

543 WEAVER, MATTHEW WATSON

Publisher

Lynchburg

Publisher of the *Lynchburg Gazette* (1805) as the successor to his brother John (433).

Weaver is a transitional figure in the life of the sole printing office in Lynchburg in 1805. His brother John Weaver acquired the press of the *Lynchburg Gazette* in the winter of 1803-04 from his employer and master John Carter (083) when just eighteen. He died unexpectedly in February 1805, leaving his business and estate in disorder. Matthew evidently assumed immediate control of his youngest brother's business and formed a short-term partnership with his other brothers (Samuel and William), and continued publication of the *Gazette* – as the firm of M. W. Weaver & Brothers – until John's estate could be settled that fall. The heavily mortgaged office was sold at auction to John Graham (183), a respected physician in the town; Graham understood the need for a weekly mercantile advertiser and so wanted to continue the journal. But not being a trained printer, he hired transient journeymen to help publish the *Lynchburg Star* that October. At that point, the Weaver family's association with the American print trade came to an end.

Matthew Weaver spent the rest of his life as he began it, as the owner of large tracts of land employed in commercial agriculture. Initially, he worked land on the Little Falling River in Campbell County which he acquired from his father's estate and as part of his wife's dowry. Beginning in 1810, Weaver used land-warrants granted to his late father as a Revolutionary War veteran to purchase land in Madison County, Alabama, purchases that covered at least 650 acres near the newly-founded town Huntsville. In April 1814, he moved his growing family there, apparently as part of a larger migration to that part of Alabama made by his wife's family. Weaver remained in the Huntsville area until his death in July 1831.

Personal Data

Born: About 1777 Campbell County, Virginia.
Married: Feb. 16 1801 Lucinda Jude @ Campbell County, Virginia.
Died: July 7 1831 Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama.
Children: Judith Watson (1802-43); George Jude (1804-40); John Chappelle (1806-76); Eliza Ann (b. 1808) Louise Weaver (b. 1808); Mary Ann (b. 1810); Daniel Thompson (1813-80); Lucinda Jude (b. 1816); and Elizabeth (1818-25).

Sources: Imprints; U.S. Newspaper Project (Library of Congress); genealogical data posted on Ancestry.com (October 2014).