

WILLIAM SIDNEY BAER

**Lieutenant, U. S. Army Aviator
Died in Plane Crash in Texas on June 20, 1919**

Compiled by Linda Cunningham Fluharty.

Lieutenant William Baer did NOT die during World War I but he was a pilot with the U. S. Army and lost his life while on duty in 1919. He died of shock following injuries sustained when his plane crashed in Del Rio, Texas.

William was the son of Marcus Baer, born in 1854, and married at Wheeling on January 9, 1889 to Serelda Swabacher, a daughter of William Swabacher. Marcus Baer died on January 28, 1896.

At the time of the 1900 census of Wheeling, Serelda Baer, born in January 1860, was living on Main Street, Wheeling with her daughter, Carrie M., born in September 1879, and her son, William S., born in July 1890. Serelda's father, William Swabacher, was also in the home, as well as a servant.

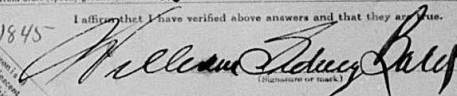
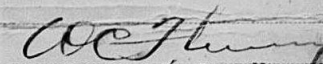
Carrie May Baer married Emanuel Berger, a lawyer, and they resided in Detroit, Michigan.

Mrs Serelda Baer and son, William,
have left for Detroit, to spend the remainder of the summer.

Seralda Swabacher Baer died of a goiter in Detroit, Michigan on March 25, 1909. She is buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Wheeling.

At the time of the 1910 census, William Baer was living with Emanuel and Carrie May Emanuel in Detroit.

He registered for the World War I Draft while living in Kentucky.

Form 1 <u>2180</u> REGISTRATION CARD <u>14</u> No. <u>165</u>		16-1-17 Louisville No. 4 "A" REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1	Name in full <u>William Sidney Baer,</u>	Age, yrs. <u>26</u>	
2	Home address <u>Atlanta, Georgia Louisville, Ky</u>		
3	Date of birth <u>July 28th 1890</u>		
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? <u>Natural Born</u>		
5	Where were you born? <u>Wheeling West Virginia, U S A</u>		
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?		
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office? <u>Salesman for ten Southern States Automobile Salesman</u>		
8	Where employed? <u>Haynes Auto Company, Atlanta, Georgia</u>		
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? <u>No</u>		
10	Married or single (which)? <u>Single</u> Race (specify which)? <u>Caucasian</u>		
11	What military service have you had? Rank <u>Adjutant</u> branch <u>School</u> years <u>1</u> Nation or State <u>Va. Military Academy Stanton,</u>		
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)? <u>No</u>		
I certify that I have verified above answers and that they are true.		I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:	
<u>1845</u>  (Signature of Registrant)		 Circuit Clerk Lauderdale Co., Miss. Ward <u>6</u> Precinct <u>Louisville,</u> City or County <u>Atlanta,</u> State <u>Georgia Ky</u> June 2, 1917 (Date of registration)	

Two Are Killed and Three of Twelve Machines on Way To Mexico Are Lost

Pilot Was Strapped to Seat And Body Burned Beyond Possible Recognition

HOUSTON, Tex., June 21.—Lieut. O. E. Grazier of 1914 Roosevelt avenue, Richmond, Cal., and Lieut. William F. Baer of Detroit, army aviators, were killed when their plane dashed to the ground at Del Rio, Tex., late yesterday, according to the official report received at Ellington field here today.

Lost Control of Machine

The machine was one of an observation squadron of twelve De Havilland planes flying from Ellington field to the Mexican border.

The pilot was unable to regain control of the machine when it fell into a tail spin 250 feet above the ground.

The death of the two aviators occurred when they were starting a flight to El Paso.

Pilot, Helpless, Burned to Death

Spectators said the machine apparently caught fire in the air, and the observed fell or jumped out, receiving injuries from which he died shortly afterwards.

The pilot, strapped in the machine, was burned beyond recognition.

The second accident occurred when another plane, attempting to rise.

A third plane, the message said, was wrecked while making a landing yesterday.

Home in Wheeling

DETROIT, June 21.—William Baer, an army aviator, stationed at Ellington field, Houston, was killed today, when his plane fell near Del Rio, Tex., according to a message from the field commandant to the aviator's relatives last night. Baer's home was at Wheeling, W. Va.

TEXAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Reg. Dis. No. **19977** B.O.V.S.
Registered No. **430** F.O.M.D.

PLACE OF DEATH
County **Val Verde**
City **Del Rio** (No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____)

FULL NAME **William Sydney Baer** (a) RESIDENCE No. **Del Rio Mich**
(If decedent give city or town and State)
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mos. da. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth yrs. mos. da.

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		MEDICAL PARTICULARS	
1 SEX Male	4 COLOR OR RACE White	14 DATE OF DEATH June 20, 1919 (Month) (Day) (Year)	17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from June 20, 1919 , to June 20, 1919 , that I last saw h. June 20, 1919 and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 12:58 a.m.
2 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED OR DIVORCED (write the word) Not known	5 DATE OF BIRTH Not known (Month) (Day) (Year)	15 CAUSE OF DEATH was as follows: Shock following injury (duration) yrs. mos. da.	18 Where was disease contracted If not at place of death: _____
3 AGE If less than 2 years state if breast fed: Yes _____ No _____ If less than 1 day: hrs. min.	6 OCCUPATION (a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work: Army Officer (b) General nature of industry, business or establishment in which employed (or employer): Aeronautics	16 What test confirmed (Signature): W. M. Tucker Capt. M.C.	19 (Address): Del Rio Tex
7 BIRTHPLACE (State or country): Not known	8 NAME OF FATHER: "	20 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL (Address): Del Rio Tex	21 DATE OF BURIAL: ?
9 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (State or country): "	10 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country): "	22 INTERSEX: ?	23 ADDRESS: Del Rio Tex
11 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER: "	12 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (State or country): "	24 SIGNATURE: G. B. Arnold	25 REGISTERED: W. Doran
13 THE ABOVE IS TRUE (Informant): W. M. Tucker Capt. M.C.	14 (Address): Del Rio Tex	26 (Address): Del Rio Tex	
15 (Address): Del Rio Tex	16 (Address): Del Rio Tex		

