

James W. Skidmore

(21 Sep 1826 – 16 Aug 1883)

Skidmore. On August 16, 1883 at 11:30 p.m., James H. Skidmore, in the 60th year of his age. Funeral from his late residence, 305 10th street southwest, Sunday at 3 o'clock p.m. Friends and relatives are respectfully invited to attend.

The Evening Star, August 17, 1883

Death of Mr. J.H. Skidmore

Mr. James H. Skidmore, for the past 42 years a leading fish dealer in our markets, died last evening at his residence, No. 305 10th street southwest. Mr. Skidmore was a native of Georgetown, D.C., and has resided in South Washington for over thirty years. When a mere boy he went into the fish business in the markets, and for many years past had been regarded as one of the leading dealers here. He added to his business that of fishing several shores on the Potomac. It was his boast that he was never absent two successive days from his business up to a year ago, when his health began to fail. A few weeks ago he was forced reluctantly to take to his bed. He leaves a wife and four children. Mr. Skidmore and was a kind and affectionate husband and father, and was generous to a fault. He had a host of friends here and elsewhere who will sympathize with the bereaved family. This morning the family received a telegram from the dealers in Fulton market, New York, tendering their sympathy. The funeral will take place Sunday.

The Evening Star, August 19, 1883

Mr. James H. Skidmore's Funeral

The funeral of the late James H. Skidmore, who for nearly half a century had been engaged as a dealer in fish and game in the Washington market, took place yesterday afternoon from his residence, 305 10th street southwest, and was one of the largest private funerals ever seen in the District. The services were conducted by Rev. C.C. Meador, of the Fifth Baptist church, an old and personal friend of the deceased, as also his pastor, who paid a feeling tribute to his memory and offered consolation to the mourning ones. The pall-bearers were: Messrs. C.W. Spofford, James Wormley, W.W. Leishear, C.P. Culver, J.W. Powers, William Turner, Dr. B.S. Donaldson and C.H. James. The body was taken to the Congressional cemetery and interred. In the long line of carriages there were many private ones, nearly all the market people, as also the hotel and restaurant people being present.

The Washington Post, August 20, 1883, p. 4

Funeral of the Late James Skidmore

Yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock there gathered at the late residence of Mr. James H. Skidmore, who died on Thursday morning, No. 305 Tenth street southwest, a large number of his old acquaintances and friends, anxious to testify by their presence their regard. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. C.C. Meador, of the Fifth Baptist church. After the usual scriptural selections had been read and words of consolation had been offered to the mourning ones, the following gentlemen took the casket and conveyed it to the hearse: Messrs. C.W. Spofford, James Wormley, W.W. Leishear, C.P. Culver, J.W. Powers, William Turner, B.S. Donaldson and C.H. James. The procession of carriages was very long, extending from the house down to the Smithsonian grounds. The body was taken to the Congressional cemetery and there laid away. Mr. Skidmore was a man whose loss will be widely felt. Although living a

quiet and unostentatious life, yet, in his time, he was a public benefactor. It is said that there are 150 businessmen in town who owe their successful start in life to his aid and encouragement. He was a man of business judgment, and had he made the investments usually made by successful merchants he could have been a wealthy man. But he had a heart for the earnest and struggling young man, and when it lay in his power he gave judicious advice as well as financial aid. And these acts were all done in such a quiet way that even his family seldom heard of them. Among those assisted in early life by him is Mr. James Wormley. But Mr. Skidmore's family knew nothing of it until Mr. Wormley called on them after his death. His nature seemed to be to give, and he took his reward in observing the success of his proteges.