

Aaron Mercer  
Pioneer of 1852  
compiled by Stephenie Flora  
oregonpioneers.com

Aaron Mercer

b. 26 Jun 1826 Harrison County, Ohio

d. 19 Nov 1902 Providence Hospital, King County, Washington  
buried [Mount Pleasant Cemetery](#), Seattle, King County, Washington

s/o Aaron Mercer and Jane Dickerson

m1. c1849 Princeton, Bureau County, Illinois

Jane [Ellen?] Leonard

b. 1826

d. c1853 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

probably daughter of Amos Leonard and Elizabeth Gregory

m2. 1855 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

Ann Elizabeth Stoven

b. 17 Apr 1840 England

d. 30 Sep 1919 Seattle, King County, Washington

buried [Mount Pleasant Cemetery](#), Seattle, King County, Washington

1850: Bureau County, Illinois, December 14, 1850; Aaron Mercer, 26, farmer, \$4000, OH; Jane, 24 [wife], OH; John, 24 [brother], OH; Rachel, 17 [sister], OH; Joshua D., 14 [brother], IL; Asa S. [brother], 11, IL

1855: Aaron Mercer & Miss Ann E. Stoven, m. 24 May 1855, Daniel Bagley, M.G [Marion County Marriage Records File #189 p.49]

1860: Briggs, Josephine County, Oregon, June 18, 1860; Aaron Mercer, 34, farmer, \$2000 \$1000, OH; A.E., 20, housekeeper, Eng; M.J., 4, OR; W.H., 3, OR; M.A., 1, OR

1870: Seattle, King County, Washington, June 25, 1870; Aaron Mercer, 44, farmer, \$0 \$560, OH; Ann E., 31, housewife, Eng; Martha J., 14, OR; Wm M., 12, OR; Mary A., 10, OR; Frances M., 8, OR; Eliza A., 6, WT; Jno D., 4, WT; Lizzie M., 1, WT [+numerous boarders]

1880: South Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 14 & 15, 1880; Aaron Mercer, 52, farmer, OH VA VA; Ann E., 41, wife, keeps house, Eng Eng Eng; Eliza A., 16, dau, at home, WT OH Eng; J.D., 14, son, at home, WT OH Eng; Lissie M., 12, dau, at home, WT OH Eng; Asa S., 6, son, at home, WT OH Eng; Luther, 4, son, at home, WT OH Eng

1900: Fulton, King County, Washington, June 13, 1900; Aaron Mercer, head, Jun 1824, 75, m-45yrs, OH OH OH, farmer; Ann E., wife, Apr 1840, 60, m-45yrs, 11-9, Eng Eng Eng; William H., son, Nov 1857, 42, s, OR OH Eng, farmer; Asa S., son, Apr 1875, 25, s, WA OH Eng,

farmer; Luther, son, May 1877, 23, m-1yrs, WA OH Eng, farmer; Oliver G., son, May 1880, 20, s, WA OH Eng, farmer

1903: 20 Jan Probate #4711 filed in King County, Washington

## Passing of Pioneers

Aaron Mercer of Seattle, one of the pioneers who crossed the plains 60 years ago, died there yesterday.

Thomas Mercer, an elder brother of Aaron Mercer, achieved distinction early in the history of Seattle, partly by bringing to the Pacific coast a shipload of young women who taught the pioneer schools and made the early homes of the territory. Many of these women still live on Puget Sound and recall distinctly their long voyage around Cape Horn. Thomas died in 1898. The principal island in Lake Washington is known as Mercer Island because of the residence there of the Mercer family.

Aaron Mercer leaves a wife and nine children. The daughters are Mrs. William Jordan, whose home is in eastern Washington; Mrs. J. W. McAllister of South Park, Mrs. J. W. Ferringer of Adams, Or., and Mrs. M. Russell of Seattle. The sons are W. H., A. S., A. L., O. C., and J. D. Mercer, all of whom live in Seattle except J. D. Mercer, whose home is in Central Point, Ore.

With Mr. Mercer when he left Ohio in 1832 were Dexter Horton, Daniel Bagley, William A. Shoudy, later of Ellettsburg, and Thomas Mercer. The party went direct to Oregon, but the members all finally made homes for themselves in Washington territory. Mr. Mercer's first wife died not long after reaching Salem. In 1834 he married Ann Stoven in that place, Rev. Daniel Bagley performing the ceremony. In 1834 he moved with a large family to King county and lived for a time on the Duwamish river. He took a claim on the eastern shore of Lake Washington, on Mercer slough, which was named after him.

