

502 MORTON, THOMAS

Bookbinder

Richmond

Bookbinding apprentice with Thomas Brend (051) in Richmond in 1795.

Morton has left just a spare trace on the historical record, and can only be conformed as a part of the Virginia print trade from his indenture as an apprentice in 1795. That June, he was styled as the "orphan of David Morton, deceased," and so was bound out "to Thomas Brend, Bookbinder, until he arrives to the age of twenty-one years" by the Hustings Court of the city of Richmond. That order does not detail his age, making it difficult to trace further his life on account of his common name.

It may be that he relocated to Petersburg when his apprenticeship ended, and then moved on to Philadelphia, if the Thomas Morton mentioned in a later advertisement in a Baltimore paper refers to the same individual. That notice informed this bookbinder that:

"If Thomas Morton, Bookbinder, a native of Petersburg, Virg., is now living, he may hear of something to his advantage, by applying to F.G. at No. 212, Market street, Baltimore. His friends have been informed that he lately did reside in Philadelphia, therefore the Editors of that city especially, will render a service to humanity by giving this advertisement one insertion."

The "F.G." mentioned here was Francis Guy, a landscape painter, according to Baltimore's *City Directory for 1810*. But any other information as to Morton or the point of this notice is wanting.

No Personal Data yet confirmed.

Sources: MEDSA Index nos. 25816 & 25815; Richmond Hustings Court, Order Book 3, 1795; [Baltimore] *American, and Commercial Daily Advertiser* (25 Apr. 1810).