

423 WADDILL, ANDERSON M.

Bookseller

Lynchburg

Bookseller in Lynchburg (1816-18) in partnership with Giles Ward, Jr. (429).

Waddill was briefly a bookseller while practicing law in southwestern Virginia and adjacent parts of North Carolina, a role that seems to have arisen from a need to build a law library.

Waddill was a native of Chesterfield County who was practicing law in Pittsylvania County by 1808; that places his birth sometime before or in 1787, though the specific date remains a mystery. During the War of 1812, he served as a sergeant in the 5th Regiment of Virginia Militia drawn from the counties of western Virginia to aid in the defense of Norfolk.

After the war, Waddill opened a law office in Lynchburg and was apparently tutoring law students there. In 1816, he also opened a bookstore in partnership with Giles Ward, Jr. of Campbell County. Ward was then reading for the bar in Lynchburg, possibly with Waddill, and their store was a convenient way to subsidize Ward's training and to expand Waddill's library, as evinced by the titles listed in their advertising; the firm of Waddill & Ward faced competition from at least two other bookstores there, as well as from the imprints available at Lynchburg's two printing offices, so such specialization was a key to their survival. In mid-1818, Waddill sold his interest in the bookstore to one William Digges (136), an Elizabeth City County merchant who would continue the store until 1825. Ward remained a partner in the business until he was licensed to practice law in local courts in the winter of 1821-22.

Waddill evidently left Lynchburg with the sale, as he was serving as a justice of the peace in nearby Rockingham County, North Carolina a year later, indicating that he had considerable financial interests there as well. Yet he remained tied to Lynchburg for some time after the sale, as both he and Ward were sued in the city's Chancery Court in late 1820 over payment of a promissory note. But after that event, tracing Waddill is difficult; as a lawyer practicing in multiple jurisdictions, only case files can provide evidence of his activities. By 1832, however, he was residing in Lynchburg once again, dying there in September of that year. There were other Waddills living there at that time, suggesting a relocation of other family members to the town from Chesterfield; there was even a boy born in Lynchburg in 1830 who was bestowed with his given name, so personifying the legacy of the late attorney.

NB: Surname spelled both as "Waddill" and "Waddell;" form here from his firm's advertising.

Personal Data

Born: By 1787 Chesterfield County, Virginia

Died: Sept. 1832 Lynchburg, Virginia.

No record of a wife or children yet discovered.

Sources: Notices in *Lynchburg Press*, 1816-18; Cabell, *Sketches of Lynchburg*; War of 1812 Service Records for Virginia; Chancery Court Records, Library of Virginia; Pittsylvania County Deed Books; Rockingham County [NC] Court Order Books; obituary in *Richmond Visitor*, 5 Oct, 5, 1832; not in MEDSA Index.