

085 CARY, SAMUEL

Printer & Publisher

Richmond

Long-time Richmond inhabitant who printed the *American Standard* (1811) for William Shelton (378); published the daily *Richmond Commercial Compiler* (1819-26) with Daniel Trueheart (420) and William Pollard (336); then managed the Franklin Paper Mill (1834-48).

Cary seems to have been born in Chesterfield County, across the James from Richmond. His first appearance in the bibliographic record comes with the short-lived *American Standard* when he was eighteen-years-old. That timing indicates that this journal would be his first adult project following an apprenticeship. The twice-weekly journal was issued at the end of 1811, likely only in November and December, with William Shelton as its proprietor. But as neither he nor Cary owned a press in 1811, Cary probably produced the sheet for Shelton as a sideline in the office where he was employed.

Later professional associations in Richmond suggest that he worked in the office of Thomas Ritchie (360) at that time. When Samuel Pleasants (331) died in October 1814, his extensive "Argus Office" was split into three separate businesses – a job-printing office, a bookstore, and the *Virginia Argus* – by his foreman, John M. Burke (065), via partnerships with others in the Pleasants office. Philip DuVal (155) was a key to Burke's plan, so prompting DuVal's departure from the *Daily Compiler* of Leroy Anderson (011). But their association lasted less than two years; in April 1816, DuVal broke with Burke, forming a partnership with Daniel Trueheart, one of Ritchie's pressmen, in another job-printing office to produce the *Christian Monitor* magazine for Presbyterian evangelical John Holt Rice (354). The following month, the two bought the *Compiler* from its new editor Louis Hue Girardin (180), in association with Ritchie. This rapid growth of their office's workload suggests that DuVal and Trueheart employed a number of journeymen from the start, Cary among them; indeed, one of Cary's obituaries claimed that he had been with the *Compiler* from its start in May 1813; if so, then Cary came with the purchase of the *Compiler* office; it also means that he had worked for Anderson, DuVal, Girardin, and Girardin's most recent partner William C. Shields (381). All of these associations place Cary squarely in the Ritchie press circle.

When DuVal withdrew from the *Compiler* in October 1819, Cary became Trueheart's partner in the ensuing proprietorship. They maintained a substantial operation for the four years of their alliance. The 1820 federal census shows seven adult white journeymen, a young white apprentice, and two enslaved servants living on the office's premises, while each partner maintained residences separate from the business. Some of those workers were apparently book-binders, as earlier that same spring Cary advertised that custom bindings for a new compilation of the state's laws ("The New Revised Code") were available through him as sole agent for the sale of those laws for "the publisher" – meaning Thomas Ritchie, now printer to the commonwealth. In March 1823, Trueheart retired from the business and was replaced by William Pollard (336), who it seems was a journeyman rising to the ranks of ownership, just as Cary had previously. Their affiliation continued for three years, with the *Compiler* prospering and growing throughout, before Cary sold his interest in May 1826 after seven years there.

