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**Captain Archibald Chesley Mercer  
Newfoundland Merchant Navy  
World War I**

**Born:** 04 Sep 1894

**Died:** 02 Jul 1933

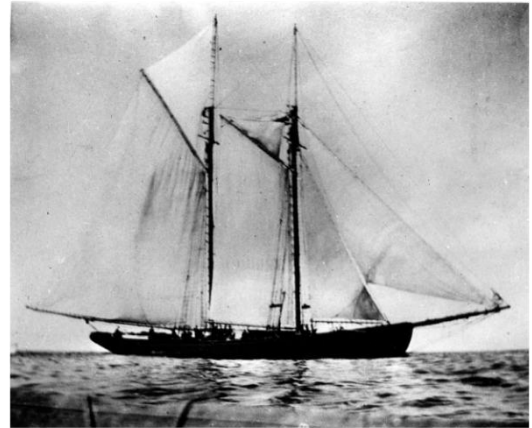
**Place of Birth:** Mercer's Cove, Bay Roberts, Newfoundland

**Parents:** Samuel and Fannie (nee French) Mercer

Archibald (Arch) was the sixth child born to parents Samuel and Fannie of Mercer's Cove, Bay Roberts, Newfoundland. In all the Mercer's would have eleven (11) children between 1883 and 1900.

Arch's father, Samuel, was a fisherman by trade and it is evident that several of the boys in the family gained their love of the sea from him. At least two, Arch and Isaac both became seafaring captains of several vessels.

Arch became a Schooner master at the age of 22. He was Captain of the Clintonia and the Idalia.



**The Schooner Clintonia**

Arch married Esther Jane Morgan of Coley's Point in Brigus on 6 May 1920.

The 1921 Newfoundland general census for Coley's Point shows Arch and Esther at 30 year's of age living with her parents (Isaac and Ellen). He is listed as a Master Mariner and Esther as a Store Keeper. There are no children listed.

During the war, Arch successfully mastered several vessels as part of the Newfoundland Merchant Navy.

After the war, Arch took great pride in being a part of the local Orangeman's Lodge and the GWVA (Great War Veteran's Association – forerunner of the modern day Royal Canadian Legion).

Arch passed away in July 1933 at the early age of 42. He is buried in the Bay Roberts United Church Cemetery. His full obituary can be found on page 3.

Esther remarried to Robert Saunders and passed away in 1965 and is buried in the Gospel Preachers Cemetery in Shearstown, NL.

Below are several clippings from the local weekly newspaper that mention Arch:

*From The Guardian*  
*09 October 1914*

**Idalia Reaches Cupids**

The schr. Idalia, Arch Mercer, master, about which much uneasiness was felt, she being out from Sydney coal laden in the recent big gale, reached Cupids on Monday night. The storm overtook her 30 miles S. E. of St. Pierre on Saturday afternoon, Sept. 26th, at 5 o'clock. The vessel was hove to and remained so for 21 hours. The gale subsided and another one arose on Monday, and again the vessel was hove to, this time for 36 hours, or until Wednesday morning, when the wind dropped. The vessel was then headed for Cupids, but adverse winds compelled the captain to put into Bay Bulls.

*From The Guardian*  
*19 January 1917*

Capt. Arch Mercer, of the Clintonia, and a son of Capt. Isaac Bartlett, captain of another vessel, are coming across the Atlantic at present.

*From The Guardian*  
*24 November 1916*

The schr. Clintonia, Capt. Arch Mercer, is loading cod fish from A. Goddridge & Sons, St. John's, for Europe. Our young fellow-townsmen has been doing good work since he assumed command of the Clintonia, making a number of very quick trips. This has been appreciated by the owners.

## OBITUARY.

### CAPT. ARCH MERCER.

There passed peacefully away at his residence at 8 a.m. on Sunday, July 2nd, Capt. Arch C. Mercer, son of Samuel and Fannie Mercer, Mercer's Cove, in his 42nd year. For several years past he had not enjoyed good health, and during the summer of 1931 underwent a very serious but successful operation at the Grace Hospital, St. John's. Returning home he showed signs of improvement, and was at times able to attend to his business, until this past winter when he contracted beri beri and neuritis, which told on his system, but was always very hopeful of a complete recovery, bearing his sufferings with great patience, for he was not known to murmur or complain. He was converted during the pastorate of Rev. Charles Howse, and when possible was always in his place in church, so when illness compelled him to stay in his home, he was fully resigned to God's Will, and that His ways were best.

At the age of 18 years he began his sea-faring life, sailing to foreign ports with some of the well-known captains of that day. At the age of 22 years he became Master, and during the years of the World War was engaged as a Master Mariner, sailing to South American and Mediterranean ports. These were the days when navigation was made very dangerous by the presence of enemy submarines and other dangers brought about by war conditions, but through it all he always brought his ships through without mishap.

Ill-health caused him to retire from the sea, and he started a general business in the centre of this town, which he carried on with success till his demise.

He was of a very quiet disposition and a good citizen. Left to mourn his passing are his wife, nee Esther Morgan, father and mother, four brothers, Capt. Isaac and Augustus of Vancouver, Snowden of St. John's, and Gilbert at home; and five sisters, Mrs. J. T. Croucher, of Boston, Mass., Mrs. A. E. Mercer and Mrs. Albert Badcock of Bay Roberts, Mrs. Bert Moores, Blackhead, B.D.V., and Mrs. Albert Parsons of Detroit, Mich., besides a large circle of relatives and friends.

Funeral took place on Tuesday, July 4th, at 2.30 p.m. to the United Central Church, Rev. A. R. Baggs officiating. The L. O. Association and the G.W.V.A., of which the deceased was a member, attended in a body to pay their last tribute of respect to a deceased brother. Stores closed from 2 to 4 p.m. as a mark of respect for one of their number.

"For though from out our  
bourne of time and place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to  
face.

When I have crost the bar."

*From The Guardian  
07 July 1933*