

AN OLD CIRCUS RIDER.

Death of Uncle Barney Carroll After an Eventful Career.

NEW YORK, July 20.—Wm. B. Carroll, who was undoubtedly the oldest circus performer in the country, died on Sunday at his home in Westchester village at the age of 74 years. He was familiarly known in the profession as Uncle Barney Carroll. There does not live to-day any one who was associated with him in the old-time circus business.

His life was an eventful one. He was born in Knoxville, Tenn., in 1815, and when 15 years of age he ran away from his father's farm and joined a small circus. In 1830 Carroll was apprenticed to George Sweet, then the greatest known equestrian. Under his instruction Carroll became one of the finest one and two horse riders in the business. He became, too, a wonderful leaper and a clever acrobat. As an acrobat his great feat was to turn any number of somersets in the air in rapid succession, landing after each somerset on a spring board. In 1844 he created a sensation by appearing in the circus arena riding upon a horse's bare back and at the same time carrying a box upon his head. It was the first time the feat had been performed, and it made Carroll the most famous circus man in the country.

About this time Carroll taught his wife to ride. Mrs. Carroll was the first woman circus rider who performed the feat of jumping over an object held in the air. The trick was considered miraculous and was sure to bring Mrs. Carroll numberless bouquets. Mr. and Mrs. Carroll were associated with the Raymond's show in 1844 and 1845, the Spalding show in 1846, the Howe show in 1847, and the Angovino & Titus show a year later—all these famous old-time companies. With the last named show Mr. Carroll's daughter, afterward the wife of Ben Maginley, the actor, was accustomed to enter a cage with a leopard and make the leopard perform tricks. This act was considered an extremely daring one.

His last service was with the Forepaugh show as ringmaster, in 1878. In his later years he was as active and muscular as ever, and had many pupils in the noble art of circus riding. Probably no circus man in the world ever had such a company of pupils as Carroll had last winter when he instructed the gentlemen performers in Mr. James M. Waterbury's amateur circus at Westchester. Under his tuition Robert Potter, Joseph Potter, Thomas Havomeyer and Lorillard Harriman learned very difficult feats in bareback riding.