

John Scoll Sigafoose (1853-1948)

John Scoll Sigafoose was born in Berlin, MD, on 15 March 1852. He was the second son of **Henry Maylon Sigafoose** and **Sarah C. Watkins Sigafoose**. See their story elsewhere.

In the 1860 census, 6-year old John Sickafous was living with his parents and two brothers Benjamin (9), and Charles (2), in the Petersville district, with a Burkittsville post office address.

When John was 8 years old, his father left home to join the Potomac Home Brigade to protect the C&O Canal and the B&O railroad from the Confederate army. He returned home at the end of the war 3 years later with a disability from gunshot wounds to both legs.

In the 1870 census, 17-year old John and his two brothers were not living with his parents in Berlin, nor was I able to find *where* they were living, although I suspect it was in this general area.

Sometime in the mid-to-late 1870's, John married Ann Elizabeth Darr (1858-1883). I found an undocumented note in the History Commission files that they had 5 daughters, but I have only been able to find evidence of two:

- Lottie Mae Sigafoose (1878)
- Olcival ("Olca") A. Sigafoose (1880)

These two sisters maintained a close relationship throughout their lives.

As a young man, John was a mule driver for Jordan and Wenner, taking grain to Georgetown by canal boat. This is confirmed in the 1880 census where his occupation is listed as a canal boatman. He was living at that time in Berlin with his wife Anna E. and their infant daughter Olcival. Living with them in their home were his parents and three of his brothers, two of whom were also canal boatmen.

Ann Elizabeth died in 1883, at the young age of 25. According to FindaGrave.com, she was buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery, but her tombstone is not found in the cemetery today, nor was it included on Jacob Holdcraft's list when he surveyed the cemetery's headstones in 1959. However, two of her brothers are buried in the OBC, including William Darr, whose headstone is still there today. Also, according to FindaGrave.com, her father Norval Darr is buried in the Old Berlin Cemetery, although we have no other evidence of that either.

In 1885, with two young children to raise, the widowed John Scoll Sigafoose married again, this time to Anna Agnes Staub (1861-1934). They eventually had 3 daughters and 5 sons:

- Maude Sigafoose (born in 1887)
- Horace Gregory Sigafoose (1889)
- Jerome Francis ("Frank") Sigafoose (1891)
- John Henry Sigafoose (1893)
- Wilbur Sylvester Sigafoose (1896)
- Alberta Mary Sigafoose (1901)
- Leora Genevieve Sigafoose (1903)
- Joseph Maylon Sigafoose (1905)

According to some documents in the files of the Brunswick History Commission, John operated a ferry with John Ball from Berlin to Loudoun County at one time. He also tended bar at a saloon in Knoxville when bars and saloons were prohibited in Brunswick because of the railroad.

In the 1900 census, J.S. & Annie Sigafoose were living in Brunswick with their 5 children. He was working as a laborer. They had been married 15 years.

In 1910 Scoll Sigafoose (58) and Annie (48), along with 6 unmarried children, plus a married daughter Maude & her husband Edward & their 2 children were living together in Berlin. Scoll was town policeman, one of the first since the town was incorporated. All 8 of Annie's children were living at that time. The census indicated that this was Scoll's second marriage, and that they had been married for 24 years.

John's next occupation was that of lock tender, most likely lock 30 in Brunswick since the 1920 census shows him living with Annie and 4 of their grown children on Bridge Street (today's Virginia Avenue) in Brunswick. He held that position until the canal ceased operations in 1924 when it was severely damaged by a storm.

In 1930, John was living at 10 S. Delaware Ave. with his wife Anna and 2 unmarried sons Mahlon and Jerome (both working on the railroad). Also in their home were their son Wilbur (also working on the railroad) and his wife Wilma, and their daughter Alberta and her husband Clarence Ebberts, who was a barber.

Anna Agnes Staub Sigafoose died at her home (address above) on 15 Dec 1935 at the age of 73. She was buried in St Marys Cemetery, Petersville.

In 1940, John was living at 201 B St, with his son Wilbur and family. He was 87 years old. He died on 4 April 1948 at the age of 96, and was buried in the family plot in the Old Berlin Cemetery.

What became of the Sigafoose children? (I confess, I got a little carried away with this):

