

310 MURRAY, WILLIAM YATES

Publisher

Petersburg

Publisher of the *Petersburg Intelligencer* (1796) as a partner to William Prentis (340).

Murray was evidently a journeyman printer with deep roots in the Petersburg area. He was the son of Susan Yates (1746-95) and John Bolling Murray (1744-82), grandson of the Robert Bolling who settled Blandford plantation (today part of the City of Petersburg) in the late 1600s. When his father died in 1782, at the early age of thirty-three, he left a family of eight minor children, suggesting William was bound out as an apprentice about the time William Prentis and Miles Hunter (229) started the *Petersburg Intelligencer* (July 1786) when he was fourteen. That Murray was a trained printer was noted prominently in his obituaries.

Murray also died young, just twenty-four in 1796, and his memorialists all noted that he was then a partner to Prentis; however, Murray is not recorded as such in the standard bibliographic references, and the surviving copies of the *Intelligencer* from that year do not reveal the date that he would have been one. Still, Murray's familial connections likely made him an attractive financial partner for Prentis in the heat of a hotly-contested presidential campaign in which the Federalist publisher opposed the state's favorite son, Thomas Jefferson. Indeed, the suggestion that Murray was a political-financial partner, as well as a print-trade one, is buttressed by the fact that his death was reported in Federalist newspapers alone, all of which recorded his profession as a printer.

Personal Data

Born: In 1772 Mecklenburg County, Virginia.

Died: Oct. 1 1796 Petersburg, Virginia.

Neither married nor fathered any children.

Sources: Death notices in *Petersburg Intelligencer*, Oct. 4, 1796, *Virginia Herald* [Fredericksburg], Oct. 11, 1796; genealogical data from Murray, Yates, and Bolling family charts posted on Ancestry.com (August 2012).