

## Henry Maylon Sigafoose (1829-1879) Civil War Veteran

*Introduction to the Sigafoose family.* The earliest record of a member of this family in Frederick County was Jno. Secafoose who was recorded as the head of a family in the 1820 census. An undated picture in the Brunswick History Commission files shows a tombstone in the overgrown Old Berlin Cemetery with the following inscription: "1823 Apr 11, then he died, age 67, John Sickafoose" (calculated date of birth: 1756). This may be the patriarch of the large extended Sigafoose family that subsequently lived in Berlin, and grandfather of Henry Maylon Sigafoose.

In addition to Henry, at least four other members of the family are buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery: **John Scoll Sigafoose** (1852-1948, son of Henry); **Mary Luella Sigafoose** (1892-1899; granddaughter of Henry); **Helen Waugh Sigafoose** (1836-1874; wife of Henry's brother William); and **Martha E. Sigafoose Kidwell** (1862-1926, daughter of Henry). Their stories will be found elsewhere in this section, as well as stories of the families with whom the children married – Barger, Watkins, etc. And there are 14 individuals named Sigafoose who are buried in the Park Heights Cemetery.

However, this treatise will focus on the Civil War veteran **Henry Maylon Sigafoose** and his immediate family.

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Henry Maylon Sigafoose was born in 1829 in Frederick County. It is probable that his family was living in the village of Berlin at that time, although we don't know that for sure. He was the second son of John (born 1795) and Ann Elizabeth (Filler) (born 1797) Sigafoose. His older brother William was born in 1825, and his younger brother Albert in 1831.

We have no information about Henry's youth, but on 27 Dec 1849, at the age of 20, he married 17-year old Sarah C. Watkins (also born in Maryland, 7 Aug 1832). The 1850 census, taken six months later, shows the couple living in the Petersville District, which includes southwestern Frederick County, MD. Based on the names of their neighbors, whose names appear on an 1850 map of Berlin, it is safe to assume that they lived there also. He was working as a laborer, and he reported \$50 value of real estate which, in those days, would be the cost of a lot in town, but not a house.

Living next door were Henry's brother William (25 years old) and his wife Elizabeth (30) with their two young children. He was also working as a laborer. Four houses down was Battle Bond, who would become a Civil War comrade of Henry's. Also living nearby were John Watkins, a 29-year old shoemaker and his family, possibly Sarah's older brother.

Henry's father had apparently died, and his widowed mother Ann Sigafoose (53) and her son Albert H. Sigafoose (19) were living in Jefferson with William (26) and Mary (34) Watkins. It is likely that they were related (Ann's maiden name being Watkins), but this is not clear. Ann does not show up in subsequent censuses, so she must have died between 1850 and 1860.

Henry and Sarah eventually had 7 children, 6 of whom survived into adulthood. The first 4 were born prior to the Civil War:

1. 1851-1932: Benjamin Franklin ("B.F.") Sigafoose
2. 1852-1948: **John Scoll Sigafoose.**
3. 1859-1911: Charles Edgar Sigafoose.
4. 1862-1926: **Martha E. Sigafoose** (Married **Wilford Kidwell**)

The 1860 census showed the three Sigafoose brothers living next door to each other in the Petersville District (in the village of Berlin). The census taker did not list their occupations.

- Henry (25) & Sarah (24) Sickafous with three children (Benjamin, John, Charles)
- William (30) and Catherine (26) Sickafous with 3 young children.
- Albert (23) and Nancy (20) Sickafous, with \$400 real estate (i.e., they probably owned their home).

*Involvement in the Civil War.* On August 17, 1862, Henry, 34 years old and with three young children at home, mustered into Co. H of the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of the Maryland Potomac Home Brigade at Point of Rocks, MD. One may speculate that work was scarce, and this would provide a guaranteed income (and clothing). And his assignment with the Potomac Home Brigade was to guard the canal and the railroad, so he anticipated being close to home.

However, just a few weeks later, he found himself in Harpers Ferry as part of the Union forces defending that strategic town against Stonewall Jackson. The Union Army surrendered on September 15, and this new private found himself being marched to Camp Parole, near Annapolis. *Had they not been taken prisoner and been placed on parole at that time, they would have marched to Antietam to participate in that slaughter just two days later.*

They spent the winter at Camp Parole until a prisoner exchange was arranged in the spring. They then returned to their original assignment, which was "for the protection of the canal and the property and persons of loyal citizens of the neighborhood, and to be stationed in the vicinity whilst in the service."

