

434 WEEMS, JESSE E. — [JESSE EWELL WEEMS, SR.]

Bookseller

Alexandria

Subscription agent in Alexandria (1818) for a sermon collection published by Mason Locke Weems (435), his father.

Weems has only a fleeting association with the Virginia print trade, acting as an agent for a subscription-publishing venture launched by his father, Rev. Mason Locke Weems, the long celebrated "bookselling parson" of Dumfries. In March 1818, the son advertised in the *Alexandria Gazette* that he was "procuring subscribers" for a work published two years earlier – *Sermons on Important Subjects; by the late reverend and pious Samuel Davies, sometime president of the College of New Jersey*. That activity indicates that his father still had a surplus of copies in unbound sheets that he was disposing of with his son's aid.

The younger Weems was educated as a physician, following a family custom that antedated his father's initial training as a doctor. From later advertising notices, it appears that he had trained in Alexandria under his father's cousin John Weems (d. 1821). After his mentor's death, the young doctor moved across the Potomac to Georgetown and established an independent practice. Weems continued practicing medicine in the District of Columbia for the remainder of his life, while maintaining a country home near the Prince William estate of his mother's family, Belle Aire, at Independent Hill.

Personal Data

Born:	June 2	1799	Belle Aire, Prince William County, Virginia
Married:	June 23	1818	Nancy Otis Rickard @ Washington, D.C.
Died:	ca.	1850	Washington, District of Columbia.
Children:	Mary (b. 18230; Frances Ann (b. 1825); Jesse Ewell Jr. (b. 1832); Robert C. (b. 1845).		

Sources: Notice in *Alexandria Gazette*, March 10, 1818; genealogical data from "Weems/Wemyss in America Family Archives" posted online at Ancestry.com (May 2013).