

420 TRUEHEART, DANIEL

Printer, Publisher

Richmond

Job printer in Richmond (1812-13) with Charles Blagrove (036) and Henry Blagrove (470); publisher of the *Richmond Enquirer* (1813-16) with Thomas Ritchie (360); publisher of the *Richmond Compiler* (1816-23) with Ritchie, Philip DuVal (155), and Samuel Cary (085); son-in-law to James Rind (357).

Trueheart was a journeyman printer who became a central figure in Richmond's print-trade as a consequence of a long association with Thomas Ritchie, the legendary Jeffersonian and Jacksonian journalist. That liaison brought him both wealth and social standing, resulting in his service on the city's Democratic committee and as a justice of the peace.

The Trueheart name was numerous in the adjoining counties of Hanover and Henrico in the post-Revolutionary era, making tracing this printer's origins difficult. Records of the family of his second wife offer the best (if incomplete view) of his immediate family, as well as of possible links between those families before Trueheart's second marriage. A maternal aunt of that wife married a Bartholomew Trueheart, who was a brother to William Trueheart of Henrico County; as the printer was "a native of Henrico County," it is likely this Trueheart was the head of his childhood home. Yet no description of that household has been found. Those around the young printer were evidently impressed with his capabilities and maturity as he was made a Sergeant in the 19th Regiment of Virginia Militia (Ambler's Regiment) when the war with Great Britain broke out in June 1812.

Trueheart first appears as an independent printer in the bibliographic record in October 1812 as a proprietor of the Richmond job-printing firm of Blagrove & Trueheart. By then, Trueheart had completed his training under the old Williamsburg printer Thomas Nicolson (315) – who died in 1808 – and his successor John O. Lynch (273). In August 1812, Lynch's press office of came up for a quick sale after his unexpected death; Trueheart determined to secure that office for his own benefit, and found financing for the purchase through a partnership with Charles Blagrove, the Registrar of Virginia's Land Office. Blagrove had been following the standing practice by having his agency's job-printing done in Philadelphia, but Lynch's passing gave the Registrar the opportunity to bring his agency's work back to the state capital by acquiring Lynch's press; all he needed was a trained printer to conduct the press for him, and Trueheart was the now-unemployed former-manager of that instrument. The two formed a new printing concern in October 1812, with Blagrove's younger brother Henry joining the firm as a journeyman printer. The partnership notice that they published promised that the office would promptly provide fine job-printing to all who called; not surprisingly, one of their principal patrons was Virginia's Land Office.

However, Blagrove ruffled some political feathers with the acquisition, as his public office now patronized his private press; while an efficient arrangement, such an overt connection outwardly suggested corruption in office – a charge that had haunted the contracts made for Virginia's public printing since the Revolution. So in June 1813, after just nine months together, he withdrew from the business. Trueheart advertised the end of the Blagrove & Trueheart firm by announcing that the Registrar's share had been purchased by Thomas

Ritchie, proprietor of the legendary *Richmond Enquirer*; the new firm of Ritchie & Trueheart offered the same services as had its predecessor; they also continued to do job printing for the Land Office, and would for some time. The reorganization proved to be the start of a thirty-year-long association with public-printing contracts for Trueheart.

That connection grew in early 1815 when Ritchie became "printer to the Commonwealth" following the death of Samuel Pleasants (331) in October 1814, with a concurrent increase in the workload of his small office. Trueheart became an important ally for Ritchie as he now expanded his office's capabilities. In April 1816, Ritchie evidently financed Trueheart's purchase of an interest in the press office of DuVal & Burke as a way to gain its productive capacity. Philip DuVal (155) was a journeyman in Pleasants's *Virginia Argus* office, managed by foreman John M. Burke (065); upon their master's death, Burke acquired the extensive business from his estate in December 1814 (with borrowed monies) in order to split it into three others – a job-printing office, a bookstore, and the *Virginia Argus* newspaper – with a partner in each concern drawn from among the senior journeymen in Richmond; DuVal was his partner in the job-printing office. But by spring 1816, DuVal apparently sensed the impending collapse of Burke's over-extended empire, and turned to Ritchie and Trueheart. Dissolving the firm of DuVal & Burke, he formed a new one with Trueheart, with Ritchie the financier behind the transaction. With presses from the old *Argus* office, DuVal, Trueheart & Co. continued publishing the *Christian Monitor* monthly of Presbyterian evangelical John Holt Rice (354), a contract that had sustained the DuVal & Burke office, so setting Burke on the path to bankruptcy in January 1817. The firm then bought the daily *Richmond Compiler* from its retiring editor Louis Hue Girardin (180) in May, again with Ritchie's assistance.

This shuffling of owners and assets allowed Ritchie to separate his two journals, the thrice-weekly *Enquirer* and the daily *Compiler*, from the press office producing them, while holding a financial interest in each of the three businesses – the course Pleasants had successfully followed and that Burke had unsuccessfully attempted. He also contracted DuVal, Trueheart & Co. to print for him the public work that he was now obligated to produce, while steering additional work from state government agencies to the firm as well. Yet this maneuvering was wholly dependent on Trueheart and his trade skills, as Ritchie was not a trained printer; so the profit that Trueheart quickly realized from the arrangement allowed him to establish a financial base that sustained him for the remainder of his life.

