

(Coll. 2139), and the Simon Gratz Collection (Coll. 250B). The William L. Clements Library at the University of Michigan also holds William Young Papers. Twenty-eight letters from Charles Nisbet to William Young are in Dickinson College library's Archives and Special Collections division, and are available through the library's website <http://deila.dickinson.edu/theirrownwords/title/m002.htm> (accessed April 2005).

Biographical/Historical Notes

William Young (1755-1829), a bookseller, printer, and publisher, was born in Scotland and briefly attended a Presbyterian seminary there before deciding on a career as a bookseller. After arriving in Philadelphia in June 1784 with his wife and son, Young opened a book store and printing shop on Chestnut Street between Second and Third streets. In 1802 he sold his Philadelphia retail and publishing operations to William W. Woodward, and moved to Rockland, Delaware, where he opened a paper mill. Though that enterprise was profitable, a reversal of fortune occurred in 1814 when the plant burned. Young decided to rebuild as a woolen mill, which fared poorly, and that, combined with more than a decade of carrying Woodward's debt, resulted in reduced circumstances that forced his return to Philadelphia.

William Young was active in the Associate Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, as was his Chestnut Street neighbor and fellow Scottish immigrant John McAllister (1753-1830). McAllister's son John McAllister Jr. (1786-1877) married William Young's daughter Eliza (1790-1853) in 1811. They were the parents of the collector John A. McAllister (1822-1896).

William Wallis Woodward (1769?-1837) was listed as a bookseller in the Philadelphia city directories from 1794 through the 1830s. In the 1802 directory his description expanded to "printer, bookseller & stationer," the result of his having purchased Young's business. Woodward remained in the directories with that description for some twenty years. His main publishing interest was religious books, and he was one of the first American publishers known to have marketed his publications using a network of clergymen as sales agents.

Woodward's final entry is in the 1837 directory, where he is listed as a stationer. His obituary in the January 19, 1837, issue of *Poulson's American Daily Advertiser*, simply stated: "DIED, at his residence, yesterday morning, 18th inst., WILLIAM W WOODWARD, late publisher of this city, in the 68th year of his age."

Collection Overview

The Young and Woodward Business Papers spans the period from 1789-1826, and contains correspondence and financial documents relating to their publishing and retailing businesses in Philadelphia. The collection is arranged in two series: Series I, William Young Papers, and Series II, William W. Woodward Papers.