

## RAILROAD ACCIDENTS, DERAILMENTS, AND DEATHS IN BERLIN, VERMONT - INDEX

**bolded** name indicates Berlin resident

(last updated Sept. 2022)

*See binders for more information – newspaper clippings, death certificates, etc. This is not a comprehensive index, more research can be done. Photographs & postcards of accidents and derailments likely have newspaper articles that go with them and more newspapers are available digitally since this project was started in 2018 and photos can come to light at any time whether in our collection, from families, used book stores with ephemera, and antique stores. Be sure to cross reference names and information with the obituaries binders, family folders, etc. Although the accidents happened in Berlin, some victims may have been brought to a doctor in Montpelier or Northfield and therefore died in another town. Not all victims were able to be identified as they were drifters or unrecognizable.*

2000	July 5	<b>Melissa Day</b> , 37, hit about 8:30pm as train headed north out of the Berlin train station between the Winooski River and Graves Street in Montpelier
1979	August	An exercise included a staged train collision
1978	December	Train heading north out of the Berlin train station accident with car, one fatality Stephen Hart (of Montpelier), and two with injuries.
1972	January 28	<b>Nelson Eastman</b> , 70, killed when his car was in collision with a train at a private crossing.
1968	August 7	Two Central Vermont freight cars derailed about 1:20pm, ruining 650 feet of track, no injuries.
1964	September 17	<b>Josephine Melvin</b> , 42, not seriously injured when her car struck a stopped locomotive, near Dodge Crossing.
1958	June 14	<b>Maurice Clement</b> , 37, was hurled from the cab of his truck but not seriously injured when it collided with a southbound freight train at Montpelier Junction at 4:01pm.
1955	October 31	An accident was avoided when Francis Reed came upon a stalled tractor-trailer on the railroad tracks in Montpelier Junction and rushed up the tracks on foot to flag a northbound train. The train was able to stop within feet of the stalled vehicle.
1952	March 16	Two freight cars of a southbound Central Vermont train were derailed at 2:30am at Montpelier Junction. No one was hurt.
1950	December	Mrs. Ramonda Fogg Brunelle when vehicle collided with northbound CVRR milk train at Northfield Falls Brook Road crossing. Sister is Mrs Gladys Lawrence of Riverton.
1949	April 2	Central Vermont passenger train derailed at Montpelier Junction. The engine toppled over on its side and two baggage cars and a combination mail and express car went off the rails. No injuries.
1947	March 7	<b>John Murray</b> , killed when a panel delivery sedan (Grand Union Tea Company) he was driving from his home was struck at a private crossing by a northbound Central Vermont train.
1943	August 23	35 persons escaped serious injury when a crowded Vermont Transit company train connection bus tipped over on the way from Montpelier to Montpelier Junction and landed on it's right side on the railroad track.
1940	May 17	Bernard E. Bailey, 26 died following an accident on Tuesday, May 14 <sup>th</sup> . Fell from work train out of Montpelier Jct when near Williston. Born and raised in Montpelier.
1938	December 8	Charles L. Zerbe, Central Vermont locomotive engineer severely injured at 11:30pm when he fell from his engine at Montpelier Junction. He had climbed out of the cab when the train stopped and was working on a feed pipe when he slipped and fell 12 feet.
1938	November 23	Kenneth Lavigne, 29 years old, CV engine helper at Montpelier Jct. fatally injured.
1936	December 25	A holiday train carrying 75 persons crashed into a "helper" engine. None seriously injured. Locomotives heavily damaged. List of those injured.
1936	January 5	<b>Fred Stebbins</b> ended his life in baggage car, railroad worker
1935	May 16	Terrance P McLaughlin, 45, just discharged from Camp Meade, run over by freight at Montpelier Junction and killed.
1934	Sept 28	William Abbott, 34, fatally injured in attempt to ride "blind baggage"

