

# WILLIAM DAVIES COMMUNITY

## THE WALLA WALLA JESUS

William W. Davies (1833-1906) was the leader of a Latter Day Saint schismatic group called the Kingdom of Heaven located here from 1867 to 1881.

After leaving Utah under federal protection, Davies told of a series of revelations which instructed him to establish the "Kingdom of Heaven on Earth" near Walla Walla.

Davies and forty of his followers moved here in 1866 and eventually established a communal society on 400 acres in this vicinity.

Davies taught his followers that he was the archangel Michael, who had previously lived as the biblical Adam, Abraham, and David. When his son Arthur was born on February 11, 1868, Davies declared that the infant was the reincarnated Jesus Christ, and the child came to be called "the Walla Walla Jesus."

When Davies' son, David, was born in 1869, he declared him to be God the Father, and it is said that he also declared himself to be the Holy Spirit.

Although Davies claimed the power to raise the dead, the Kingdom of Heaven began to collapse in 1879 when Davies' wife Sarah died of diphtheria, and in 1880, when both Arthur and David, members of the Trinity, died of the same disease.

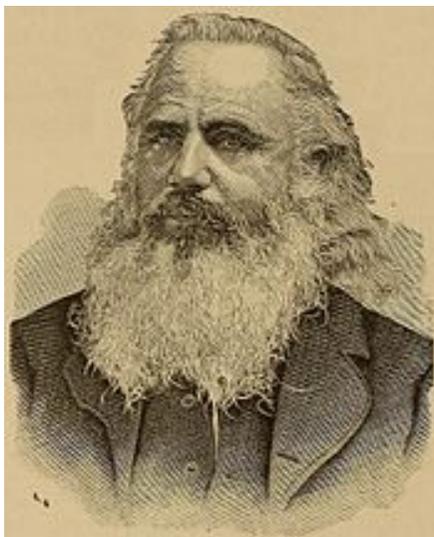
Three of Davies' followers then sued him in Walla Walla County Superior Court for the return of property given to the community, and for fair compensation for their donated work, and won a judgment. As a result, the land on which the community was located was sold at public auction by order of the court, which essentially brought the Kingdom to a close, though some followers never lost faith in Davies and his sons.

At the time of its break-up, there were 43 members of the Davies group. Davies then moved to a camp on Mill Creek, where he briefly attempted to revive his following, but eventually gave up and moved to San Francisco. Davies returned to Walla Walla shortly before his death in 1906; he is buried at the Lyons Cemetery north of Mill Creek.

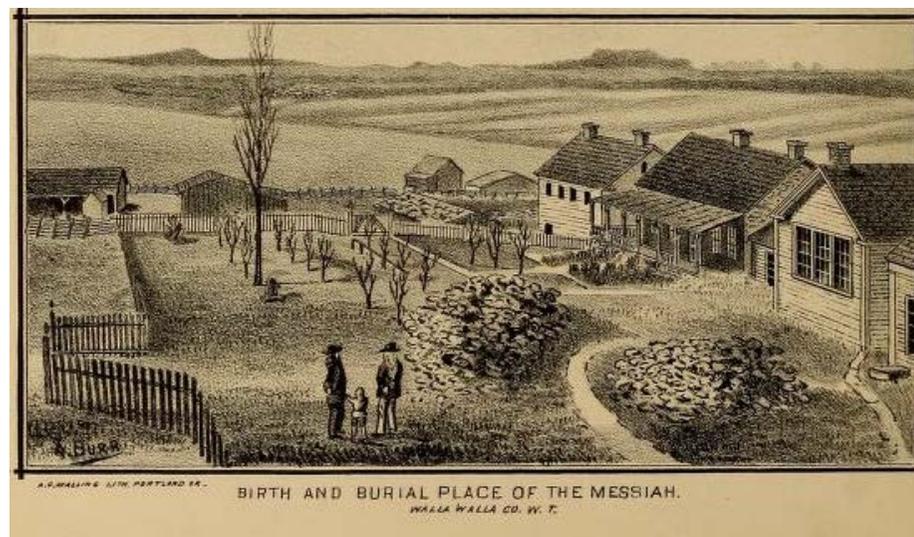
The community's main compound was located just southeast of the current corner of Scenic Loop Road and Mormon Grade. In the compound was the Davies brick residence, as well as a temple or central building for meetings, a school, and a variety of more humble homes.

The main barn for farming operations was just north of the current Scenic Loop Road.

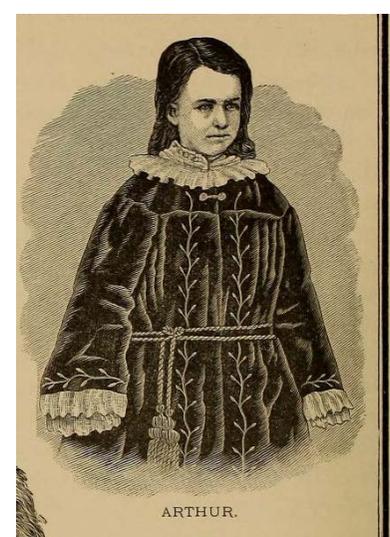
Many of the long-time residents of the Mill Creek area are related to members of the Davies community.



William W. Davies



The Davies Community Compound



The Walla Walla Jesus

**Sign placed by Walla Walla 2020 Historic Research & Plaque Service**

More information on the Davies community is available online at [www.ww2020.net/historic-sites](http://www.ww2020.net/historic-sites).