However, as the war progressed, they were called on to participate in some significant battles, most notably the Battle of Gettysburg (July 3-5, 1863), and the Battle of Monocacy (July 9, 1864).

It is noteworthy that Pvt. Sigafoose's pay was withheld in Sept and Oct 1863, and again Jan – April 1864 for being AWOL. Probably wanted to spend some time with his family.

On April 8, 1865, members of the 1<sup>st</sup> PHB were transferred to the 13<sup>th</sup> Maryland Infantry Regiment (MIR). The following day, April 9, Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, ending the war. The 13<sup>th</sup> MIR was disbanded on May 29, 1865, and Henry Maylon Sigafoose, along with the others, mustered out of service at that time.

Three more children were born after the war:

5. 1865-1935: Laura
6. 1867-1961: Thomas Albert.
7. We have no information about the 7<sup>th</sup> child (apparently died young). He/she may have been born between #2 and #3 because of the gap.

In 1869, Henry's brother William Sigafoose bought a 1/8 acre lot (lot #52) in Berlin from William Kuhn for \$100 (the price of a lot; i.e., no house there at that time). This is approximately where today's 10 or 14 N. Maryland Ave. are.

In the 1870 census, Henry (42) and Sarah C. (25) are still living in Berlin with Laura V. (5) and Albert (2). He is now working as a farm hand and lists \$250 real estate. The other children are not listed with their parents. Their daughter Martha (8 yo) was living with J.L. Jordan's family (a produce dealer in Berlin) as a nurse (caring for the younger Jordan children?). B.F. (19), John Scoll (16), and Charles Edgar (12) are not found in Berlin. Nor could I find them anywhere in the 1870 census. However, living next door were William (45) and Helen (35) Sigafosse with their 4 children and 2 people by the name of Watkins: James N. (18) and Mary C. (22) – more of Sarah's relative? William's real estate was now \$500.

An 1873 map of Berlin shows W. [William?] Sigafosse and H. [Henry?] Sigafosse living in two side-by-side houses on lot #53 (today's 6 N. Maryland Ave).

Henry died on Dec 26, 1879, and was buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery. The marble tombstone that marks his grave was provided by the U.S. military in honor of his service to his country during the Civil War.

Now comes an interesting finding. In the 1880 census, Henry's son Scoll (27), a canal boatman, and his wife Anna (21) and their one-year old daughter are living in Berlin. Also living with them were Scoll's brothers Charles (21), a boatman, and Thomas (11), as well as another John Sigafosse (24), who was possibly Henry's nephew (William's son, Andrew John). But also living with them were Scoll's parents (listed as such) Henry (54) and Sarah (60). But wait a minute – Henry died 6 months earlier! This is a discrepancy that definitely needs to be investigated further.

That same 1880 census showed B.F. Sigafosse (28) and his wife Laura (19) and their two children living in the Jefferson District. He was working as a lock-keeper, and was known to be working at Lock 27 (just below the Monocacy aqueduct) in 1877. This would have been within the Jefferson census district, so they were living in the lockhouse at that time.

After her husband's death, Sarah Sigafosse moved in with her daughter **Laura** (34) and son-in-law **O.J. Barger** (44) who were living in Brunswick. The census taker recorded that Sarah had had 7 children, 6 of whom were living (hence, evidence for the 7<sup>th</sup> child mentioned above). Two of her other children were also living in Brunswick at that time:

- T.A. (Thomas) (32) and Ida (32) Sigafosse and their 3 children.
- B.F. (48) was living with his wife Laura (39) + 10 children in Brunswick. (married 24 years, 11 of 13 children living)

In 1910, Sarah (77) was still living with her daughter Laura (45) & son-in-law Otho J. (44[sic]) Barger, who had no children. This census also recorded Benj. F. (68) & Laura V. (58) Sigafosse + 2 grown children living in Brunswick.

Sarah died in 1919. She is buried Park Heights Cemetery, which had opened just 5 years earlier. Perhaps there was no room for her to be buried beside her husband in the Old Berlin Cemetery, which was reportedly at capacity at that time.

Henry Maylon Sigafoose's tombstone in the Old Berlin Cemetery:

