



Old City Cemetery  
*Museums & Arboretum*

<https://www.gravegarden.org/occ-records/benga-t02638/>

# Ota (“Otto”) Benga

**ID Number:** T02638

## BIOGRAPHICAL DATA

### Basic Identification

Gender: male  
Ethnicity: Pygmy (African)  
Immigration: yes  
Attributed Race: black  
Free or Enslaved: free

### Birth & Family

Birth Date: c.1885/00/00  
Birthplace: Congo, Africa  
Mother:  
Father:  
1st Spouse: unknown  
2nd Spouse: male

### Age Details

Age: about 30  
Age Group: adult (20-59)

### Life Details

Occupation(s): day laborer,  
tobacco factory laborer  
Last Church: unknown  
Military Service: none  
Last Residence: Lynchburg,  
Virginia  
Last Address: Virginia Seminary  
Campus

### Death

Death Date: 1916/03/20  
Death Note: none  
Place of Death: shed behind  
Josephine Anderson’s store  
Cause of Death: suicide, pistol  
shot to left breast

### Burial & Undertaking

Burial Date: 1916/03/23  
Funeral Home: Diuguid; Peoples  
Undertaking Co.  
Diuguid ID Number:  
Indigent?: private interment

### Gravesite and Grave Marker Data

Grave Marker or Marker Fragment: none  
Section: unknown  
Confirmation Source for Location:  
Grave Marker Erector(s): unknown  
Confirmation Source for Interment: official ledger

## Obituary and Biographical Details

## Funeral at Diamond Hill BC

Mrs. Lillian “Peggy” Bondurant Davis recalled that she was told Ota Benga was buried in the Old City Cemetery, beside Prof. Ulysses S. Grant Patterson.

Chauncey Spencer clearly remembered Ota Benga being buried in White Rock Cemetery beside Gregory Willis Hayes.