

**089 CHARLTON, EDWARD**

**Printer**

**Richmond**

Printer of *The Virginia Gazette and Weekly Advertiser* (1787) for Thomas Nicolson (315) at Richmond.

Charlton's identity is unclear; he was recorded in Richmond's city census of 1787 as Thomas Nicolson's solitary free assistant (Nicolson owned an enslaved pressman); the date suggests that he joined Nicolson when Nicolson's partnership with William Prentis (340) ended in May 1785, after a fire destroyed both their office and their nearly completed work on the 1783 revisal of Virginia's laws. Charlton continued with Nicolson until sometime after 1790, probably at least until the closing of his *Gazette and Advertiser* in April 1797; but then again, his presence in Richmond cannot be ascertained with certainty after 1790; it is only implied by his published obituary. Given his age, Charlton could have come to Richmond with the relocation of Williamsburg's printing offices in 1780 as an apprentice; that also suggests that he may have been a relative of Seymour P. Charlton (090) a Richmond-trained printer who moved to Norfolk in 1816 with William C. Shields (381) to take on production there of *the American Beacon* with Hamilton Shields (380). Definitive evidence for these various prospects, however, is lacking.

***Personal Data***

Born: ca. 1770 in Virginia.

Died: Sept. 2 1802 Richmond, Henrico County, Virginia

No further information yet discovered.

Sources: Brigham; Hubbard on Richmond; Federal Decennial Census, 1790; obituary in *Virginia Argus*, 4 Sept. 1802.