[Olympia Daily Recorder, Olympia, Washington, Thursday, November 20, 1902 p.3]

# **ANOTHER PIONEER GONE**

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**Aaron Mercer Passes Away at  
Providence Hospital.**

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**Suffered a Slight Injury Last Week  
and in His Old Age the  
Shock Proved  
Fatal.**

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In the death of Mr. Aaron Mercer at Providence Hospital this morning another name has been added to the roll of pioneers of this state who have passed away. For more than fifty years Mr. Mercer has made the Northwest his home. He was known by every old resident of this part of the country.

For five years Mr. Mercer was an invalid. Last week he fell at his home in South Park and broke a bone in his hip. He was taken at once to Providence Hospital, but the shock caused by the accident proved too great for a man of his years to overcome and he grew weaker until death relieved him early today.

Mr. Mercer was born in Ohio June 23, 1826, therefore being a little more than 76 years old at his death. He was a member of a large family, one of whom was Judge Thomas Mercer, one of the founders of the City of Seattle. Judge Mercer died here in May, 1898. In 1840 the Mercer family moved to Bureau County, Illinois.

In the early part of 1852 an immigrant train started from Princeton, Ill., for the Territory of Oregon. In it were Thomas Mercer, Daniel Bagley, Dexter Horton, William H. Shoudy and Aaron Mercer, all of whom are well known in this city. These sturdy pioneers passed through the State of Iowa and crossed the Missouri River at a point where now stands the City of Omaha, which at that time was the very border between civilization and savagery. They followed the north bank of the Platte River to a point near its source and there crossed the Rocky Mountains, all the way undergoing trials and hardships that the men themselves alone know. Sickness and desolation did not impede the great task of these men. They kept on going until their destination was reached.

#### **Down the Columbia.**

From South Pass in the Rockies, which they reached on July 4, 1852, these men proceeded by way of Fort Hall, Soda Springs, Bear and Green Rivers, on the north side of Snake River, through the valley to the Columbia River. They went down the Columbia in crude crafts to the Big Sandy country a few miles east of Portland. There they resumed wagon travel and in a few days reached Salem, Ore.

During that winter the men and their families remained in Salem. The next spring Thomas Mercer and Mr. Horton came to Seattle. Aaron Mercer remained in Oregon. Not long afterward his first wife died. In 1854 he married Miss Ann Stover, who survives him. The wedding ceremony was performed by Rev. Daniel Bagley, now living in Seattle, and one of its best known citizens. From Salem the deceased went to the southern part of Oregon and engaged in gold mining, farming and trading.

In 1864 he moved with a large family to the State of Washington, settling near the race track, south of this city. He took a claim on the eastern shore of Lake Washington on Mercer Slough, which was named for him. Mercer Street in this city was named for Judge Thomas Mercer.

Mr. Mercer with his family moved to Eastern Washington where, at Ellensburg and other points, he was engaged for a number of years in the practice of medicine. He showed much skill as a nurse and was sent for for miles to attend to difficult cases. While at that time he held no physician's degree, he was called "Doctor," because of his great successes in handling cases in his own simple methods. It resulted in his actively engaging in the practice.

#### **Lived at South Park.**

Twenty years ago Mr. Mercer settled on a valuable farm six miles south of Renton. Elliott Station, on the Columbia & Puget Sound Railroad, is on that farm. Much of it has since been divided among his children. Old age and infirmities forced him to give up the farm and he moved to South Park, where he lived for the last few years.

Mr. Mercer leaves a widow, four daughters and five sons. They are Mrs. William Jordan, of Eastern Washington; Mrs. J. W. McAllister, of South Park; Mrs. J. W. Perringer, of Adams, Oregon; Mrs. M. Russell, of Seattle; W. H. Mercer, A. S. Mercer, A. L. Mercer, O. S. Mercer, all of Seattle, and J. D. Mercer, of Central Point, Oregon.

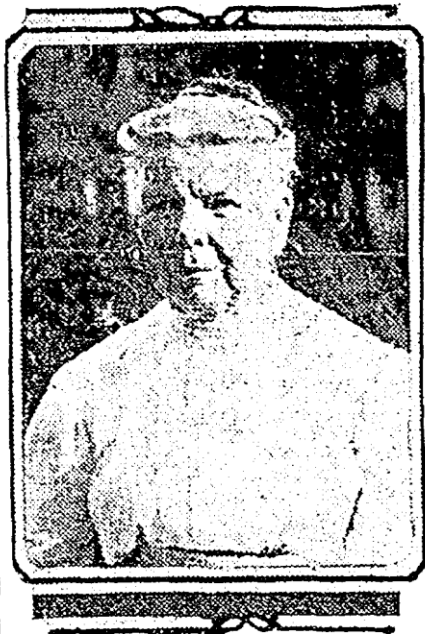
The date for the funeral has not been set. The body is now at Bonney & Stewart's.

