

031 BELL, SAMUEL

Journeyman Printer

Shepherdstown

Journeyman printer employed in the *Virginia Monitor* office at Shepherdstown (1820-21).

Bell was the younger brother of the *Monitor's* proprietor, Edward Bell (029). A native of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania – just north of Hagerstown, Maryland, across the Mason-Dixon line – he had trained at the press of his eldest brother, William Duffield Bell, who then published *The Torch Light* (1814-41) there. When Edward acquired the press and paper of Thomas Trice (418) in the summer of 1820, Samuel joined him in Shepherdstown, serving as the tradesman to his editor in the new venture. Yet, he has left very little trace in either the historical or the bibliographic record; barely a year into the *Monitor's* three-year run, Samuel Bell died, then just twenty-one years old.

Personal Data

Born: In 1801 Chambersburg, Franklin County, Pennsylvania

Died: Sept. 23 1821 Shepherdstown, Virginia (now West Virginia)

No spouse or children noted in Bell family records.

Source: Musser, *Shepherdstown*; Scharf, *Western Maryland*; obituary in Hagerstown *Torch Light*.