

James H. Houston

(4 Jul 1846 -5 Nov 1933)

Houston. On Sunday, November 5, 1933, at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Janette Thornton, 818 North Carolina ave. s.e., James H. Houston, beloved husband of the late Mary Jane Houston and father of Mrs. Amanda V. White. Services will be held at the above address on Wednesday, November 8 at 2:30 p.m. Interment in Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, November 6, 1933

James Houston, Noted Stamp Collector, Dies at Age of 87

Dean of Philatelic Fraternity

Sold Extras of Lincoln Assassination

Native of Fredericksburg Had Remained Active Until Last Few Days



JAMES H. HOUSTON.

—Star Staff Photo.

James H. Houston, 87, said to have been "the best known stamp collector in the world" and considered the dean of the philatelic fraternity in the United States, died at his residence, 818 North Carolina avenue southeast, yesterday. He had been in failing health for several months, but had remained active until only a few days ago.

Mr. Houston was born at Fredericksburg, Va., July 4, 1846. He came to Washington as a child, and had seen every inaugural parade from Buchanan to Roosevelt. Many famous men were among his acquaintances. He knew President Wilson when the future Chief Executive was a member of the Y.M.C.A. at Augusta, Ga., and was a volunteer Sunday visitor at jails and hospitals.

As a boy, Mr. Houston sold extras in the streets on the night of President Lincoln's assassination, April 13, 1865. He had in his files copies of *The Star* dating back to that time.

When a young man he was employed in the old signal office under Brig. Gen. Albert Joseph Myer, and among his duties was that of carrying the daily

weather report to hotels, newspaper offices and railroad stations. Later he worked in the Department of Agriculture, the Government Printing Office, the Post Office Department, the Smithsonian Institution and the Capitol.

He was a life member of the American Philatelic Society and of the Society of Philatelic Americans, and long was active in the Association of Oldest Inhabitants and the Knights of Pythias. Funeral services will be held at his late home Wednesday at 2:30 o'clock.

Two daughters, Mrs. Jeanette H. Thornton and Mrs. Amanda V. White, and a granddaughter, Mary Ann Thornton, survive.