

507 PITMAN, WILLIAM

Printer

Richmond

Printer in Richmond in 1794.

Pitman is an enigmatic figure in Virginia's print trade. He is known from just a solitary entry in the census of taxable individuals living in Richmond in 1794. That listing does not identify either his employer or the location of his residence; it only notes his occupation as printer. And as he is not seen in city records thereafter, his fate is indeterminate, at best.

This printer may be the "Pittman" (326) who was the tradesman who printed the *Genius of Liberty* in 1799 for Fredericksburg's Commonwealth Attorney, Robert Mercer (301). The identity of Mercer's partner has been long masked by the omission of his given name in the surviving print record. But the short interval between these two events and the proximity of the two locales leaves open the possibility that the two individuals are one and the same. Such a prospect, however, is only speculation without further evidence.

No Personal Data yet discovered.

Sources: Richmond Common Hall Records, Book II: Inhabitants & Titheables of the City of Richmond (1794).