Mr. Mercer was loved by all who knew him. His death is therefore a distinct loss. He was charitable always and willing to help whenever he could. He has been known to drive for miles to give some assistance to a sick person when he himself was ill. He was one of those sturdy pioneers from whom have sprung the men who do things; those who develop a country and make it what it is. Among the old pioneers there perhaps was not a man who was better known than Mr. Mercer.

The funeral of Aaron Mercer, a pioneer of King County, who died at his home in South Park, was held yesterday afternoon at the funeral parlors of Ronney & Stewart. Rev. T. P. Revelle conducted the services, which were very conspicuous by their simplicity. Many of the deceased's old-time friends were in attendance. The pallbearers were G. A. Hill, James Skene, Charles McAllister, Michael Kelly, W. W. Waddell and H. Somey. Burial was in Mount Pleasant cemetery.

[The Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, Washington, Saturday, November 22, 1902 p.7]

**M**RS. ANN STOVEN MERCER, one of Seattle's oldest pioneers, who died Tuesday at her residence in this city.



## SEATTLE PIONEER CALLED BY DEATH

Mrs. Ann S. Mercer, One of  
City's Oldest Residents,  
Dies at Her Residence.

CAME HERE FROM OREGON

**T**HE passing of Mrs. Ann Stoven Mercer, widow of Aaron Mercer, takes one of the oldest pioneers of Seattle and the state of Washington. Mrs. Mercer died Tuesday at her home at 8103 Eighth Ave. C., at the age of 79.

Aaron Mercer was in the group of the hardy pioneers that came across the continent in the same wagon train that carried Aaron Mercer, John Pike, Thomas Mercer, Rev. Daniel Bagley, Dexter Horton, William H. Shoudy and John Rosnacle, all of whom helped make history in Seattle. At that time Mrs. Mercer, then Ann Stoven, also crossed the country in a similar wagon train. It was in 1852 that the little band of pioneers crossed the mountains and arrived in Oregon. In 1855 Ann Stoven married Aaron Mercer in Salem, Ore., the marriage being performed by the Rev. Mr. Bagley. Soon after the couple went to Southern Oregon, where placer mining was being successfully undertaken.

### Moved to Seattle.

In the early sixties they moved to Seattle. Mr. Mercer first took up a claim on the east shore of Lake Washington on what is now known as Mercer Island and not long afterwards located on a home site on what is now the property of the Denny Clay works. In 1881 Mr. Mercer obtained a tract of land in the Cedar River valley and he and his wife lived there until eighteen years ago, when they moved to South Park, where Mr. Mercer died in 1902.

Mrs. Mercer was the mother of eleven children, eight of whom survive her. She is said to have had more direct descendants than any other woman in King County, forty-four grandchildren and thirty great grandchildren being descended from Mrs. Mercer.

The sons living are: William H. Mercer, Joshua D. Mercer, Oliver G. Mercer, Asa S. Mercer, and Aaron L. Mercer and the daughters, Mrs. Frances McCallister, Mrs. Eliza Perlinger and Mrs. Lizzie Russell.

Funeral services for Mrs. Mercer will be held in the Bonney-Watson chapel Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment will be in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery.

[The Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, Washington, Thursday Evening, October 2, 1919 p.13]

"In 1863, while Seattle was still a rough town of dirt roads and scattered homes, the first settlers began to drift across Lake Washington and claim lands in what is now Bellevue. The first claim is thought to be that of Aaron and Ann Mercer, members of the famous Seattle family, who staked out 80 acres along what is now Mercer Slough. They were living on the property by 1869, the same year that William Meydenbauer, a baker from Seattle, staked out his claim around the bay that would later bear his name." [[A Short History of Bellevue Washington](#)]

Children of Aaron Mercer and Ann Stoven:

1. Martha Jane Mercer
- b. 1856 Oregon
- d. 1902-1919

- m.
- William Jordan
- b.
- d.

