

James F. Pritchard

(- 26 Sep 1899)

Pritchard. On Tuesday, September 26, 1899, James J. Pritchard in the 60th year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, 1313 11th street northwest, Thursday, September 28 at 3 p.m. Interment private.

The Evening Star, September 26, 1899, p. 9

A Sudden Death

James F. Pritchard Expires on the Street

Was a Native of Virginia

For Years, However, a Resident of Washington

Sketch of His Life

James F. Pritchard, a retired real estate dealer, who lived at No. 1313 11th street northwest, dropped dead in front of Galt's jewelry store, No. 1107 Pennsylvania avenue, about 9:30 o'clock this morning. Heart disease had troubled him for some time, and no longer than last week he remarked to his intimate friend and neighbor, Mr. W.C. Balch, that he expected death would come to him suddenly. At the same time, he expressed a desire that he should not suffer pain during his last illness. His wish was fulfilled, for he died in less than five minutes after he was stricken.

Mr. Pritchard, or Maj. Pritchard, as he was known, left his home about 9 o'clock to go down into the city to transact some business. Just as he left his home he met Mr. Balch and took for him to The Evening Star office a sum of money to pay a bill. This errand he had attended to, and, walking out of the business office of The Star with the receipt in his hand, he started east on Pennsylvania avenue. He had taken but a few steps when he fell to the sidewalk. A crowd gathered about him, and Mr. Bode, a clerk in Galt's store, telephoned for an ambulance. Policeman Hibl was among the first to reach the stricken man, and remained with him until the arrival of the Emergency Hospital ambulance.

The surgeon in charge of the ambulance pronounced the stricken man dead, and his body was removed to the morgue. Coroner Carr was summoned and gave a certificate of death, and subsequently an undertaker took charge of the body and removed it to the late home of the deceased.

His History Interesting

Mr. Pritchard was 56 years old, and had an interesting history. He was born in Fredericksburg, Va., where he spent his earlier days and received his education. At the breaking out of the war he was a Union sympathizer, and on this account he soon fell into the hands of the southern soldiers, and was taken to Richmond, where he was held as a prisoner. He was subsequently removed to Salisbury, N.C., where he was kept in prison with John Minor Botts, whose name figures so prominently in the history of Virginia. He and Mr. Botts were always close personal friends. The Salisbury prison was unable to hold Mr. Pritchard. He escaped and made his way to this city and called on President Lincoln. Hand in hand the President and Mr. Pritchard walked from the White House to the Treasury Department, and the latter was given a lucrative position. It was not long after this appointment that he joined the Home Guards and went on duty to defend the city from a possible attack on the part of the confederates.

His position in the Treasury Department was held for a number of years, during which time he was anxious to get an appointment in his native state. During the term of the late President Arthur he succeeded in getting an appointment as postmaster at Fredericksburg, Va., and although many years had elapsed since he left there he found many of his old friends in the town to welcome him. The few years that he served in this position he frequently referred to as among the happiest of his life.

Afterward he was made postmaster at Lynchburg. When his term of office expired, then he returned to this city and resumed his business of dealing in real estate, in which he was very successful. A few years ago he married Miss Newton, a daughter of a former commissioner of agriculture.

Sketch of Prison Experiences

Only a few weeks since the deceased wrote an interesting sketch of his experiences in prison and his escape from Salisbury. This sketch he had intended to send to one of the magazines, but had neglected to do so. The deceased leaves a widow and one child.