With the acquisition of the *Compiler*, Trueheart and DuVal also acquired the services of its foreman, one Samuel Cary. His associations with Girardin, DuVal, and Anderson previously indicate that he was already a part of Ritchie's press circle by 1816; he also would rise to ownership with Ritchie's assistance as they had. In October 1819, Cary became Trueheart's new partner when Duval withdrew from the *Compiler* and retired.

The new firm of Trueheart, Cary & Co. maintained a substantial operation for the four years of its existence. The 1820 federal census offers a remarkable view of the "Cary & Trueheart" office. While the proprietors resided elsewhere, they provided quarters for their staff at the office, where all ten individuals there were recorded as being "engaged in manufactures." The roster included seven free-white journeyman under twenty-five years of age, one free-white apprentice under fifteen, and two enslaved women over twenty-five; those women

were likely domestic servants in this male lodging house, yet the enumeration suggests that they performed print-trade tasks as well, a departure from contemporary practices where enslaved printing-office workers were male pressmen. Earlier that spring, Cary advertised custom bindings for a new compilation of the state's laws (*The New Revised Code*) that were then available through him as sole sales agent for "the publisher" – meaning Ritchie; so their office profited from printing the text for Ritchie, while it was bound for the benefit of the proprietors as well, likely with the labor of these enslaved women as stitchers.

After ten years working with and for Ritchie, Trueheart retired from active participation in the print trade, turning instead to investing his accumulated wealth, sometimes in other's press offices. In March 1823 he sold his interest in Trueheart, Cary & Co. and the *Compiler* to William Pollard (336), who was apparently a journeyman rising to ownership just as he had previously. While he acquired a sizable Henrico County farm, Trueheart maintained a substantial home on then-fashionable East Leigh Street, close by the business and political activity of the Capital Hill area. In 1852, Trueheart was called before a select committee of the Assembly which was then investigating the expense associated with the public-printing concession; in his testimony, Trueheart demonstrated that he was still conversant in the city's print trade and the production of the public printer, and so still a part of that world. But his everyday activities were political and governmental. In the 1830s, and perhaps later, Trueheart was a justice of the peace for the city of Richmond, attesting to many pension applications from Revolutionary War veterans then following new procedures for validating those claims. He is also seen frequently in newspaper notices after 1830 announcing the activities and proclamations of the city's Democratic central committee, alongside his old partner Ritchie until the editor removed to Washington in 1845.

When Trueheart finally died in October 1861, at nearly seventy, he had outlived two wives and three of his four children. His first family was long dead by then; his first wife was Maria Dutchess Rind, the daughter of Richmond attorney and editor James Rind and his wife Sarah Seabrook, and so a grand-daughter of the Williamsburg Rinds, William (358) and Clementina (356); Maria died in 1817 giving birth to their only child, James Rind Trueheart; he studied medicine in Richmond before moving to Alabama where he died in 1845. Trueheart started a second family in 1820 by marrying Elizabeth Seabrook, a niece of Sara Seabrook Rind, likely as a result of the Seabrook family caring for his infant son; "Betsey" died in a fever epidemic in Richmond in 1847; she was predeceased by their eldest son Jonathan, who fell victim to a similar illness in 1842, then just twenty-two; their only daughter, familiarly called Nannie, died in childbirth in 1851 at sixteen. So on Trueheart's death, he had but one living son, who evidently inherited the whole of his father's estate. That inheritance led to a long, complex, and ultimately unresolved law suit, wherein that son, familiarly called Fayette, was sued by the children of his late-brother Jonathan and of his late-half-brother James for a broader distribution of Trueheart's estate. That suit seems to have come to naught, as it was still pending before the Henrico County Court when the court building and its records burned along with most of central Richmond in April 1865.

Personal Data

Born: Dec. 21 1793 Henrico County, Virginia.
Married [1]: Dec. 22 1814 Maria D. Rind @ Richmond, Virginia (d. 1817).
Married [2]: Aug. 31 1820 Elizabeth Seabrook @ Henrico County, Virginia.
Died: Oct. 11 1861 Richmond, Virginia.
Children: By Maria: James Rind (b. 1817).
By Elizabeth: Jonathan Seabrook (b. 1821); Gilbert Lafayette (b. 1824); Anna 'Nannie' Maria (b. 1835).

Sources: Imprints; Brigham; notices in *Richmond Enquirer* (1812-1823); *Richmond Compiler* (1816-26), *Richmond Whig* (1842-51); *Richmond Daily Dispatch* (1861-64); *Governor's Message and Reports of Clerks*, 1852; genealogical data from Seabrook family notes in *Historical and Genealogical Miscellany: New York and New Jersey*, Vol. IV (1916).