

## 441 WHITE, RICHARD

Bookbinder

Winchester, Alexandria

Bookbinder in Winchester in 1790 and in Alexandria in 1798.

White was a journeyman bookbinder who started independent bindery shops in Baltimore, Winchester, and Alexandria in the fifteen years before 1800. But it is only in the notices of the opening of those concerns that White can be seen in the American printing trade.

Of unknown origin and training, White first appeared as an independent tradesman in February 1786 in Baltimore, advertising his shop "in Charles Street, near Mr. George Nace's Tan-Yard;" yet that month-long run of advertisements is the only evidence of his presence there. In 1790, a similar sequence of notices was published in a Winchester newspaper, announcing the opening of a new bindery there; but again such was the only evidence of his presence in the market town. And in November 1798, White placed a third set of notices in the *Columbian Mirror* of Alexandria, with another evidentiary void soon following.

After 1798, neither White's existence nor laboring can be ascertained, though a suggestion of his fate can be seen in a Frederick, Maryland, newspaper associated with the publishing entrepreneur Matthias Bartgis (024). In December 1801, he advertised for an experienced bookbinder who could "occasionally work at press" in his large office; as that Frederick concern continued profitably another twenty years, he clearly found such a person. Then in July 1821, Bartgis published a simple, one-line death notice marking the passing of "Mr. Richard White, a citizen of this town." The two items, despite the interval between them, suggests White left Alexandria for Frederick in late 1801 and remained in the employ of Bartgis until his death. But such a suggestion is speculation at best. Who White was and where he went cannot be determined without substantial new evidence.

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

Sources: MESDA Index nos. 43511, 43512, 43513; *Artisans & Merchants*; notices in [Baltimore] *Maryland Journal* (1786), [Alexandria] *Columbian Mirror* (1798), and [Frederick] *Republican Gazette* (1801-21).