



**Charles W. Mercer**

**World War I**

**Royal Newfoundland Regiment**

**Service No. 5114**

Charles was born in Bay Roberts to parents John P. and Susie Mercer in 1892

He would enlist in the Royal Newfoundland Regiment on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1918. According to his enlistment papers, William was 18 years old, 5 feet 7 inches tall, weighted 130 pounds, was a fisherman, Church of England by faith and was fairly well educated, being able to sign the papers himself.

Several things stand out with Charles's service, the first being as with many volunteers, he made provision for an allotment or monies to be taken from their pay and sent home, usually to their mothers. This is the case with Charles who requested that 60 cents per diem (pay period) be

allotted to his mother, Susie Mercer of Bay Roberts.

Secondly, being late in the war, William was assigned "Special Duties" in the home defense at Cape Race and then Bell Island.

William's service lasted 232 days in all. He was discharged on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1918.

The official 1921 Newfoundland census shows Charles, now 22, living at home with his parents.

William married a local girl; Fannie Ellen French and they began married life but not in Newfoundland. Together, they would have five children.

The young family moved to Cambridge Massachusetts for a period of years and then on to Lexington, Mass. William would secure work as a carpenter at the famed Harvard University, a job he held for years. Lexington became home. It was where the Mercer's lived, raised a family and it is where William died and is buried.

William died in 1969 and is buried at Westview Cemetery, Lexington.

The obituary notices for William read as follows:

**MERCER** — Of 9 Eldred st., Lexington, formerly of Cambridge, suddenly Aug. 2, Charles, husband of Fannie E. (French) and father of Harold F. of Wakefield, Harris E. of Billerica, Mrs. Eugene (Doris) Lundberg of Lexington, Mrs. Morley (Vera) Hodder of St. John's Newfoundland, Charles R. and Mrs. Charles (Eva) Taylor, both of Lexington, and Mrs. Roger (Florence) Evans of Billerica. Brother of Mrs. Ellen French of Bay Roberts, Newfoundland, also survived by 13 grandchildren. Services in Grace Methodist Church, Magazine and Perry st., Cambridge, Tuesday, Aug. 5 at 11 a.m. Friends may call at the Short, Williamson and Diamond Funeral Home, 52 Trapelo rd., BELMONT, Sunday 7-9, Monday 2-4 and 7-9. Orange service Sunday 8 p.m. at Plymouth Rock LOL No. 423. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the Grace Methodist Church Memorial Fund would be appreciated. Newfoundland papers please copy.

## Charles Mercer

### Retired Carpenter, 76

LEXINGTON — Charles Mercer, 76, of 9 Eldred st., a retired carpenter for Harvard University, where he worked for 30 years, died yesterday at Mt. Auburn Hospital, Cambridge.

Born at Bay Roberts, Newfoundland, Mr. Mercer had been a resident here for four years. Previously, he resided on Chestnut st., Cambridge.

He was long active in fraternal groups.

Mr. Mercer leaves his wife, Fannie E. (French); three sons, Harold F. of Wakefield, Harris E. of Billerica and Charles R. of Lexington.

He also leaves four daughters, Mrs. Doris Lundberg of Lexington, Mrs. Vera Hodder of St. John's Newfoundland, Mrs. Eva Taylor of Lexington, Mrs. Florence Evans of Billerica; one sister, Mrs. Ellen French of Bay Roberts, Newfoundland, and several grandchildren.

Services will be in Grace Methodist Church, Cambridge, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday. Burial will be in Westview Cemetery, Lexington.