

He agreed to publish the *Maryland Herald and Eastern Shore Intelligencer* as soon as five hundred subscribers were found who would pay two dollars a year. The first number was printed on May 11, 1790. He published the paper until 1804, when it was discontinued, perhaps because of the competition of a rival local paper which had been started in 1799 by Thomas P. Smith, and falls outside the period of this study.

Stewart Herbert began printing at Hager's-Town, or as it was then known, Elizabeth's-Town, in 1790, and established the *Washington Spy*, a weekly newspaper, sometime in June of that year. After his death on March 3, 1795, his widow and her partner printed it until 1797. He may have run a paper mill in connection with his printing shop for he often advertised for rags. Like all early printers, he published the usual assortment of blank forms. The business apparently increased beyond his capacity to handle it, for after December 1790 he repeatedly advertised for an apprentice. He also frequently announced the publications of the Baltimore printing firms and may have had a small bookshop.

#### EARLY PRINTING AT GEORGETOWN

President Washington ended the uncertainty over the site of the national capital along the Potomac River by his proclamation of January 24, 1791, accepting the present location of the District of Columbia. He thereby deprived Maryland of one of her most interesting and flourishing towns. Established by the Maryland legislature in 1751, Georgetown quickly became an important trading center for the regions to the westward. By 1790 the merchants of Baltimore already looked upon it as a dangerous economic rival.

Printing was introduced to Georgetown by Charles Fierer,<sup>4</sup> who began his newspaper, *The Times, and the Patowmack Packet*, on February 12, 1789. It is possible that German printing was carried on in the newly established printing office. On April 23, 1789 and again on April 21, 1790, the following advertisement appeared in the *Times*:

"Wanted, An Apprentice to learn the printing business, in both the English and German languages.—He must be of genteel connections, and possessed of the cut lines of a classical education. The age of 14 would be preferable.—Inquire at this office."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>4</sup> His correspondents to the *Times* addressed him by the title of Major but in a letter to Washington on September 14, 1793, he called himself Captain. Practically nothing is known of his early career.

<sup>5</sup> Fierer may have been advertising at the request of Bartgis at Frederick but on the other hand, Christian Kramer whose German name suggests a possible knowledge of that language, ended their partnership on April 12 and Fierer perhaps intended to replace him with an apprentice.