

## 326 PITTMAN

### Printer & Publisher

### Fredericksburg

Publisher of the *Genius of Liberty* (1799) at Fredericksburg with Robert Mercer (301).

This unidentified Pittman was briefly a part of an effort to publish a Republican newspaper in Fredericksburg that would counter the influence of the established Federalist journal there, the *Virginia Herald* of the Connecticut-born Timothy Green (194).

In this effort, Pittman was apparently the practical printer in a partnership with editor-financier Robert Mercer, the local Commonwealth Attorney. Mercer began publishing the *Genius of Liberty* in October 1797 in league with George Carter (082), a cousin to his wife. The pair hired printers to produce the paper for them until Carter withdrew from the firm in spring 1799. Mercer then instituted a series of limited-term partnership agreements with journeymen to produce the paper – and this Pittman was the first so engaged. Their association lasted about six months, probably from January to July 1799 before Pittman also left the venture and Fredericksburg as well. He seems to have been Henry Pittman (327), a journeyman of dubious character who went on to publish newspapers in Alexandria, but such an identification is more conjecture than fact.

Mercer continued his paper with other tradesmen until his unexpected death in September 1800. The *Genius of Liberty* survived him, published by James Walker (425), the last practical printer the Jeffersonian leader brought to Fredericksburg to assist him.

***No Personal Data yet discovered.***

Sources: Imprints; Brigham.