FILED **July 1, 1919** G. B. Arnold Registrar **W. Doran**

287-818-100M

NOTE WELL—INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE SIDE.
PLEASE PRINT IN PLAIN INK WITH UNFADING INK—THIS IS A PERMANENT RECORD.
THIS CERTIFICATE IS TO BE FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE COUNTY OF DEATH IN THE CITY OF DEATH IN THE COUNTY OF DEATH IN THE STATE OF TEXAS.
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Wheeling Intelligencer, 25 June 1919

MILITARY FUNERAL FOR LIEUT. BAER

Six Army Officers to Act as Pall-bearers and Military Guard as Escort.

Full military honors will mark the funeral services for Lieutenant William Sydney Baer, which will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Mendel chapel, 1212 Chapline street. Six army officers will be the pall bearers and relatives will act as honorary pall bearers. A military guard of returned soldiers will act as escort. A regulation army officers salute will be fired over the grave and taps will be sounded by a bugler. The local branch of the American Legion will be in charge of the arrangements. Rabbi A. H. Mischkind, of the Eoff Street Temple will officiate and interment will be made in Greenwood cemetery.

Lieut. Baer was well known here being the son of the late **Marcus Baer**. He enlisted soon after the war was declared and was commissioned a lieutenant and made a flyer. He was stationed at Kelly Field and was making a flight when his plane was wrecked in landing, resulting in his death.

Before entering the service the late aviator was employed in the Baer grocery company office. One sister, Mrs. Emanuel Berger, of Detroit, Mich., and several distant relatives survive.

William is buried at Greenwood Cemetery.

William Sidney Baer was the son of Marcus Baer and the grandson of German Immigrant, Simon Baer.

From "HISTORY OF THE UPPER OHIO VALLEY," Vol. I, page 217.
Brant & Fuller, 1890.

SIMON BAER

Simon Baer, deceased, the subject of this sketch, was one of Wheeling's most prominent and extensive wholesalers, and was the founder of the mammoth house of Simon Baer's Sons, which is decidedly the largest wholesale grocery and coffee-roasting establishment in West Virginia, doing a larger volume of business than any grocery house in the state and equaling that of the larger houses of Pittsburgh and other cities west of the Allegheny mountains. Simon Baer was born in Stebbach, Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, in 1813, emigrated to the United States in 1866, and died in Wheeling in 1884. Upon his arrival in this city in 1866, Mr. Baer at once engaged in business, purchasing the wholesale grocery house of Simon Harkheimer, his brother-in-law. He continued in business by himself, meeting with success, until 1876, when he admitted his son Benjamin into the business, the firm name becoming that of Simon Baer & Son. In 1880, Marcus and Bernhart, two other sons, were admitted, and the firm name became Simon Baer & Sons. Upon the death of Benjamin Baer in 1884, the above firm was dissolved, Mr. Simon Baer retiring from business, immediately the firm of "Simon Baer's Sons" was formed by Henry, Marcus and Bernhard Baer, and to this firm Ernest Baer was admitted in 1889.

SIMON BAER'S SONS - pages 217-218

The firm of Simon Baer's Sons was formed by Henry, Marcus and Bernhard Baer, and to this firm Ernest Baer was admitted in 1889. During all the years this house has been before the public it has prospered, and the business has increased in volume from year to year, until it is now the acme of success. Their business extends all over West Virginia, western Pennsylvania, Maryland, and eastern Ohio, and the annual amount of business reaches \$1,500,000. They are the proprietors of the celebrated "Pan Handle" house for the roasting of coffee, having a large establishment for that exclusive purpose. Simon Baer was married at Freudenthal, Wurtemberg, Germany, to Caroline Horkheimer, who was a sister to Simon Horkheimer, deceased, one of Wheeling's leading merchants and manufacturers. Her death occurred in this city in 1876. To their union six sons and six daughters were born, nine of whom survive. All members of the firm of Simon Baer's Sons were born in Stebbach, Grand Duchy of Baden, Germany, as follows: Henry Baer was born in 1843, and was married at Wheeling in 1867, to Miss Henrietta Horkheimer, sister to Henry, Morris, and Bernard Horkheimer, well-known business men of this city, they composing the firm of Horkheimer Bros., wood dealers. Mr. Baer is prominent in business affairs, as vice president of Standard Insurance company, director in Mutual Savings Bank, stockholder in Hobbs Glass house, stockholder in Central Oil company, and director and one of the vice presidents of the Chamber of Commerce. **Marcus Baer was born in 1854, and was married at Wheeling on January 9, 1889, to Miss Serelda Swabacher, a daughter of William Swabacher.** Bernard Baer was born in 1857, and was married at Wheeling in 1881, to Miss Sallie Levy, daughter of David Levy. Ernest Baer was born in 1862, and was married at Wheeling in 1887, to Miss Lillian Gutman, daughter of David Gutman, of the firm of M. Gutman & Co., extensive wholesale and retail clothiers of this city.