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1931	Aug 24	Spectacular Rescue of Joseph Goodnature
1929	May 18	Safety article
1927	Nov. Flood	Photo of bridge & tracks just north of Montpelier Junction Station
1927	Nov. Flood	Photos of derailed trains
1927	November 7	Central Vermont Railway Faces Herculean Task, Burlington Free Press article
1927	Nov. Flood	Photo of train with granite
1927	July 11	<b>Fred Hayden</b> , 3 years old, killed when he dashed out into the path of a trolley car
1926		Train wreck north of Riverton station – photo
1926	June 19	Four cars of the Montrealer derailed in Riverton, none injured – article
1923	August 18	Daniel Badord motorman suffered broken leg when two trolley cars came together near Dewey Park (this is actually Montpelier)
1923	May 25	<b>Thomas Carver</b> killed on tractor crossing train track on his farm
1922	August 16	George Stevens escaped injury when CVRR hit his car in West Berlin (same location as recent LeFebvre accident)
1922	June 17	<b>Grace LeFebvre</b> and daughter <b>Glena</b> killed at West Berlin when southbound milk train hit automobile they were riding in. Several articles including court case which was retried.
1920	September 11	David H. Poland killed by train at Montpelier Junction
1920	~June 15	John W. Turner survived his car being struck by train on the Central Vermont railroad between Barre and Montpelier.
1918	~July 30	Mr. Percy L Brown (local agent for E. A . Strout Farm Agency) and Mr. Gochie, from Sheffield, Vermont when automobile was struck by the northbound train leaving Northfield 4:45pm at the crossing close to Davis Brothers granite sheds.
1918	June 29	Freight derailment near West Berlin, no injuries.
1917	August 11	Raley Ray Ralph Roscoe Hood, two-year-old boy, killed by a Central Vermont passenger train between Montpelier and Barre.
1917	June 3	Harold Warren brock his collarbone when he was knocked from an engine at Montpelier Junction shoveling coal
1916	November 25	M. H. Horrigan was seriously injured while switching cars at Montpelier Junction
1915	August 20	Several injured when a main line car of Barre & Montpelier Traction & Power Co. ran an open switch and crashed into three other cars at Intercity park.
1915	July 21	Train wreck in Riverton photos (photos have snow so date not correct)
1914	November 29	A. Shepard was struck and killed by a Central Vermont train at Montpelier Junction early Sunday morning. Believed to be lumberjack who came from out west.
1914	October 1	Irving Gallagher, his father, and a friend escaped injury when the engine stalled at the crossing and the Ford car driven by Irving was hit by a freight engine.
1914	need date	John Martin had his leg amputated below the knee from a railroad accident at Montpelier Jct.
1914	July 14	Unknown man killed by train at Montpelier (Junction?)
1914	March 29	Man killed by train at Middlesex not Patrick Driscoll (This isn't Berlin but it's interesting!)
1913	October 16	John Martin aged 27, brakeman, had leg crushed while flagging, it was later amputated.
1913	August 21	Escape from serious wreck when train diverted to sidetrack several cars derailed
1913	August 13	The New England States limited ran into an open switch and siding at the gravel pit, a half mile above West Berlin known as Riverton. Seven cars left the rails (two day coaches, diner, and tour chair and sleeping cars) Several injured.
1913	August	Update on Roland Washington injured in August 13 <sup>th</sup> train accident.

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1913	June 1	Two miles south of Montpelier Junction front wheels of the engine of the New England States Limited left the rails at Richardson's mill in West Berlin and the track for the entire length of the train was torn up.
1913	6/3 or 5/22	13 year old boy had a narrow escape on his bicycle, Conductor Charles Simmons grasped the youth and J. P. Gallagher, the RR agent, grabbed the bicycle and both made it off the track just as the train passed.
1912	September 30	Northbound freight on the Central Vermont railroad derailed between Northfield Falls and Riverton. Pulled by engine 733, same curve where five men killed in wreck two years ago this summer. No serious injuries. About a dozen cars derailed and several so badly smashed they were burned to clear the track.
1912	June 29	William M. Richardson killed near Brown's Mill when head struck steel bridge
1912	April 22	A. D. Pierce brakeman, of St. Albans, on the Central Vermont slipped off the bridge and fell 30 feet. Brought to the Junction where an ambulance took him to Heaton hospital. He's recovering.
1911	December 31	Joseph Boucher of Riverton had leg amputated supposedly after trying to board a moving train at Waterbury and was thrown under the wheels.
1911	October 26	Article December 19 regarding mistake of a brakeman regarding when in October a light engine ran into a train and smashed several cars, also October 31 article saying it was from "short flagging"
1911	February 27	Train derailment of Barre & Montpelier Traction & Power company at Emslie's Greenhouse caused by ice on tracks
1911	February 8	Frank Cassiva, baggage master, wrenched his ankle when his foot got caught in a tie track.
1910	August 21	Six killed in wreck on Central Vermont between West Berlin and Northfield Falls William Brunnell of Northfield, L. Dubue of St Albans, Frederick Berryman of St Albans, Joseph Lane of New York, Harold S Lanigan of New York, and unidentified man. Several articles including follow-up ones later in year.
1910	August	Photo of train wreck on postcard, "at West Berlin Aug 1910" caboose laying on side.
1910	August 2	Two freight trains were moving slowly but collided. Several pieces of granite were dumped down an embankment between Montpelier Junction and Northfield.
1910	May 11	Louis Bruya a telegrapher saved George Perkins who was walking with his back to train by grabbing and shoving him off the track.
1909	October 9	Central Vermont shifting engine and engine on Barre branch train crashed on the south Y at Montpelier Junction at 12:20pm
1909	Sept 17	Edward Ewing injured during night
1909	Sept 8	CVRR bridge #6 (by Harry Tabor place) fire. Bridge was built 6 years ago.
1909	July 10	T. L. Ellis of Middleboro, Mass was found dead in the berth of sleeping car bound for Boston. He was on business for New England Telephone & Telegraph Co.
1909	March 1	Seeking damages for injuries from train striking car and throwing Mrs. Bridget Steward out
1908	November 5	Timothy Holland, engineer, injured, on branch train at Montpelier Junction with four cars smashed and a caboose wrecked beyond repaired.
1908	July 3	<b>Hiram B Perkins</b> 65 years old of Berlin died from injuries from jumping from a moving electric car at Benjamin Falls station. (7/26/1842-7/9/1908)
1907	November 13	Five freight cars loaded with coal and granite were ditched near Dodge bridge. No injuries.

