

121 DAVIS, EDMUND

Printer

Richmond

Printer in office of the *Virginia Patriot* of his father Augustine Davis (119) in 1820.

The sons of Augustine Davis have left only fleeting references to their lives; Edmund was the one son to outlive the family's patriarch. Richmond business records indicate his presence in his father's office in 1820, but his name appears just one imprint issuing from that press.

That imprint is unique; Davis was one of four adolescent sons of prominent Richmonders who published a self-made English grammar, *The Elements of Language*. He is listed on the title page as its printer with Edward Carrington Marshall (the youngest son of Chief Justice John Marshall), George Daniel Fisher (son of exchange merchant George Fisher, a brother-in-law of Justice Marshall), and Robert Macmurdo (son of Fisher's former partner Charles Macmurdo), as its authors and publishers. Each of them went on to lives as leading lawyers in Virginia, while Davis retired from the printing trade for a mercantile life.

Following his parents' deaths in late 1825, Davis removed to Charleston, South Carolina, where he pursued a career as an exchange merchant or commission agent. He died there in 1838 " leaving a wife and several children," all unnamed.

Personal Data

Born:	ca. 1800	Henrico County, Virginia [at Westham?]
Married:	ca. 1818	Probably in Richmond, Virginia.
Died:	Nov. 20 1838	Charleston, South Carolina

Wife and children noted in obituary, none identified; wife and two infant children noted in 1820 census.

Sources: Hubbard on Richmond; Federal Decennial Census, 1820; obituary in *Richmond Whig*, 15 Feb 1839.