

Name	Birth/Death	Age	Range/Site
Seamark, John L. Seamark. On Wednesday, December 28, 1904, at 6:30 p.m., John L. Seamark, beloved husband of Harriet Seamark (nee Eshleman) in his 68th year. <i>The Washington Times, Saturday, December 31, 1904</i> <i>Original Cough Drop Man, John L. Seamark, Is Dead</i> <i>Funeral Today for Vendor Whose Unique Crying of Wares Made Him a Familiar Figure in Washington</i> Funeral services for John L. Seamark, the original cough drop vendor of Washington, were held at 2 o'clock this afternoon from his residence, 1256 Four-and-a-half Street southwest. The Rev. Dr. Richard Williams, of Epiphany Church, officiated and interment was at Congressional Cemetery. The death of Seamark on Wednesday removed one of the quaintest and most familiar characters in Washington. For thirty years his vigorous cry had been heard upon the streets while he walked back and forth through the business section of the city vending his "celebrated cough drops." Irrespective of the attention which Seamark attracted by the forcible manner in which he cried his wares, he was a noticeable figure in other ways. Medium in height, sturdy of build, with firm step and of sterling lungs, he was a character that would attract attention anywhere. Despite his sixty-eight years, his eye was keen and reflected a clear brain and intelligent mind. An iron gray Van Dyke beard, which he kept scrupulously clean, was the most striking feature of his appearance. Attired in clothing more or less shabby, and carrying his cough drops in a tin box slung over his shoulders, Seamark could be found each day during the winter parading the business center of the city. Pedestrians knew of his presence before he had approached within two blocks of them, his penetrating cry echoing for squares around. "Seamark's celebrated tibilits. Five cents a package. P-h-i-l-a-delphia cough drops. Good for coughs or colds," was one variation of his cry which has become as familiar as a popular song to pedestrians along F Street and Pennsylvania Avenue. Year in and year out the strange chant had been heard on the streets, and, it was not unusual for one to try to mimic Seamark's manner of vending. As the original cough drop man, Seamark believed himself to hold sole right to the streets as a vender of that article. Once or twice others have attempted to enter his field of business, but their stay has usually been short and unsuccessful. It is said that Seamark once became engaged in a fistic encounter with a man of about his own age on account of the latter's attempt to infringe his territorial rights. Seamark was a native of England, but had spent most of his life in this country. He is survived by a widow.	d. 28 Dec 1904	67 yrs.	R146/195