

## James S. Breast

( - 28 Feb 1920)

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*The Evening Star, March 1, 1920, p. 2*

### J.S. Breast Dies While Attending His Church

#### Lifelong Resident of City Was Employed at Navy Yard for Half Century

James S. Breast, lifelong resident of this city, employe at the Navy yard for half a century and a surviving member of the District of Columbia Volunteer fire department, dropped dead yesterday morning while attending services at the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church, 4th and B streets southeast. He was in his eighty-fifth year.

Mr. Breast, whose health had been excellent, even throughout his late years, left his home, 317 1st street southeast, yesterday morning in seemingly fine health.

He entered the church of which he had been one of the organizers and through his long membership had watched its membership grow into one of the largest in the city, and took his place in the old family pew.



JAMES S. BREAST.

#### *Had Just Finished Prayer*

He had just finished his prayer and was waiting for the services to begin, when he was seen by those near to suddenly lean forward toward the back of the pew in front of him. Upon approaching him it was found that present in the church stated that his death was due to heart trouble.

Mr. Breast had been a continuous resident of this city and with pleasure watched its rapid development. He stated that he had read *The Evening Star* ever since its first issue, in 1852. He often spoke of his pleasant associations with the early owners, A.R. Shepherd, G.W. Adams, S.H. Kauffmann and C.S. Noyes.

#### *Wife Died Ten Years Ago*

He was married to Miss Martha Washington Van Horn, also of this city, who died almost on the eve of the celebration of their golden wedding, ten years ago. Since that time he has lived with his sister-in-law, Miss Annie Van Horn, who is the principal of the Bradley School.

Mr. Breast's father, Alonzo Breast, who also was a lifelong resident of Washington, was employed in the rigging department of the navy yard, and aided in the placing of the statue of "Liberty" on the dome of the Capitol.

#### *Civil War Volunteer*

Mr. Breast served with the District volunteers during the civil war; and at the time of his death was an active member of the G.A.R. He also was a member of Franklin Lodge, Knights of Pythias, and Eastern Lodge, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

He is survived by a son, James O. Breast, who occupies the position of chief clerk at the Lafayette Hotel, and two grandchildren. Funeral services will be held tomorrow afternoon at his residence at 3 o'clock. Interment will be in Congressional cemetery.

*The Washington Evening Star, Tuesday, March 2, 1920*

**Funeral of J.S. Breast**

**Fraternal Orders Attend Services for Former Navy Yard Employee.**

Funeral services for James S. Breast, veteran resident of the District, who died Sunday morning in church, were held this afternoon at 2 o'clock at his residence, 317 1st street southeast. Rev. Dr. Freely Rohrer of the Metropolitan Presbyterian Church officiated. Members of Franklin Lodge, No. 2, Knights of Pythias, and Eastern Lodge, I.O.O.F., were present at the services. Interment was in Congressional Cemetery.

Mr. Breast was eighty-four years old and had been an employee at the navy yard for fifty years up to his retirement, seven years ago. He is survived by his son, James O. Breast and two grandchildren.