

Daniel Edson Brewer

(- 29 Mar 1930)

Brewer, Daniel Edson. On Saturday, March 29, 1930, at John Dickson Home, Daniel Edson Brewer, aged 84. Funeral services at John R. Wright funeral parlors Tuesday, April 1, at 10:30 a.m.

The Evening Star, March 30, 1930, p. A5

D.E. Brewer Dead; Ex-Penny Carrier

Last Survivor of Old-Time Postal System--Entered Service in 1863

Daniel Edson Brewer, the last surviving "penny postman," who served Washington in 1863, died yesterday at the John Dickson Home, 5000 Fourteenth street. He was in his eighty-fifth year. And had resided at the home for the last six years.

"Uncle Dan," as he was affectionately known by a great many people in the postal service, was appointed one of 10 letter carriers, July 1, 1863, by Montgomery Blair, then Postmaster General. The city was divided into postal districts, with a carrier for each. The term "penny postman" was used because the Government paid no salary, each carrier being allowed to collect 1 cent for each letter delivered.

Mr. Brewer had the Government district, and in a horse and buggy covered the area from Seventh street east to and including west of the Treasury, an area embracing the entire Southwest, and which now is interlaced with 16 mail routes. Often he made as much as \$10 a day, a big figure in 1863.

Retiring from the postal service August 20, 1920, Mr. Brewer still retained an interest in the service, and he was credited with having brought about several reforms benefiting employes.

Surviving Mr. Brewer in Washington is Admiral Joseph M. Reeves of the Navy general board, a nephew.

Funeral services for Mr. Brewer will be held Tuesday at 10:30 o'clock at Wright's chapel with interment in Congressional Cemetery.

The Washington Post, March 31, 1930, p. 2

Penny Postman Claimed By Death

D.E. Brewer Succumbs at John Dickson Home; Rites Tomorrow

Daniel E. Brewer, 84 years old, the last surviving "penny postman," who died Saturday at the John Dickson home, 5000 Fourteenth street northwest, will be buried tomorrow morning in Congressional Cemetery, following services at Wright's funeral chapel at 10:30 o'clock.

He was one of ten letter carriers appointed in 1863 by Postmaster General Montgomery Blair. The city was divided into districts with a carrier for each. The term "penny postman" was used because the Government paid no salary but allowed the carrier to collect a penny for each letter delivered.

Mr. Brewer delivered in an area which now embraces the entire southwest section and has sixteen routes. His deliveries were made with a horse and buggy. He retired from the Government service in 1920. He is survived by a nephew, Admiral Joseph M. Reeves, of the Navy general board.