

MEDINA COUNTY; Shreve, WAYNE COUNTY

(Card from Miss Jessie E. Pocock, 206 Mill Street,
Lodi, O., Sept. 21, 1948)

Dear Mr. Siebert:

The article concerning my Grandfather
who escorted as a lad escaping slaves from Milbrook to
Wooster, was written by Dr. Battles, a practicing
physician in Shreve. . . . I am having it copied
and will mail it as soon as ready.

Very truly yours,

(Miss) Jessie E. Pocock

From a scrap-book in the possession of Miss Jessie
E. Pocock

One of the Principal Depots in the Center of Shreve.

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. . . . one of the principal streets [of Shreve]
was the path over which many a colored man, his wife and
children, escaping from Kentucky or Virginia bondage, guided
by the polar star, on foot, on horseback, in wagon and
buggy, wended their way to the Queen's Dominions. . . .
Yes, the track of one of the leading underground railroads
of Ohio ran along Main street--the one running north and
south past the M. E. Church. Near where the church stands
the road deflected to the northeast and came out on
Market Street After Market Street was opened

this part of the road was vacated but in alleys and other places it can yet be traced.

In this paper the writer [will confine himself to] a single incident in the history of this trail . . .
 [The abolition-ists claimed that in helping slaves to their liberties], ~~the~~ they were emphatically returning stolen property to [their rightful owners. Mr. Boyd of Coshocton, the Furneys, Byhams, McClellands, Johnsons and others of Hopewell; Charles Oldroyd, Dr. Joe Deyarmon, Samuel Seibert, Jonas May, Mrs. C. Bell, Elizabeth Dauffman afterwards Mrs. Rew, G. S. Phillips, Absolam Swords, and ~~the~~ Thomas S. Battes, of Millbrook [Wayne County]; Mr. William Taggart and his associates of Wooster, were persons about whose honesty and Christian integrity there was no dispute

It was in mid-harvest, a little past 12 o'clock on a hot July night, 1845, that I was awakened by a call from my father at the foot of the stairs, in the old log house on the Lovett farm, north of our village .
 . . . I responded . immediately. When I reached the . kitchen my father told me that in the next room there were a man, his wife and six children, fugitive slaves. "What can we do with them" he asked. "It is too late to get to Wooster," I said. "It will not do to keep them here. . . .the owners [are] probably in close pursuit, and this house [is] strongly suspected as a place of concealment. Neither . . will it do to take

them to Oldroyd's, Seibert's, Deyarmon's, or any house occupied by a prominent antislavery family." At that time there lived an earnest, quiet abolitionist, Mrs. Charity Bell, a widow, in , , a house standing at the end of the hedge row running eastward just across the road from Isiah Rail's residence. There was also a barn. I told my father, "I thought Mrs. Bell would take care of the fugitives. She could hide them in her barn." It was now after 1 o'clock, leaving us but little time to dispose of our charges. Our horses were in pasture, some distance from the house. We asked the parents if they could walk two miles, taking their children, and give us time to return before daylight. [They] said they could. The mother went; with her baby in her arms, the father took the next older, and with the other four children we [moved as fast as possible] to the residence of the widow. We found her confounded . . . for two proslavery men would haul grain all the next day into her barn, the only place in which she could conceal [the slaves]. We placed the [fugitives] in the wheat bins and told [the parents] they must shut and lock the doors when the the harvesters were in the barn and keep [their children; quiet. They would be given food and water at noon when the wheat haulers were at dinner in the village.

The negroes; stayed in the barn; all day without being discovered, and toward evening were piloted across a field to the residence of Dr. Deyarmon . . and put up aloft in that well remembered old log homestead. While

this [was being done the doctor's daughter Mary-- afterward Mrs. Edwin Oldroyd-- was in the barn milking and knew nothing of the presence of the sable visitors. Returning to the house, she happened to look up through the pipe hole in the floor and encountered the glare of four eyes [peering] from two black faces.. She was scared. A good supper was given the negroes and they were put in a wagon to which a pair of fine horses was hitched. The passengers were covered with quilts, and [away they went] to Wooster. Along the road half a dozen young men on horseback watched to protect the party from pursuers. It was a moon-light night and the teamster drove leisurely up South Market Street to the square, then turned into West Liberty. In a few minutes "Uncle William Taggart" had the passengers in his care and sent them north at once. Before daylight next morning they were near-ing the border of Ohio, and the following night they crossed the lake to Canada. While they were passing through Wooster, the master or his agent was at the American Hotel, a few steps east of the square, offering a reward of \$800 for the capture of the departing chattels

Millbrook, WAYNE COUNTY, OHIO

(Letter from Miss Jessie E. Pock^{or}, 206 Mill Street,
Lodi, O., Oct. 20, 1948).

Copy

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Dear Mr. Siebert:

My grandfather was Christian Spayd Deyarmon born
Nov. 13, 1820, at Millbrook, Ohio. His brother Joseph
Lybrand Deyarmon^{was} born March 5, 1826. They were two of the ~~not~~
horseback riders in the article sent to you. Their father
was Dr. Joseph Chapman Deyarmon, born Jan. 8, 1756 in
Halifax Township, Dauphin County, Pa. He studied medicine
at the University of Pennsylvania and came to Ohio in
March . 1829. He bought a farm in the vicinity of Mill-
brook, southwest of Wooster and north of Shreve.

The daughter, Mary Elizabeth, born Feb. 29, 1824,
married Edwin Eldroyd of Shreve. They had a daughter and
a son, both of whom died in their early twenties unmarried.

The writer of the article was afterwards Dr. W. O.
Battles and the one who roused him was his father, Thomas
S. Battles. Their farm was north of Shreve and in the
district known as Millbrook. . . /

My grandfather moved to Loudonville, where he had an eleva-
tor, dealing in grain, seeds and wool. He was twice mayor
and a useful citizen, the father of six children.

Joseph L. Deyarmon lived at Lakeville and also dealt in
grain. He never married but lived in quite the grand
manner.

manner in a big brick house a mile out of Lakeville,

. . . with his niece as housekeeper.

The incident recited in the article occurred in
1845. . . .

I am sending a picture of the two brothers, Christian
and Joseph Deyarmon, in a group with business associates.

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Hope this answers your questions.

Very truly yours,

Jessie E. Pocock.