1860: Briggs, Josephine County, Oregon, June 18, 1860; Aaron Mercer, 34, farmer, \$2000 \$1000, OH; A.E., 20, housekeeper, Eng; M.J., 4, OR; W.H., 3, OR; M.A., 1, OR



1870: Seattle, King County, Washington, June 25, 1870; Aaron Mercer, 44, farmer, \$0 \$560, OH; Ann E., 31, housewife, Eng; Martha J., 14, OR; Wm M., 12, OR; Mary A., 10, OR; Frances M., 8, OR; Eliza A., 6, WT; Jno D., 4, WT; Lizzie M., 1, WT [+numerous boarders]

2. William Henry Mercer

b. Nov 1857 Oregon

d. 08 Dec 1930

buried [Mount Pleasant Cemetery](#), Seattle, King County, Washington

1860: Briggs, Josephine County, Oregon, June 18, 1860; Aaron Mercer, 34, farmer, \$2000 \$1000, OH; A.E., 20, housekeeper, Eng; M.J., 4, OR; W.H., 3, OR; M.A., 1, OR

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# PIONEER IS DEAD

## William Mercer, 73, Passes On Duvall Ranch

SEATTLE, Dec. 9.—(U.P.)—Several hours elapsed after the death of William Mercer, 73, before authorities today learned that he was the scion of a distinguished family of Seattle pioneers.

Mercer died on his little ranch at Duvall last night, and his body was sent to the county morgue. Then deputy coroners learned that Mercer's father, Aaron Mercer, crossed the plains by oxcart on the epic blazing of the Oregon trail. Mercer island and Mercer avenue were named for the pioneer.

Further investigation disclosed that William Mercer, the eldest son, who was unmarried and lived alone, had four brothers, A. S. Mercer and A. L. Mercer, of Seattle; O. G. Mercer, of Montesano, and J. D. Mercer, of Hood River, Ore.; and two sisters, Mrs. L. M. Russell and Mrs. J. W. McAllister, of Seattle.

His brothers and sisters did not know of his death until authorities had learned his identity and notified them.

# **WILL MERCER, PIONEER SON, PASSES AWAY**

**Member of Noted Northwest  
Family Meets Death Alone  
on Farm at Age of 73.**

William Mercer, 73 years old, native of the Pacific Northwest and member of the Puget Sound pioneer family whose name Mercer Island and Mercer Avenue, Seattle, honor, died yesterday all alone on his farm near Duval, where he moved from Seattle twenty years ago.

The ancient rancher was the eldest son of Aaron Mercer, who came west by covered wagon with other prominent Seattle pioneers, among whom were Dexter Horton and Clarence B. (Pop) Bagley. A native of Josephine, Ore., he first came to Seattle in 1859, residing here until going to his farm near Duvall. He was unmarried.

Surviving are four brothers, A. L. and A. S. Mercer of Seattle; O. G. Mercer of Montesano, and J. D. Mercer of Hood River, Ore., and two sisters, Mrs. L. M. Russell and Mrs. J. W. McAllister of Seattle.

Unaware of the distinguished lineage of the modest farmer, his body was sent first to the King County Morgue. For several hours it lay there until coroner's deputies discovered who he was. Then a brother, A. L. Mercer, 205 Summit Ave. N., was notified and had the pioneer's body taken to the Home Undertaking Company. Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

[The Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, Washington, Tuesday, December 9, 1930 p.3]

- 3. Mary A. Mercer
- b. 1859 Oregon
- d.

1860: Briggs, Josephine County, Oregon, June 18, 1860; Aaron Mercer, 34, farmer, \$2000 \$1000, OH; A.E., 20, housekeeper, Eng; M.J., 4, OR; W.H., 3, OR; M.A., 1, OR

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4. Frances Marion Mercer

b. 17 Feb 1861 Salem, Marion County, Oregon

d. 20 Feb 1955 Seattle, King County, Washington

buried [Lake View Cemetery](#), Seattle, King County, Washington

m.

John Whitfield McCallister

b. 05 Aug 1858 Knoxville, Knox County, Illinois

d. 12 Aug 1929 Seattle, King County, Washington

buried [Lake View Cemetery](#), Seattle, King County, Washington

s/o John Smith McCallister and Mehitable A. Manley

1870: Seattle, King County, Washington, June 25, 1870; Aaron Mercer, 44, farmer, \$0 \$560, OH; Ann E., 31, housewife, Eng; Martha J., 14, OR; Wm M., 12, OR; Mary A., 10, OR; Frances M., 8, OR; Eliza A., 6, WT; Jno D., 4, WT; Lizzie M., 1, WT [+numerous boarders]

Children:

[Grace E McCallister Miller \(1881 - 1913\)\\*](#)

[Thomas Mercer McCallister \(1881 - 1951\)\\*](#)

