

405 STRAITH

Bookseller & Librarian

Charlestown

Proprietor of the Charlestown Circulating Library (1820) as a partner to one Hunter (227).

The identities of the two principals in Hunter & Straith, the proprietors of the Charlestown Circulating Library in 1820, are masked by the lack of any reference to their given names in the bibliographic record. Yet the local context suggests that the Straith seen here was Dr. Alexander Straith (1764-1837), an Edinburgh-educated, Scottish-immigrant physician who settled in Jefferson County after the Revolution. If so, then the Hunter seen here was likely either his father-in-law, David Hunter, a Martinsburg-based merchant-planter, or one of his wife's two brothers. But lacking supporting evidence, this suggestion is unproven.

No Personal Data yet determined relevant.

Sources: Imprints (bookplates); notices in Charlestown *Farmers' Repository*, 1820.