

Gruber engaged actively in the printing trade until about 1855, when the infirmities of age forced him to desist.²⁵ He appointed William Stewart of Indianapolis to take over his business for the western market, and Thomas R. Robertson of Hagerstown his eastern trade.²⁶ His almanac survived changes in ownership and operation into the twentieth century; in 1927, 200,000 copies circulated in forty states;²⁷ and in 1938, as many as fifty copies went to one news-dealer alone in the fairly distant city of Cleveland.²⁸

During his long career as a printer, Gruber trained many young men in the printing business. The most famous was probably Adam Glossbrenner,²⁹ sergeant at arms in the House of Representatives from 1850 through 1860.³⁰

Gruber died December 29, 1857, in the ninetieth year of his age.³¹ It is said that he never had an enemy. He formed his own political opinions and adhered to them; he voted at every Presidential election from Washington to Buchanan; but he was never a violent

25 Hagers-Town town and country almanack. 1859. p. [9].

26 Prah, A.J. The Hagerstown almanack, p. 8.

27 Evening sun. Baltimore. March 2, 1927.

28 Eshleman, C.H. John Gruber and the Hagerstown almanac.

29 Hagers-Town town and country almanack. 1859. p. [9].

30 U.S. Congress. Biographical directory. p. 1016.

31 Hagers-Town town and country almanack. 1897 p. 5.