster of the village by U. S. S. Grant under whom he served during the Civil war.

True to His Colors

"And have you changed your colors yet?" Mr. Thornby inquired.

"No," the Union veteran snapped. "I am a black republican."

"So am I, from the bottoms of my feet," declared Mr. Thornby, "in spite of the fact that I fought four years in the rebel army."

Then began a conversation which kept the two old men absorbed until 2 o'clock in the morning, a conversation which revealed the curious relationship these two hoary veterans had once had as members of battling armies in a past now almost forgotten.

A Strange Story

The strange story unfolded during their exchange of anecdotes brought tears to the old Confederate's eyes as the wounded survivor of the Grand Army of the Republic related his tale.

As they began reminiscent accounts of the war, it appeared a persistent fate had kept them fighting opposite each other in battles, skirmishes, and minor engagements for more than a year. During the Vicksburg campaign they had fought at close quarters in every engagement until Mr. Netherwood was wounded.

"I was badly wounded at Champion's hill on May 16, 1863," Mr. Netherwood told his new found friend jovially. "My comrades left me for dead on the battlefield after a piece of iron from a peculiar shell paralyzed me completely."

An "Uncivilized" Shell

The former rebel inquired carefully about the shell which Mr. Netherwood had described as "peculiar." It had been made of wood, tin, and iron, a vicious thing, Mr. Netherwood said, which he thought could not have been used by civilized troops.

"Say," said Mr. Thornby, "I made those shells and fired every shot at Champion's hill from the battery which used them that day!"

"What! Then you fired the shot which has caused me 64 years of suffering?"

The two men looked at one another sadly.

"I fired it," Mr. Thornby admitted. "I am sorry you were wounded."

A Child of Necessity

The peculiar shells had been made, the former Confederate explained, because his battery was completely out of ammunition. A locomotive had been smashed and the iron placed in an ingenious shell hastily made from wood and tin.

Mr. Netherwood was paralyzed by the shot. He could not move a muscle of his body, but stated he felt no pain and could hear perfectly. His companions rushed to him and after a brief examination laid him with his arms crossed upon his breast for dead.

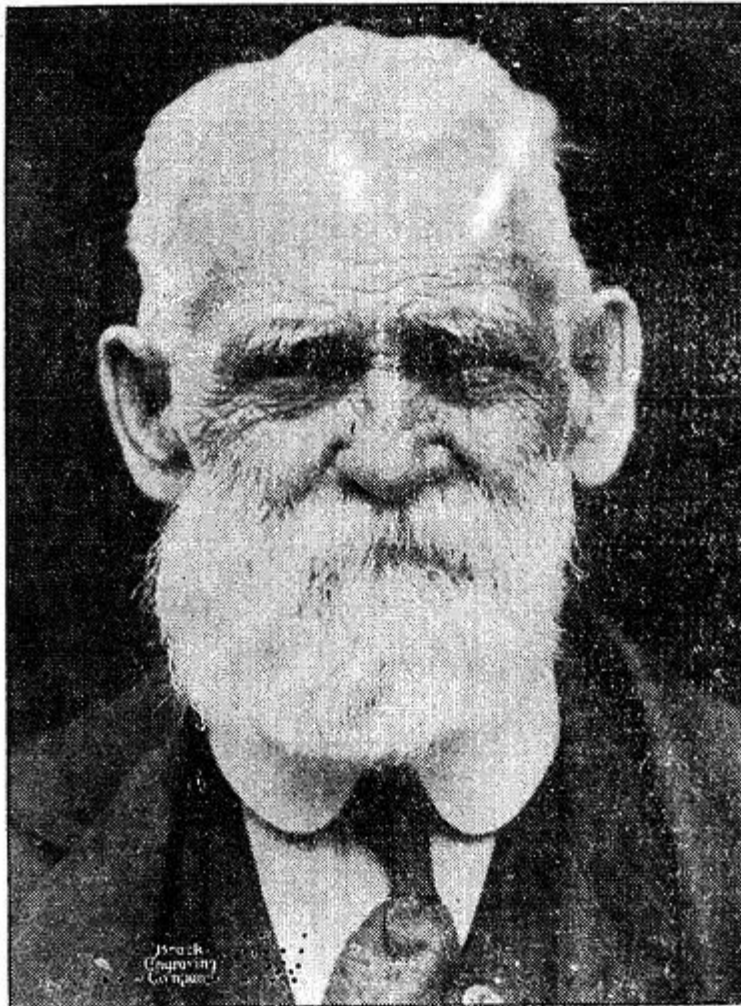
"I was frantic," Mr. Netherwood declared. "I could not even move an eyelid to show them I was alive, and I was laid out so the burial squad would be sure to bury me. I heard them comment upon my merits during this time.

"Too bad," one said. "He was a damned good fellow." I didn't drink and the fellow who said that used to get my ration of whisky.

Lost His Corporal

"Colonel Vilas came up with the captain just then, Captain James Bull from Middleton. It's pretty hot here, Colonel Vilas said. "Yes,

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Captain Bull replied. "I just lost my best corporal."

I was glad to know that, but for an hour and a half, I lay there expecting to be buried alive. Then I suddenly felt one finger. The rest of my body was completely numb. I began wiggling this finger and one of my comrades who had come to take another farewell look at me saw it move.

"Migod," he yelled. "Charlie's alive."

They carried me to a field hospital where I lay for 12 days in the open without medical attention."

Mr. Netherwood stated that not an hour has passed since that time

when he has not felt some pain from the old wound. He is, however, in excellent health and is known throughout Dane county as a hiker. He is a wiry old fellow, an active Mason, and a staunch prohibitionist. Mr. Netherwood was instrumental in having the first bill curtailing liquor in Wisconsin brought before the legislature. He was chairman of the Dane county board of supervisors for 20 years.

Mr. Thornsby was one of six brothers who lived in North Carolina and who, he asserted, were forced into the Confederate army against their will. He now lives in Chicago, Ill.

Apostolic Admin. Feldkirch
Vorarlberg

Pastorate Feldkirch

No. 2968

Legal Proof
of parentage

BIRTH- and BAPTISM CERTIFICATE

From the official birth- and baptism registers, Volume VII, Page 519, it is certified herewith that

in Feldkirch, house number 113½

on fifteen March in the year of

One thousand eight hundred forty and seven

Date of birth in numeral 15. III. 1847

Child B r e y l i n g e r Ferdinand Josef was born and on 15. III. 1847, Reverend Sir Wunibald Briem, vicar, baptized the legitimate son in roman-catholic rite.

Father	Mother
First and Last Name: Franz Xaver Breylinger	Maria Salome Nescher
Profession: Stone mason master	
Religion: Roman Catholic	Roman Catholic
Residence and Authority: Feldkirch (residing & belonging to)	

GOD FATHER & MOTHER: Mathias Spahn, carpentry master and Katharina Winder, nee Sutter, both from Feldkirch

A marriage is not noted.

Confirmed in the year of 1852.

Roman Catholic pastorate Feldkirch, 30 November 1938.

(Seal)

signed: