
William and Mary Goddard, Printers and Public Servants

is uncertain, but on April 13, 1782, Oswald issued in Philadelphia the first number of his *Independent Gazetteer*,¹ so that one may think of him as having left Baltimore early in that year. Goddard seems to have continued alone his Baltimore printing establishment. On July 15, 1783, he advertised as from his press a circular letter from General Washington to the governors of the several States, and in December of this year Mary Goddard announced the publication of a "Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Virginia Almanac and Ephemeris for the Year of Our Lord 1784," edited by William Goddard.

Some months before this, General Charles Lee had died, and in dying had paid to Goddard and Oswald the debt of gratitude which he owed to them for their efforts to vindicate his fame.² To these two faithful friends he left one-third of his lands in Virginia, and by the generosity of his sister in England the legacy came to them free of debt.³ It is to be hoped that they received a good price for these lands as a result of the sale advertised in the *Maryland Journal* of November 14, 1783.

One concludes that Goddard's reasons for refraining from taking over the newspaper from his sister years earlier had been financial, for on January 2, 1784, very soon after his Virginia lands had been advertised as for sale, he announced in the *Maryland Journal* that by a fortunate occurrence he had been enabled to purchase new printing equipment and that thereafter, as on this day, the paper would be published by "William and Mary Katherine Goddard." In the succeeding issue of January 6th Mary Goddard's name was dropped from the imprint and Goddard alone carried on the paper until the issue of January 11, 1785, in which it was announced that he had taken Edward Langworthy into partnership. The *Maryland Journal* was published by these two until February 1786, from which time

¹Evans, No. 17564.

²General Lee to Mary Katherine Goddard, December 17, 1781: "it is inconceivable the desire I have to be acquainted with you—for upon my soul I love (and I ought to love) your Brother and Oswald more than any other two men on this Continent." (Addressed to "Mrs. K. Goddard, Printeress at Baltimore," in 4: 466, *The Lee Papers*, being vols. 4-7 of the *Collections of the New York Historical Society, 1871-74*. N. Y. 1872-75, which see for many letters and documents relative to the affairs of General Lee in which Goddard was concerned).

³General Lee provided also that Goddard should become his literary executor, and having gained assurance of Washington's indifference to the publication, Goddard proceeded to issue proposals and prepare for the press a selection of the Lee papers. The project came to nothing. Goddard asserted that his partner Edward Langworthy clandestinely removed from his office that portion of the papers which he published in London in 1792 as *Memoirs of the Life of the Late Charles Lee, Esquire*. Isaiah Thomas gives an account of the incident. A letter from Goddard to Washington on the subject, dated May 30, 1785, is found in *The Papers of George Washington*, v. 233, 1785, May 20-October 1, Ms. Division Library of Congress. Goddard enclosed his proposal and outline in manuscript. Isaiah Thomas gives Washington's reply. On December 16, 1793, soon after the appearance of the *Memoirs*, Goddard wrote to Washington from Johnston, R. I., disclaiming any connection with the publication as then issued. See *The Papers of George Washington*, v. 264, 1793-1794, November 30-January 20, Ms. Division Library of Congress. The ultimate fate of the mass of Lee papers left in Goddard's hands, and preserved by his descendants, was the use of them by the publication committee of the New York Historical Society in the production of *The Lee Papers* described in the preceding note.