

Dexter Horton
Pioneer of 1852
compiled by Stephenie Flora
oregonpioneers.com

Dexter Horton

b. 15 Nov 1825 New York

d. 28 Jul 1904 Seattle, King County, Washington

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

s/o Darius Horton and Hannah Olmstead

m1. 19 Dec 1844 Lee County, Illinois

Hannah Eliza Shoudy

b. 14 May 1828 New York

d. 30 Dec 1871 Seattle, King County, Washington

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

d/o Israel Houdy and Rebecca Hemstreet

m2. 30 Sep 1873

Caroline Eliza Parsons

b. 29 Sep 1836 Connecticut

d. 24 Mar 1878 Seattle, King County, Washington

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

m3. 1881 Seattle, King County, Washington

Arabella Caroline Aagard

b. 1827 New York

d. 1914 Seattle, King County, Washington

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

1850: Shabbona Twp, DeKalb County, Illinois, October 18, 1850, Dexter Horton, 26, farmer, \$1000, NY; Hannah, 23, NY; Rebecca, 2, IL; Benson Upstead, 9, IL; John Price, 4, IL

1860: King County, Washington, August 6, 1860; 34, owner shop, \$2500 \$5000, NY; H. E., 30, NY; Rebecca, 11, IL; M.B. Loper, 38, m, black, cook, \$0 \$80, CDJ

1870: Seattle, King County, Washington, June 16, 1870; Dexter Horton, 47, banker, \$14000 \$3000, NY; H. E., 42, housewife, NY; Nettie, 7, WT

1880: Seattle, King County, Washington, June 8, 1880; Dexter Horton, 55, banker, NY; Nettie H., 17, dau, at home, WT NY; Caroline A., 2, WT (+ 2 servants and 1 roomer)

1900: Seattle, King County, Washington, June 21, 1900; Dexter Horton, head, Nov 1825, m-age 18yrs, NY Mass CT, retired banker; Mrs, wife, 1827, NY CT CT; Caroline, dau, Feb 1878, 22, s, WT NY CT, student; (+servant and 1 boarder)



DEATH COMES TO AGED PIONEER CITIZEN

Dexter Horton Passes Away
From Heart Disease at
His Home.

Had Lived in Seattle for More
Than Half a
Century.

Engaged in Prayer With His
Family When Stricken
Down.

DEXTER HORTON, the pioneer banker, and a resident of Seattle since 1853, dropped dead of heart disease at 9 o'clock last evening in his home at the corner of Seneca Street and Third Avenue. He was engaged in prayer with his family and a number of old friends at the time he was stricken and passed away a few moments later, before medical assistance reached the house. He leaves a widow and two grown daughters. The death of Dexter Horton comes as a great shock to the community in which he had lived for half a century, and toward the upbuilding of which he so greatly contributed.

Mr. Horton was 78 years of age, but was in active and seemingly good health until the day and hour of his death. He visited his office yesterday and spoke to a number of friends whom he met upon the streets, appearing to be in his usual good spirits. It was while the others were singing a hymn last evening that the aged pioneer's head drooped and he sank back in his chair unconscious. A number of physicians were hastily summoned by telephone, but their services were not needed by the time they arrived.

Founded the First Bank.

Mr. Horton was the founder of the first bank in the State of Washington, the bank which still bears his name. He was the owner of the New York Block and the Occidental Hotel Block, as well as the two lots upon which his Third Avenue home stands, and many other parcels of property in the city and county. The estate which he leaves is estimated to be of the value of \$1,500,000.

Mr. Horton was born in New York State. He came to Seattle from Princeton, Ill., in company with his wife and daughter, in April, 1853. He was accompanied by Thomas Mercer, Aaron Mercer, Rev. Daniel Bagley, John Pike, William H. Shoudy and other well-known pioneers.

Arriving here, young Horton went to work for W. N. Bell, getting out piles and sawlogs and making shingles. He then worked at Port Townsend and Port Gamble, but returned to Seattle to stay in the summer of 1854, becoming an employe of the Yesler mill at the foot of Mill Street, now Yesler Way. He also drove a team for Thomas Mercer while Mercer was clearing land near Lake Union, and did general teaming for the residents of the then little village of Seattle.

Built the Wagon Road.

In 1855 he was one of the party to build the wagon road across the mountains to Eastern Washington. He formed a business partnership with David Phillips, establishing stores at Seattle and at Olympia. In 1861 this partnership was dissolved, Mr. Phillips taking the Olympia store.

Mr. Phillips, Horton and Phillips established the banking firm of Phillips, Horton & Co., with a capital of \$50,000. Mr. Phillips died two years later. A. A. Denny took his place, and the name of the institution was changed to that of Dexter Horton & Co. In 1873 there was incorporated the Seattle and Walla Walla Railroad Company, with a capital stock of \$10,000,000, the trustees being Dexter Horton, J. M. Colman, J. J. McGilvra, James McNaught, Henry L. Yesler, Angus Mackintosh, A. A. Denny, John Collins and Franklin Matthias. This road was built as far as the coal fields and is now known as the Columbia & Puget Sound.

A Deputy Sheriff.

At the time of the Chinese riots in 1886 Mr. Horton was one of the deputy sheriffs and carried a rifle in the defense of law and order in the community. Of late years his large business interests occupied all of his time. He maintained offices in the New York Block.

One of Mr. Horton's daughters is at present in the East, the other daughter and the wife being with the pioneer at the time of his death. He leaves in the family home a sister, Julius Horton, his brother, lives at Georgetown, and two nephews, Dr. George M. Horton and Charles Horton, live in this city.

Few men had a larger circle of friends in this city than Mr. Horton, and his death, even at his advanced age, has caused a profound sensation and the most sincere sorrow. He was a man of great physical activity and of most exemplary habits. The success of his many business ventures in this city was due to his unusual ability as a financier. He gave liberally to charity. He was a favorite not only with his pioneer associates, but with the younger generation, whom he often entertained with stories of early days on the Sound and of his thrilling experiences in the Indian wars of 1855-56.

The body will lie in state at the residence on Saturday afternoon from 2 to 4 o'clock, at which time all those who desire may view it. The funeral will take place Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the residence. It will be private. The burial will be in Lake View cemetery. A special request has been made that no flowers be contributed.

LOCAL CHARITIES REMEMBERED

Orphans' Home and Y. M. C.
A. Beneficiaries of Dexter
Horton.

Provision Made for Family
and Eastern Theological
School.

Under the terms of a will made in November, 1903, which Judge Albertson admitted to probate this morning as the last testament of the late Dexter Horton, the local institutions that will receive bequests are the Orphan's Home, under the auspices of the Ladies' Relief Society of Seattle, which is given \$10,000 in cash, and the Young Men's Christian Association, which is left \$5,000 in cash to be used for library purposes solely. Both institutions have an interest in legacies left to some of the heirs which, it is provided, shall revert to them. The will is a lengthy document naming a long list of relatives as beneficiaries. The estate is roughly estimated as worth \$1,500,000.

To his wife Dexter Horton leaves the family residence and the larger part of its furnishings. She is also to be paid an annuity during her life of \$3,000 in monthly installments of \$250 each. All the expenses of maintaining the family home, keeping it in repair, paying insurance and other like bills are to be paid out of the general estate. Besides these bequests, the wife is to receive \$20,000 in cash as her separate estate.

Distribution of Cash.

His daughter, Caroline E. Horton, is to be given \$100,000 in cash as her separate property, with the proviso that if she marries before the legacy is paid the executors shall, at once pay her \$5,000 and deduct this amount from the legacy. Besides this amount she is to be paid during her life \$50 per month for living expenses and \$20 per month for pocket money. Half of the late capitalist's library is bequeathed to this daughter. His other daughter, who is the wife of Rev. W. G. Jones, of Everett, is given \$100,000 in cash and the other half of the library.

The executors are ordered to set aside \$100,000 into three equal parts, which they shall invest in good, safe interest-bearing securities. These investments are to be designated as "A," "B" and "C." The interest accruing from "A" and part of the principal, if the executors shall deem the interest insufficient, are to be used for the maintenance, sup-

port and education of Mr. Horton's granddaughter, Ida E. Briggs, who is the daughter of his deceased daughter, Rebecca Howard Briggs. After the death of this granddaughter all of the unexpended principal, together with the accumulated interest, is to be paid to the Methodist Protestant University of Kansas City, Mo.

For the maintenance, support and education of the grandson, Alfred Briggs, of Seattle, the executors are instructed to use the interest accruing from B, and some of the principal if necessary. If this beneficiary should die leaving children the remaining principal and interest is to go to them. Otherwise the remainder goes to the Orphans' Home, under the auspices of the Ladies' Relief Society of Seattle.

Many Provided For.

The interest from the third portion, C, and as much of the principal as may be necessary is to be paid to his granddaughter, Laura Briggs Trethewey, the wife of Samuel Trethewey. If any children survive her the balance of this portion, both interest and principal, is to be given them. If no children survive her, but if her husband does, he is to be paid \$2,500 out of the principal and the rest is to become part of the residuary estate.

The executors are instructed to hold the New York Block and the Seattle Building, formerly occupied by the Occidental Hotel, as one parcel, and whenever they should deem it necessary to sell this property they are urged to sell the two corners as one piece. After the decease of the wife all the residuary estate left after paying all the bequests and legacies, is to be divided into two equal parts, one of which shall go to his daughter, Nettie Jones, and the other to his daughter Caroline Horton. If any children are living who are the descendants of his deceased daughter Rebecca Horton Briggs, the residuary estate, instead of being divided into two parts, will be divided into three: the two daughters each to have one of the thirds, and the other part to be divided equally among the descendants of the deceased daughter Rebecca.

The Methodist Protestant University of Kansas City will receive \$10,000 in cash, which shall be used for the education of young theological students whom the faculty deems to be worthy and who would otherwise be unable to complete their education. To the board of foreign missions of the Methodist Protestant Church of Summerfield, N. C., the sum of \$5,000 is left, to be used in its work in Japan. The board of home missions of the Methodist Protestant Church of West Lafayette, O., also receives a bequest of \$5.00 cash. For the care of his grave in Lakeview Cemetery \$150 is left to the cemetery association as trustee to be invested, the interest to be used in the care of the grave.

Penalty for Contesting Will.

If any heir or legatee should contest the will, all the expense incurred by the litigation arising from the contest is to be deducted from the share left by the testator to the contestant.

Besides the amounts already mentioned, the following relatives receive the following bequests: Howard Dexter Horton of Georgetown, a nephew, \$500 in cash and Mr. Horton's gold watch; Charles E. Horton, grandnephew, \$10,000 in cash; Dexter Allen Armstrong, the grandson of the testator's brother-in-law, John Shoudy of Ellensburg, \$500 in cash when he reaches his majority; Anna Eliza Hammond, daughter of

Catherine Shoudy Frear of Everett, \$1,000 in cash.

During the lifetime of Harriet Martin, the sister of Dexter Horton, the will provides that she shall live with Mrs. Horton in the family residence and be treated in the same manner as during Mr. Horton's lifetime. His two daughters, Caroline E. Horton and Nettie Horton Jones, together with Rev. W. G. Jones of Everett and the testator's grandnephew, Charles E. Horton, are named as the executors of the will. Frank P. Lewis appeared as the attorney for the estate in probating the document.

[The Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, Washington, Friday Evening, August 5, 1904 p. 9]

Children of Dexter Horton and Hannah Shoudy:

1. Rebecca Horton

b. 1848 Illinois

d. 1875 Seattle, King County, Washington

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

m.

Benjamin Franklin Briggs

b. Jul 1832 Freetown, Bristol County, Massachusetts

d. 17 Aug 1902 Seattle, King County, Washington

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

m2. 1877 Sarah Griffiths

1850: Shabbona Twp, DeKalb County, Illinois, October 18, 1850, Dexter Horton, 26, farmer, \$1000, NY; Hannah, 23, NY; Rebecca, 2, IL; Benson Upstead, 9, IL; John Price, 4, IL

1860: King County, Washington, August 6, 1860; 34, owner shop, \$2500 \$5000, NY; H. E., 30, NY; Rebecca, 11, IL; M.B. Loper, 38, m, black, cook, \$0 \$80, CDJ

1870: Seattle, King County, Washington, June 16, 1870, B.F. Briggs, 34, clerk in bank,
Mass; Rebecca, 22, housewife, IL; Ida, 2/12, WT

FUNERAL SERVICE HELD

**Last Rites Over Remains of
B. F. Briggs.**

**Was One of the Best-Known Pio-
neer Business Men of the City.
—Lived Here Thirty-
five Years.**



The Late B. F. Briggs.

The funeral services of the late B. F. Briggs, who died Sunday morning at 1 o'clock, were held this afternoon at 2 o'clock at the family residence, at 603 Spring Street. Interment followed in Lakeview Cemetery.

Mr. Briggs was one of the prominent business men and one of the pioneer residents of Seattle. He came to the city when it was but a small town, in 1867, and has been identified with the growth and development of one of the largest institutions in the city, the Dexter Horton Bank. He was connected with that institution for many years and later, until the time of his death, was manager and private secretary for Dexter Horton and had charge of Mr. Horton's other large business interests. He leaves a wide circle of friends among the business men of the city.

Mr. Briggs was 70 years of age, having been born at Freetown, Mass., in 1832. While a young man he caught the Pacific Coast fever and came to San Francisco at the age of 25. He lived there for some years, and, as stated, came to Seattle about 1867.

When the Dexter Horton banking institution was founded in this city, Mr. Briggs became the bank's first cashier. He remained in that capacity for eighteen years. About that time Mr. Horton withdrew from the bank and took Mr. Briggs with him. Mr. Briggs became his private secretary and manager of Mr. Horton's large business interests. He remained as such until the day of his death.

A widow, six sons and two daughters survive Mr. Briggs. All are residents of Seattle, except one daughter, Miss Ida Briggs, who lives in Tacoma. The other daughter is Mrs. L. Thewey, of this city. Of his sons, Franklin Briggs is a jeweler on Madison Street; Clarence is a student in a Portland dental college; Herbert is a student in the Seattle High School, while Clyde, Alfred and Clifford are all at home.

The funeral services were conducted by Rev. A. Atwood, who united Mr. and Mrs. Briggs in marriage in this city twenty-six years ago. He was assisted by Rev. T. P. Revell, of the First Methodist Protestant Church. A short service was held at the grave, following that at the residence.

The pallbearers were Eben Smith, Griffith Davies, N. H. Latimer, R. H. Denny, David Kellogg and E. B. Price. The funeral arrangements were in charge of Butterworth & Sons.

[The Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, Washington, Wednesday, August 20, 1902 p.2]

WILL OF B. F. BRIGGS

**Filed for Probate Yesterday Afternoon—
Was Written by Mr. Briggs
Himself.**

The last will and testament of B. F. Briggs, who died last week, was filed for probate yesterday afternoon. The will was executed in May, 1901, and was written by Mr. Briggs himself. The only thing his lawyer had to do with it was to sign as a witness. The inventory filed at the same time shows that Mr. Briggs was well fixed financially. He owned several flats at Sixth and Spring Street, besides other Seattle property. He also owned 184 acres of land on the east shore of Lake Washington. He advises his executors, who are his sons and widow, to hold this property for several years, as when the United States builds the canal it will increase largely in value, according to his then opinion.

The estate is to be administered without the intervention of the courts as there are no creditors.

[The Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, Washington, Wednesday, August 26, 1902 p.8]

2. Alfred Horton

b. 1856

d. Jul 1859 Seattle, King County, Washington

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

3. Nettie Hannah Horton

b. 18 Feb 1863 Seattle, King County, Washington

d. 20 Jul 1928 Seattle, King County, Washington

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

m.

Rev. William Green Jones

b. 1863

d. 1935

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

Mrs. W. G. Jones, Dexter Horton's Daughter, Dies

SEATTLE lost one of its outstanding native daughters this forenoon when Mrs. Nettie Horton Jones, eldest daughter of the late Dexter Horton, Seattle pioneer, died at her home, 521 16th Ave. N., at 8 o'clock.

Mrs. Jones was born on February 18, 1863, in the Horton home at Second Avenue and Cherry Street where the Dexter Horton National Bank Building now stands and she was a member of that small band, Seattle's first "younger set."

She is survived by her husband, the Rev. William G. Jones, retired Baptist minister; her daughter, Miss Myrtle H. Jones, and by her sister, Miss Caroline E. Horton, all of Seattle.

Private funeral services will be conducted at the grave in Lake View Cemetery tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock with the Rev. J. F. Watson, secretary of the Baptist Conference and a lifelong friend of Mr. Jones, in charge.

[The Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, Washington, Friday, July 20, 1928 p. 1]

NETTIE HORTON JONES FUNERAL RITES TODAY

Services for Daughter of Seattle
Pioneer Are Set at Lake
View Cemetery.

PPRIVATE funeral services for Mrs. Nettie Horton Jones, oldest daughter of the late Dexter Horton, Seattle pioneer, were to be held at the Lake View Cemetery this afternoon with the Rev. J. F. Watson, secretary of the Baptist Conference and lifelong friend of Mr. Jones, officiating.



Mrs. Jones died yesterday morning at her home at 521 16th Ave. N. She was born Mrs. Nettie Horton Jones. February 18, 1863, in the Horton home at Second Avenue and Cherry Street, where the Dexter Horton National Bank Building now stands. She is survived by her husband, the Rev. William G. Jones, retired Baptist minister; her daughter, Miss Myrtle H. Jones, and her sister, Miss Caroline E. Horton, all of Seattle.

[The Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, Washington, Friday, July 21, 1928 p. 2]

Children of Dexter Horton and Caroline Parsons:

1. Caroline Eliza Horton

b. 07 Feb 1878 Seattle, King County, Washington

d. 14 Apr 1950 Seattle, King County, Washington

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

m. never married

BORN.—In Seattle, Feb. 7th, to the
wife of D. Horton, a daughter.

[The Weekly Pacific Tribune, Seattle, Washington, Wednesday, February 13, 1878 p. 4]

HORTON—Caroline E.. April 14.
Cousin of Alice and Helen Penfield.
Mrs. Mable Smith. Millie and
Persis Horton. aunt of Myrtle
Jones. Services at Bonney-Watson
Co.. Tuesday at 3 p. m. Any re-
membrance please make to The
Childrens' Orthopedic Hosnital.

[The Seattle Times, Seattle, Washington, Monday, April 17, 1950 p.30]

Miss Horton Leaves \$1,000 To Orthopedic

Miss Caroline E. Horton, daughter of the late Dexter Horton, pioneer Seattle capitalist, remembered the Children's Orthopedic Hospital and Seattle Historical Society, it was disclosed yesterday when her will was admitted to probate by Superior Judge John A. Frater. Miss Horton, who was 72 years old, died here April 14.

Miss Horton left \$1,000 bequests to the hospital and Historical Society.

The remainder of the estate, estimated at \$100,000, is divided among six cousins, Miss Alice and Miss Helen Penfield, Miss Helen H. Buchanan, Miss Millie and Miss Persis Horton and Mrs. Mable Horton Smith, and a niece, Miss Myrtle Horton Jones.

[The Seattle Times, Seattle, Washington, Friday, April 21, 1950 p.9]