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1907	November 12	New England States Limited Express was pulling into the Junction station when the brake rigging dropped down throwing the forward trucks of the tender off the track.
1907	August 28	Second attempt made to burn the bridge at Dodge's crossing
1907	August 26	Attempt made to burn the Central Vermont bridge at Dodge's crossing.
1907	August 26	Engine and smoker were derailed near Dodge's crossing early this morning. Several follow-up articles as to cause
1907	July 2 (June25?)	Charles St John 24 years old had an accident while switching on the "Y" at Montpelier Junction. He died at Heaton hospital.
1907	June 5	Harold Warren broke his collar bone when he was shoveling coal and knocked from an engine at Montpelier Junction.
1907	Feb 14	At West Berlin one car of a freight train jumped the track. (Also 500 flat cars ordered)
1906	May 22	Conductor sprinted down platform for his car and made it, then a boy who woke from a nap sprinted to catch his train but was yelled at and didn't make it but lived.
1906	April 26	James Burke Jr (of Montpelier) killed by train, found by tracks opposite Michael Henry's West Berlin farm.
1905	May 25	Martin Flint, peddler, of Randolph killed at West Berlin while crossing the track. Several articles, including court case
1904	November 14	John Rutherford killed at Montpelier Junction while repairing rail car. Also follow-up article.
1904	March 8	Martin Garland killed when a north-bound work train collided with a south-bound freight car in West Berlin and a few days later William Manchester dies as a result of his injuries.
1904	January 9	Leon Ford, skull fractured at Montpelier Junction when he walked off the top of a freight car.
1903	September 18	Rear end freight wreck near gravel pit on other side of West Berlin, the crew jumped without injury.
1903	June 19	John B Goff fell at Montpelier Junction from freight car onto pile of soft coal.
1903	April 5	Frank Dumas 17 years old, when the train slowed at Montpelier Junction he jumped, slipped and fell between track and platform. Broke foot and back bruised.
1902	September 4	William Wilcox of St. Albans was fatally injured when he was run over by engine at Montpelier Junction. An extra freight drawn by engine 38 broke in two a mile south of the station and the detached cars ran into it. Fireman Wilcox was under the engine cleaning out the firebox.
1902	July 4	Edward Ekerston had an accident with the train door and was thrown beneath the wheels, part of leg amputated and recovering.
1901	December 25	James Doheny of Northfield fell through the train bridge walking to the Junction to take train home. Rescued by Harrison Lombard, a neighbor in the Junction. (James died in 1932)
1900	November 26	<b>Israel Guilmont</b> of Berlin killed by a freight on at Tabor's crossing when his horse drawn wagon was hit.
1900	September 6	Isaac Walk, a 16 year old newsboy of St. Albans, was killed when he accidentally stepped in front of a train at Montpelier Junction. Taken to Heaton Hospital.
1900	March 21	Beef car broke down just below Montpelier Junction
1899	November 17	<b>Cora Kimmis</b> of Berlin was struck in her automobile by a south bound dairy freight, miraculously escaping serious injury or death. (Cora died October 1901 - unrelated to this accident)
1898	September 9	A horse owned by George B. B. Denny of Berlin was killed instantly this morning by the train from White River Junction to Montpelier Junction.

