

## James Augustus Messer

(1872 – 26 May 1953)

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Messer, James Augustus. Aged 81, of 2400 16th st. n.w., James Augustus Messer, father of Mrs. Pierre Ruedin of New York City. Remains resting at Gawler's Chapel, 1756 Pa. Ave. n.w. Funeral services on Thursday, May 28, 1953, at 2:30 p.m. Interment private.



**JAMES A. MESSER.**

*The Evening Star, May 27, 1953, p. A38*

### **James A. Messer Dies at 81, Retired Plumbing Firm Head**

#### **Former President of Columbia Bank Left School at 14**

James A. Messer, 81, retired president of the plumbing supply firm that bears his name and former president of the Columbia National Bank, died yesterday in Doctors Hospital. He had been operated on last week.

Born in Langholm, Scotland, Mr. Messer emigrated to Canada at the age of 4. He was educated in the public schools of Toronto.

Forced to leave school at 14, Mr. Messer got a \$2 a week job with the Toronto Mall. He studied bookkeeping in his spare time and later got a job in that field.

#### *Here in 1895*

Coming to Washington in 1895, Mr. Messer answered a newspaper ad for a job with the Mitchell & Reed plumbing supply company, then at Eleventh and B streets N.W. He stayed with that company through several changes of address and name, which ended with him as president of the James A. Messer Co. 1206 K street N.W.

He retired in 1940 but maintained an office in the firm's building and usually spent several hours a day there.

In 1915, he was made a director of the Columbia National Bank, a position he kept until 1946. He served as president of the bank from 1922 to 1925.

A naturalized citizen of the United States, Mr. Messer was active in many civic and other organizations, including:

The Temple Noyes Lodge of Masons, Almas Temple, St. Andrews Society, Loyal Order of Scotland, the Oldest Inhabitants and the Washington Board of Trade. He was a member of the Central Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his daughter, Mrs. Pierre L. Ruedin, New York, and a grandson, Army 1st Lt. James M. Ruedin, serving in Korea.

Funeral services will be held at services at the chapel, 1756 Pennsylvania avenue N.W. followed by Masonic services at the chapel. Burial services will be private.