

The Haller Family (Children of Amos & Anna Rench Haller)

A solitary gravestone in the Old Berlin Cemetery marks the graves of three children of Amos and Anna Haller. The following four pages relate the story of the Haller family.

Amos Benjamin Haller (1859-1930) was the second child born to Samuel and Barbara Haller. Samuel died sometime between 1859 and 1870. One wonders if he was a casualty of the Civil War, but I am unable to find him on any Civil War records. On December 19, 1865, his widow Barbara married Hezekiah Schilling (who was a civil war veteran) at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Middletown. They made their home in Berlin where Hezekiah was a “repairer” on the railroad, and later worked as a boatman on the canal. They would have two more children from that marriage.

Anna Wesley Rench (1860-1914) was four years old when her father John Andrew Rench died in 1864 (As with Samuel Rench, I was not able to find him listed as a soldier in the Civil War, so we can only speculate about the cause of his death.) She was the youngest of 7 children. In 1870, her widowed mother, Sarah M. Rench, and her 7 children were living in the village of Berlin.

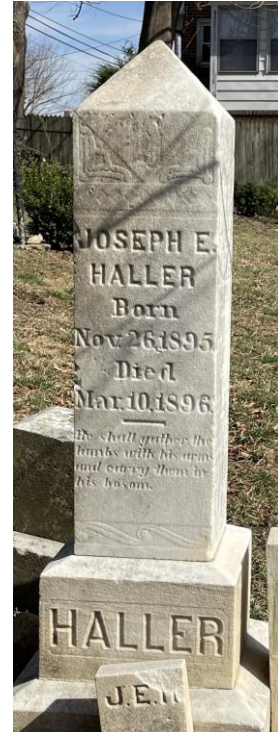
The 1870 census showed the Hallers and the Rences living close to each other in Berlin, and when Anna’s mother died, she moved in with her sister’s family who also lived nearby the Hallers.

So, it was no surprise when Amos B. Haller married Anna Wesley Rench in about 1882. They would eventually have 12 children, only four of whom would survive to adulthood. Of the eight who died in childhood, three share a common marker in the Old Berlin Cemetery. It is very likely that the other five children who died are also buried in this cemetery, although we have no record of their burials. What follows is what we know of the three whose names are inscribed on their tombstone.



Their son **Charles William Crum Haller** died on Dec. 31, 1894, just 2 ½ year old. The Brunswick Herald reported: “The angel of death visited the home of Amos B and Anna Haller on Monday, Dec. 31, and took their little son, Charles William Crum Haller, at the age of 2y 7m 23d.” The inscription on the tombstone reads: “Far beyond this world of changes/ Far beyond this world of care/ We shall find our missing loved one/ In our Father’s mansion fair.”

Their son **Joseph E. Haller** died on March 10, 1896, age 3 months. (The issue of the Brunswick Herald, where this would have been reported, is missing). His inscription reads: “He shall gather the lambs with his arms and carry them in his bosom.”



We have more details about the death of their son **Arlington Haller**, who died on July 10, 1910:

“While fishing in the canal between the mill and elevator of the plant of B.P. Crampton & Co., Brunswick, this county, in some way Arlington Haller, aged about 12 years, son of Mr. Amos B. Haller, an engineer on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, was caught on and wound around the shaft running between the two places and horribly mangled, death resulting soon after he was removed.

Young Hall had been fishing in the canal in company with a number of boys all about the same age. It is thought that his line had caught on the shaft which is continually revolving, and when he tried to loosen it, the hooks on the line caught in his shirt and he was dragged to the shaft and carried around. Seeing his predicament, his companions hastened to notify the men at the mill who at once stopped the machinery and hurried to his relief.

He was taken from the shaft, which is of iron and several inches in thickness, and a doctor summoned immediately. He lived only a few minutes after being taken off, however he was torn apart and badly mangled. His left leg had been torn off below the knee and had dropped in to the canal, where it was found some time later. His left arm was hanging in shreds from the elbow down and he was otherwise badly bruised.

The accident was a most unfortunate one. The boys have been in the habit of fishing in the canal, although repeatedly warned against the practice by the mill officials. No jury was summoned, as it was deemed accidental on the lad's part. The body was prepared for burial by C.H. Feete & Son, of Brunswick.

Besides his parents, young Haller is survived by two brothers and two sisters.”

The inscription on Arlington's tombstone reads, "A beautiful life is ended/ A dear one laid to rest/ The flowers I lovingly tended/ But God He knoweth best."

Amos continued working as a passenger and freight engineer on the B&O Railroad, on the line running from Brunswick to Hagerstown.

His first wife Anna W. Rench Haller died at her home in Brunswick in 1914, age 56, after being in poor health "for a long time." She was one of the first burials in the new Park Heights Cemetery in Brunswick.

Sometime after Anna's death, Amos married Annie Elizabeth Wagaman (1870-1937). She was one of two daughters of John and Eva (Utz) Wagaman who lived in Johnsville, near Union Bridge. In 1889, Annie had given birth to a daughter, Margaret Virginia Wagaman. No mention is made of the father, so it seems that the child was born out of wedlock and may have been raised by another family, as the 1900 census shows Annie and her now-married sister Mary Margaret (who married Isaiah H. Green in 1897), living with their parents in Johnsville, with no mention of Margaret Virginia, who would have been 11 years old at that time.



Amos B. Haller died 12 April 1930, age 70, at his home in Hagerstown (725 Spruce Street) "from complications, after an illness of two years." He was buried with his wife Anna in Park Heights Cemetery.

When Annie died in 1937, she was living with her daughter Margaret (now Mrs. Harvey Wagaman) in Clevelandville (near Boonesboro). She was buried beside Amos and his first wife.

Tombstone in Park Heights Cemetery for Amos Haller and his two wives Anna and Annie

