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**William Hood Bradbury  
Merchant Seaman/Mercantile Marine  
World War I**

**Born:** 10 Nov 1888

**Died:** 13 Aug 1948

**Place of Birth:** Bay Roberts, Conception Bay, Newfoundland

**Parents:** John and Elizabeth Emma (nee Hood) Bradbury

William was an only child born to John and Elizabeth Bradbury. His mother was born in Camberwell, England in 1893 and passed away at Bay Roberts in 1924 at the age of just 31.

He was baptized on 04 January 1889 at the Anglican Church, Bay Roberts. He attended school and learned to read and write. William would earn his living on the sea and during World War I was part of the

Mercantile Marine as a merchant seaman. For his service, he was awarded the British Mercantile Medal according to his medal card record held at the British Archives.



The **Mercantile Marine War Medal** was established in 1919 and awarded by the Board of Trade of the United Kingdom to mariners of the British Mercantile Marine (later renamed the Merchant Navy) for service at sea during the First World War.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, 1916, he married Annie Marie Morgan of Port de Garve. William was 27 and Annie 22. Physically, William was 5' 9" tall with brown hair with blue eyes and of slight stature.

A 1920 ships manifest indicates that William was returning from England on board the SS Empress of France, wife Annie is with him. They arrive via Quebec, Canada.

The 1921 Newfoundland general census shows William at the age of 32 occupation mariner, Annie Marie at 27 and children William 3, David 2 and Ralph as less than a year old.

Willam is recorded as having entered the United States in March 1925. He is 36 and working as a carpenter.

There is a second US entry in June 1928 arriving in Boston, again working as a carpenter and indicating that he is a widower at the time.

At the time of the next general census in 1935, the Bradbury family are still living in Bay Roberts (at Beachy Cove). William is now 44, Gertrude, his second wife is 32, Children are William 18, David 17, Ralph 14 and Laura 13.

In December 1946, Willaim was admitted to the Sanatorium on Topsail Road, St. John's, where he died of tuberculosis on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1948.

**Note of Interest:** William's eldest son, William jr following in his father's footsteps would see service later in World War II.