[Olive Frances McCallister Van Blaricom \(1883 - 1954\)\\*](#)

[John Marion McCallister \(1893 - 1951\)\\*](#)

[Joy Roenna McCallister Wentworth, Prentice, Bladon, Campbell, Carter \(1902 - 1991\)\\*](#)

5. Eliza Ann Mercer

b. 14 Dec 1863

d. 23 Mar 1929

buried [Oakesdale Cemetery](#), Oakesdale, Whitman County, Washington

m. 28 Dec 1882 King County, Washington

John Wesley Peringer

b. 30 Apr 1856

d. 14 Jun 1930

buried [Oakesdale Cemetery](#), Oakesdale, Whitman County, Washington

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1880: South Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 14 & 15, 1880; Aaron Mercer, 52, farmer, OH VA VA; Ann E., 41, wife, keeps house, Eng Eng Eng; Eliza A., 16, dau, at

home, WT OH Eng; J.D., 14, son, at home, WT OH Eng; Lissie M., 12, dau, at home, WT OH Eng; Asa S., 6, son, at home, WT OH Eng; Luther, 4, son, at home, WT OH Eng

Children:

[Edith Easter Peringer Kirby \(1892 - 1977\)](#)

6. Joshua D. Mercer

b. 1866 Washington

d.

1870: Seattle, King County, Washington, June 25, 1870; Aaron Mercer, 44, farmer, \$0 \$560, OH; Ann E., 31, housewife, Eng; Martha J., 14, OR; Wm M., 12, OR; Mary A., 10, OR; Frances M., 8, OR; Eliza A., 6, WT; Jno D., 4, WT; Lizzie M., 1, WT [+numerous boarders]

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7. Lissie May Mercer

b. 05 May 1869 King County, Washington

d. 17 Nov 1947 Seattle, King County, Washington

buried [Lake View Cemetery](#), Seattle, King County, Washington

m. 28 Dec 1887 King County, Washington

Isman Monroe Russell

b. May 1858 Oregon

d. 1926 California

buried [Lake View Cemetery](#), Seattle, King County, Washington

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**Russell, Lissie M.—78, 5716 Keystone |  
Pl., November 17.**

[The Seattle Times, Seattle, Washington, Thursday, November 20, 1947 p. 25]

Children:

[Dorothy R Russell Graham \(1903 - 1983\)\\*](#)

8. Asa Shinn Mercer

b. 25 Apr 1875 Washington

d. 23 Feb 1944 Seattle, King County, Washington

buried [Mount Pleasant Cemetery](#), Seattle, King County, Washington

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**M E R C E R — Asa S., February 22,  
brother of Mrs. Francis McCallister,  
Mrs. Lissie M. Russell of Seattle,  
J. N. of Unalaska, Aaron of Se-  
attle and O. G. of Elma. Remains  
at Home Undertaking Company.  
Announcement later.**

[The Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, Washington, Thursday, February 24, 1944 p.25]

9. Aaron Luther Mercer

b. May 1877 Washington

d. 1951 Seattle, King County, Washington

m. 28 Jul 1903 King County, Washington

Pauline Vallrath

b.

d.

1880: South Eugene, Lane County, Oregon, June 14 & 15, 1880; Aaron Mercer, 52, farmer, OH VA VA; Ann E., 41, wife, keeps house, Eng Eng Eng; Eliza A., 16, dau, at home, WT OH Eng; J.D., 14, son, at home, WT OH Eng; Lissie M., 12, dau, at home, WT OH Eng; Asa S., 6, son, at home, WT OH Eng; Luther, 4, son, at home, WT OH Eng

10. Unknown Mercer

b.

d.

11. Oliver Garfield Mercer

b. 04 Mar/May 1880 Eugene, Lane County, Oregon

d. 19 May 1960 Sequim, Clallam County, Washington

buried [Satsop Cemetery](#), Satsop, Grays Harbor County, Washington

m1. 29 May 1901 King County, Washington

Dora Ethel Cummings

b. Jul 1881

d. 25 Aug 1951 Olympia, Thurston County, Washington

buried [Satsop Cemetery](#), Satsop, Grays Harbor County, Washington

m2. 17 Oct 1952 King County, Washington

Lydia May McIntire

b.

d.

Children:

[Walter Edgar Mercer \(1902 - 1999\)\\*](#)

[Gertrude J. Mercer Lawwill \(1904 - 1976\)\\*](#)

[Irene Alice Mercer Frohboes \(1914 - 1974\)\\*](#)