

## Amanda Houston Graham Weeks

( - 8 Sep 1914)

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**Weeks.** Departed this life on Tuesday, September 8, 1914 at 3 o'clock a.m. at 233 Pennsylvania avenue n.w., Mrs. Amanda Weeks, beloved mother of James H. Houston in the 89th year of her age. Funeral on Thursday, September 10 at 3 p.m., from Lee's undertaking parlors, 332 Pennsylvania n.w. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

*The Evening Star, September 9, 1914, p. 10*

### **Last Lincoln Murder Suspect Passes Away**

#### **Amanda Weeks, Arrested in Mrs. Surratt's Home at Time of Shooting, Is Dead**

Mrs. Amanda Weeks, the last survivor of those taken prisoner at the time of the assassination of Lincoln and charged with being implicated in the plot, died yesterday at her home at 233 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, where she had lived during the last thirty-five years. She was in the ninetieth year of her age, had been married three times, and leaves two survivors, her son, James H. Houston of this city, employed at the Capitol, and her third husband, who is an inmate of a soldiers' home.

At the time of the arrest of Mrs. Surratt, Mrs. Weeks, then Mrs. Graham, was at the Surratt house. She was on her way home when she stopped to pay Mrs. Surratt, whom she knew well, a visit. While she was there, the announcement came that Lincoln had been shot and the officers surrounded the house. When they came in, Mrs. Weeks remarked that "Lincoln should have been shot long before." Promptly the officers took Mrs. Weeks with the rest and confined her in the old Capitol prison.

The prison physician, a southern man, recognized Mrs. Weeks as soon as she was brought in with the rest. Knowing that she could have had nothing to do with the affair, he told the facts before the officials and after ten days she was released. Had it not been for the prison physician's recognition, said her son this morning, it would be hard to tell what would have happened to her.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at Lee's chapel, and the interment will be at Congressional cemetery alongside the grave of her second husband, French Graham.

*The Evening Star, September 13, 1914, pt. 2, p. 8*

### **Mrs. Weeks' Arrest**

#### **Due to a Merely Casual Remark Her Son Explains**

*To the Editor of The Star*

As the son of the late Mrs. Amanda Graham Weeks, I wish to correct the statement in Wednesday's Star regarding her confinement in the Old Capitol prison, especially the headline, which was so damaging to her. All her old friends at that exciting time of Lincoln's assassination have died and she had since lived all these years at her home, 223 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, and was well known as a person of goodness and kindness to all with whom she came in contact, and should not be so misrepresented at her death.

She was not, as stated, visiting at the home of Mrs. Surratt, not even being then acquainted with her. She met Mrs. Surratt while in the prison, which was three days and not ten as published. Her confinement in the prison was the result of a casual remark made in regard to the President having attended the theater on so sacred a day as Good Friday, and not through any knowledge of the circumstances or acquaintance with anyone connected with the crime. Her statement, which was the cause of her arrest, was: "Had he not been at the theater on a Good Friday night he would not have

been assassinated." This remark was over-heard and she was held like many others until satisfactory explanation was given.

J.H. Houston

### **Last Lincoln Suspect**

#### **Death of Mrs. Weeks, Who Was Held for Conspiracy**

#### **In Prison With Mrs. Surratt**

#### **Last of All in Washington Who Remembered Exciting Days at Close of Civil Strife --**

#### **Arrested on L Street Because of Remark She Made About**

#### **"President Going to Theater on 'Good Friday.'"**

The death on Tuesday last of Mrs. Amanda Weeks 90 years old, who lived for 70 years at 223 Pennsylvania avenue northwest, marks the passing of the last survivor of those arrested on suspicion of complicity in the assassination of President Lincoln. Mrs. Weeks and her second husband, French Graham, were taken in those old days to the Capital prison, where they were placed in confinement with Mrs. Surratt, her daughter, and a number of others held in connection with the crime. Mrs. Weeks gained her release ten days later through the assistance of a Southern physician in the prison, who had known her for many years. Her husband was held only a few hours.

#### *Accused As Conspirator*

It was alleged that Mrs. Weeks was a party to the Lincoln conspiracy. She was arrested on L street, between Eighteenth street and Connecticut avenue, by a squadron of soldiers sent by the provost marshal after it had been reported to the military officers that Mrs. Weeks had remarked, when told of the shooting of Lincoln, that the President "should have been shot for going to a theater on Good Friday." Relatives of Mrs. Weeks say her only remark was a criticism of the President for going to a theater on a "holy day."

After her arrest it was brought out that Mrs. Weeks had been seen with Mrs. Surratt and the latter's daughter shortly before the President was shot. It developed, however, that Mrs. Weeks knew nothing of the conspiracy at that time.

#### *Was Married Three Times*

Mrs. Weeks had been married three times. She is survived by a son, James H. Houston, employed at the Capitol, and her third husband, who is at the Soldiers' Home.

The funeral of Mrs. Weeks will be held today, followed by interment in Congressional Cemetery beside the grave of her second husband, French Graham.