

## **Otho James “Jim” Barger (1866-1916)** **Laura Virginia Sigafoose Barger (1865-1935)**

Otho James (“Jim”) Barger was born 18 March 1866. He was the firstborn of **Leander** and **Elizabeth (Reed) Barger**. His father had just returned from serving in the Union Army during the Civil War, during which he had received accidental gunshot wounds to both legs. Jim would eventually have 9 younger siblings, three of whom did not survive childhood. See writeup on Leander Barger for details.

In 1870, 5-year old Jim was living with his family in Washington County, with a Harpers Ferry address. His father had a dry goods store in Sandy Hook, and that may have been where they were living.

By 1880, the family had moved to Berlin where his father was a boatman.

On May 18, 1888, **Laura Virginia Sigafoose** (23) and Otho James Barger (23), both of Berlin, applied for a marriage license in Frederick County, MD. Fathers of both the bride and the groom had served together in the Potomac Home Brigade during the Civil War.

In 1895, Jim’s younger brother was killed in a train accident in the Brunswick yard. [See details in **Leander Barger’s** biography]

The 1900 and 1910 censuses showed Otho J. and Laura V. Barger living in Brunswick on First Street [today’s Virginia Ave.]. They owned their home, and Laura’s widowed mother Sarah Sigafoose was living with them. Jim was employed by the B&O Railroad, first as a brakeman, then as a conductor.

Jim died on 12 Feb 1916. Like his younger brother 21 years before him, he met a tragic death while working on the railroad, as reported in his obituary: “Struck by a yard engine, which came up behind him, James C. Barger, freight conductor of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad and a resident of Brunswick, was killed on Saturday morning at Martinsburg, W.Va. Barger, it was reported from Brunswick last evening, was supervising shifting of his train in the Martinsburg yards, when the accident occurred. Although the back part of his skull was crushed and he was badly cut and bruised about the body, Barger was not dead when trainmen lifted him from the tracks. He died shortly after being placed on a car.” He left a wife, two brothers (Charles and William) and a sister, Mrs. Abe (T.A.) Sigafoose.

Sometime after her husband’s death, Laura moved to Chicago to live with her niece Adelia and her husband Elmer Moreland and their three children. There she died on 3 September 1935. Her body was transported back to Brunswick where she was buried with her husband and other family members in the family plot in the Old Berlin Cemetery.

Descendents: Otho James and Laura Virginia Barger had no children.

Otho James Barger's tombstone:



Laura V. (Sigafoose) Barger's tombstone:

