

Mercer Family History

Copy of a Section of "History of the Somonauk United Presbyterian Church" by Jennie E. Patten and Privately Printed in 1928 (Chicago)

David Smith Mercer (1), born in Hookstown, Beaver County Pennsylvania, May 12, 1827, was a son of Robert and Elizabeth (Smith) Mercer and a grandson of Joseph and Comfort (Nottingham) Mercer; married November 14, 1850, Margaret Thornberg, a daughter of James and Nancy (Veasey) Thornberg; born in Beaver Count, Pennsylvania, February 9, 1931; died in November, 1888.

Mr. Mercer was a farmer and he and his wife set up housekeeping in Beaver County, Pennsylvania. They were members of the Service United Presbyterian Church in the same county. In November, 1954, they were visited by a severe stroke of misfortune. Returning from church on Sabbath afternoon, they found that, during their absence, their house had been reduced to ashes by a fire of unknown origin.

The next year, 1855, Mr. Mercer visited Somonauk and bought eighty acres in Clinton township. The following spring he brought his family west and settled on this land. The family united with the Somonauk church and in 1957 Mr. Mercer was elected to the office of ruling elder, which position he filled for many years. He also held many township offices while he lived in Clinton township. In 1892 he removed to Sandwich, where he died July 1, 1905.

Children: Robert James, born 1854; Joseph, born 1856; Thomas, born 1858; John, born 1860; Alvin, born 1861; William Moffett, born 1863; Samuel W., born 1865; Ida B., born 1868; and Jennie, born 1870.

Robert James Mercer (2), born in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, in 1854; married February 1, 1882, Emma Huen. They have one son and three daughters. They have lived for the last forty years in Chicago, Illinois.

Joseph Mercer (2), born in 1856; died October 10, 1922; married in 1882, Lina Elinger, at Odebolt, Iowa. They had one child, who died young. He married second, Sarah Landen, who died September 1922.

Thomas Mercer (2), born in Clinton township in 1858; married, in 1882, Ida Hamlin. He was for many years a farmer, but now resides in Sandwich, where he was postmaster for several years. Children Iona and Myrtle.

John Mercer (2), born January 24, 1860. He is a farmer and owns the homestead; married in 1891, Alice Fisher. They are living in Waterman. Children: Mildred, Raymond and Mary.

Alvin Mercer (2), born in 1861; married in 1884, Rose Didda, at Oak Grove, Iowa. He has been a farmer and an engineer; is living at Berwynm, Illinois. Children: Howard, Ruth, Blanche, Glen, Harold, Grace.

William Moffett Mercer (2), born in 1863; married in 1884 while living at Franklin, Nebraska, Ella Lattin. He is a lawyer living in Aurora, Illinois. Children: Maude, Ivan, Crystal, Mark, Mona, Leora.

Samuel Wallace Mercer (2), born in 1865; died in 1887.

Ida Belle Mercer (2), born in 1868; married Willis Tuttle. They are living in California.

Jennie Mercer (2), born in 1870; married James E. Landen. They are living in California.

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