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- 1898 September 7 Harris Centnerowitz was killed when leaning out away from the rail car the back of his head struck lumber, in a car load on the siding, his wife and 8mos old child were with him. Also follow-up articles. Don't believe last name is spelled correctly - other possible spellings: Kantorovitz, Kantrowitz, Katzovitz, Kerowitz, Kontrowicz, Canterwich, Cantrowitz, Contorowitz
- 1898 July 2 Police were called to Montpelier Junction Station for William Higgins or Michael Hickey for "nerves shattered"
- 1896 June 21 Edward Brown and J. Leskind, cigar-makers were killed when the express crashed into the saloon car of the freight
- 1895 April 2 J. L. Parmelee of Colchester, head brakeman on the butter train had is hand crushed between a pin and draw bar at Montpelier Junction.
- 1894 October 13 **Imogene Aldrich Flint**, an elderly lady, who lived at Pioneer Works with a son-in-law, was instantly killed by the 9:30 mail train for Barre.
- 1893 August 19 Serious railroad accident averted between Montpelier Junction and Northfield.
- 1892 December 12 Big Wreck on the Central at No 6 bridge which spans the Dog river a stone's -throw from Brown's mill. Freight train M going north plunked into No 11. Ten cars derailed, three demolished. John Cotter broke both legs.
- 1892 August 30 Fatal railroad accident in Richmond of an excursion train returning from Burlington to Montpelier, **Janus Crossett** of Berlin, a selectman, was killed as was George O Brown Jr of Montpelier. Several others were injured.
- 1889 August 20 Charles Sortwell was killed when standing on the track by Dodge bridge looking toward Barre watching the passage of a Central Vermont freight train and a Montpelier and Wells River locomotive approached him backing from Montpelier to Barre to get a special train loaded with picnickers. The two road beds were separated by only a few feet. Whistle was blown but he might have thought it was the CV train. Charles was the brother of D. R. Sortwell, President of the Montpelier and Wells River railroad.
- 1889 July 30 Patrick McMahan, station agent at Montpelier Junction stepped upon a saloon car that was backing into the Junction, lost his grip and fell and was run over. He died instantly. He had worked for the company for 25 years, ten at the Junction.
- 1887 February 18 Collision between Northfield and Montpelier Junction
- 1886 June 11 Five tramps attempt to wreck train
- 1885 December 21 Two-horse team (pulling load of stoves) ran onto track and were struck & killed by freight train near Lanesville (later called Riverton)
- 1885 October 16 **Gilbert Gabaree** died from injuries when lost footing boarding the Montpelier and Wells River railroad which was in motion and fell under train
- 1883 November 23 **William McIntosh**, his wife **Lois (Batchellor)**, and a neighbor, **Mary House**, all ended up dying when their horse drawn carriage was struck by Chicago Express in Lanesville (later called Riverton).
- 1882 November 29 Conductor McAllister was injured at Montpelier Junction when standing on the steps of his car had his left leg crushed below the knee, he did recover and returned to work in July 1885.
- 1882 November 20 Hollis Barrett, fireman, of St. Albans, died about 1 ½ miles south of Montpelier Junction when he was caught between two trains that hadn't seen each other on a sharp curve.
- 1877 January 26 Michael Dingley of Bethel, fireman on VCRR freight train killed at Montpelier Junction when engine and tender broke coupling and he fell through.

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- 1875 September 17 Horace E. Stoughton, previously a freight agent of Central Vermont Railroad took the freight train at Montpelier Junction for Waterbury. He fell from the train as they left the bridge over the Winooski, just this side of Montpelier Junction and was run over and killed instantly.
- 1873 December 23 Joseph St. Johns a brakeman on a freight train fell between the tracks of the cars at Montpelier Junction and he was seriously injured.
- 1873 August Switch above Montpelier Junction was left open resulting in engine and three cars of a freight train being dumped into river
- 1870 October No. 4 railroad bridge between Montpelier and Northfield burned.
- 1870 April 1 **Freeman Alexander**, was run over by the train on the Montpelier Branch Railroad, when he jumped off near his residence, losing both legs and then dying on April 10th. He and his wife and three small children had just recently moved to the Shepard farm.
- 1866 February 23 Frank King died after saving brakeman from death when the freight train's coupling between two rear cars broke
- 1865 October 25 **Patrick McCarty** was run over by a freight train when walking home on the railroad track.
- 1861 October 12 George Sherman while attempting to board the passenger train at Montpelier Junction lost his footing and fell upon the track and a car passed over him. He died the same night.
- 1859 January 8 Mr. Shurtleff of Berlin was driving his horse and sleigh intoxicated, resulted in death of horse, train going off the track, and the railroad bridge being broken however Mr. Shurtleff survived.
- 1857 July 21 James Hayes a section hand on the Vermont Central was run over by the cars and killed about 1 ½ miles from Montpelier.
- 1852 September 10 Mary Kane threw herself under a gravel train near the depot in Berlin and was killed
- 1849 August 12 **Chastina Cameron**, 15 yrs old from Berlin & her 10 yr old cousin, Hannah Cameron of Middlesex both died when they accidentally fell from the railroad bridge near the mouth of Dog River.