- Lottie Mae Sigafoose (29 May 1878 – 11 Mar 1953). Married John Nelson Davis (1870-1938; from WV) in 1897. In 1910, they were living in Hagerstown, MD, and he was a brakeman on the railroad. They subsequently moved to Chicago where he was a motorman on the Chicago City Railway. They had five children. They are buried in Oakwoods Cemetery, Chicago.
- Olcrival ("Olca") A. Sigafoose (4 Jan 1880 – 20 Sep 1970). 1897: Married Thomas G. (Grant) Moreland. 1900: Living in Hyde Park, Chicago with 2-year old son Elmer. 1918: Thomas was yardmaster for Thek Galewood railroad yards in Chicago. 1920: Thomas and Olca now living in Chicago with their married son Elmer, his wife and two children, + Thomas and Olca's two other children: James 11, and Aurelia 5. 1930: Divorced, Olca is now living with her sister Lottie & her husband John N. Davis in Chicago; working as a cook in a restaurant. 2 children with her: James (21) and Aurelia (15). 1939: Olca's ex-husband Thomas G. Moreland died, buried in Mt. Hope cemetery in Chicago. 1940: Olca (60) and her widowed sister Lottie Davis (62) are lodging with another widow in Chicago. Olca died 20 Sep 1970. Buried in Oakwoods cemetery, Chicago.
- Maude Sigafoose (8 Feb 1887 – 26 July 1973). Married Edward Welty [1882-] in Martinsburg on 12 July 05. They made their home in Martinsburg and had four children. He worked for the railroad for a while, but no occupation was listed for him in the 1930 or 1940 census records. She died 26 July 1973, age 86, in Richmond, VA. Widowed. Housekeeper. Buried St. Joseph's Catholic cemetery, Martinsburg, WV.
- Horace Gregory Sigafoose (12 Mar 1889 – 30 May 1960). Married Blanche Mildred Harrison (1892-1940). Had 6 children. They lived in Brunswick, where he worked for

the railroad, initially as a brakeman, and later as yardmaster. Buried Knoxville Reformed cemetery.

- Jerome Francis (“Frank”) Sigafoose (11 Mar 1891 – 1 Jan 1968). Was working in a knitting mill in Brunswick in 1910 (age 19). Still living with his parents in 1920 and 1930, working on the railroad as a fireman, then in train service. In 1940, he was a truck driver doing landscaping for the CCC program in Prince Georges County, VA. Served in the army as a corporal during WWII. After WWII, lived in Alexandria, VA, worked on the railroad as a conductor and as a trainman. Never married. Living in Brunswick on Maple Ave at time of death. Died at the VA Hospital in Martinsburg, WV. Buried St. Mary’s, Petersville.
- John Henry Sigafoose (6 Aug 1893 – 13 July 1924). Married Lena Agnes Johnson (1893-) on 19 Feb 1916 in MD. 1920 census: John H. was a brakeman on the railroad, living with his wife Lena + two children (John E. 3, and Glenn E. 2) on Bridge Street in Bwk. Four years later, he was shot and killed by Mrs. Cora Ricketts in Hagerstown (alcohol and romantic jealousy). Made headlines in the *Hagerstown Morning Herald* on July 15, 1924. Obituary on Findagrave: “Murdered Man's Body Home --- The body of John H. Sigafoose, who it is charged was shot and killed Sunday, near Hagerstown, by Mrs. Cora Ricketts Wilkinson, of Hagerstown, was brought to the home of his father in Brunswick Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock. Funeral arrangements will be announced later. The body has a thirty-two caliber bullet hole through the right lung.” Buried Park Heights cemetery, Brunswick.
- Wilbur Sylvester Sigafoose (13 Sep 1896 – 8 May 1988). Enlisted U.S. Army 1 June 1917. 15 Jun 1918: On list to be transported from Hoboken, NJ, to Europe, but name crossed out with handwritten note: “Base Hosp. Cary McClelland.” Discharged 20 Feb 1920. 1927: Married Wilma O. Ambrose (1903-1991). 1930: Living with his parents; Train service, RR. 1935: daughter Dolores born (in WV). 1940: living at 201 W. B Street; brakeman on RR. 7 Jun 1940: transported to Marine Hospital in Baltimore, appendicitis. 1942? (WWII draft registration): living at 127 9th Ave. 1949: Owner/Manager of Hilltop Market, 362 W. Patrick Street (formerly Burtner’s Market), a grocery store. 1950-1960: Listed in Frederick City directories at 121 S. Jefferson St. When he retired, they moved to Florida. 8 May 1988: Died Cape Coral, FL, age 91. His wife died there 3 years later.
- Alberta Mary Sigafoose (24 April 1901 – 22 Nov 1991) Married Clarence Ebberts (1901-1984), who was a barber throughout his life. They lived with her parents for awhile, then moved to Frederick (243 N. Market St.), then back to the Knoxville area where they were living in 1940 with a newborn son Donn. Alberta and Clarence are buried in St. Mary’s cemetery in Petersville.
- Leora Genevieve Sigafoose (27 Nov 1905 – 15 Mar 1990) Married Clifford Stull (1899-1983) in 1924. They lived in Frederick (at 242 Carroll Parkway). He was a candy salesman and later managed a gasoline filling station. His obituary indicates that he was employed by the Board of Education in his later years. There is no record of their having had any children. They are both buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Frederick.
- Joseph Maylon Sigafoose (21 Dec 1905 – 24 Mar 1994). Year?: Married Naomi Elizabeth Eury. 1930: They are still living with his parents; no children; he is a clerk on the railroad. Eventually had 3 daughters: Sharon (Lewis), Joanne, and Cynthia. 1940 (WWII Draft registration): Living at B&O YMCA; employed by the railroad; lists father

as next of kin. One might speculate that Joseph and Naomi were separated at this time, but they were both listed as guests at his father's 90th birthday party in 1943. 1960: Naomi, living at 5 West C Street, died at age 46. Buried at Brownsville Heights Cemetery, Brownsville, MD. 24 Mar 1994: Joseph died. Buried at St. Mary's cemetery, Petersville, MD.

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