

454 WINTER, JOHN, JR.

Printer

Alexandria

Apprentice and printer in Alexandria (ca. 1805-15); son of John Winter Sr. (453).

Winter was a practical printer who evidently trained alongside his father while his family resided in Alexandria after 1806. His association with the Virginia print trade was brief, as he joined a privateer out of Baltimore during the War of 1812 and died at sea in 1818.

The young Winter was the first son of his father's second wife, born about 1795, five years after the death of her predecessor. Given his father's name, Winter was also carrying the legacy of an earlier like-named half-brother who died shortly before his birth, and who had been their father's principal office assistant and delivery carrier in the early 1790s. At that time, the elder Winter conducted a printing office in Frederick, Maryland, which issued two newspapers there between 1790 and 1801: the *Maryland Gazette* (1790-92) and the *Rights of Man* (1794-1801). Those ventures eventually failed and he was compelled to find work as a journeyman in Baltimore and Alexandria to support his impoverished second family.

Hence, the scion's death in late 1818 reflected his family's frustrations with the trade. He abandoned printing during the War of 1812 out of a sense of patriotism, but he was also "ambitious, like other young men" and so had chosen to follow a course in that war that he thought "not only honorable, but profitable" by signing on to a privateering brig, the *Creole*, out of Baltimore. When that ship returned to port in December 1818, its captain reported that Winter had recently died at sea from an acute illness and that his "remains had been committed to the great deep, with the usual honors." Within a month, his father proposed a new weekly in Alexandria that would provide relief for his "young and helpless family," suggesting that father and son had decided that privateering was a viable way for the family to resolve its continuing financial difficulties. But his death just twenty-six months after his son ended such unsuccessful relief efforts.

Personal Data

Born: ca. 1795 Frederick, Maryland.

Died: Late 1818 At sea, "on board the Patriot brig Creole."

Died without having married and without issue.

Sources: Obituary in *Alexandria Gazette*, Dec. 14, 1818. See also sources for entry on John Sr. (453).