
A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland

public law passed by that Assembly, a sufficient indication that Zenger was no longer a resident of the Province. It is known, moreover, that he married his second wife, Anna Catherina Maul, in New York on August 24, 1722, and that he was made a freeman of the city in the year following his marriage. He formed a partnership about this time with his old master, William Bradford, with whom he printed a book in the Dutch language in the year 1725. In 1726, his name appeared unaccompanied by any other on the imprint of another Dutch book, and from thenceforward, he printed alone in the Dutch, German and English languages. One of his nieces, Elizabeth Becker, married Richard Curson or Curzon, the founder of the American family of Curzon, so that through her Zenger is associated by ties of blood with a family of importance in Maryland and New York. At his death in 1746, his widow, Anna Catherina Zenger, carried on his press for some years. It was afterwards taken over and continued by John Zenger, his son by his first wife. With the removal of Zenger from Maryland to New York, he passes from the field of activity with which this narrative is concerned. To discuss here the later and more important period of his life would be to extend unduly the length of this relation by the inclusion of matter which has been presented in detail in books and articles which are available to all readers.¹

It is evident that the final word remains to be said on the subject of the work of Zenger as a printer in Maryland. The silence of the Kent County records and of the records in the Maryland Land Office together with the absence of a single Maryland imprint bearing his name leave the question of the location of his press as much of a riddle as ever it was. When he applied to the Assembly in April 1720 for permission to print its laws, he was newly come to Maryland as a journeyman not long free of his apprentice-

¹ For further biographical details of Zenger and his family see Pleasants, J. Hall, *The Curzon Family of New York and Baltimore and Their English Descent*. Baltimore, 1919. For a comprehensive treatment of his imprisonment and trial, of the events which led up to this consummation and of its triumphant conclusion for American journalism, read Rutherford, Livingston, *John Peter Zenger, Second New York Printer, his Press, his Trial*. New York, 1904; Hildeburn, C. R., *Sketches of Printers and Printing in Colonial New York*. New York, 1895; and the article devoted to him by Isaiah Thomas in his *History of Printing in America*. He was defended in his trial by Andrew Hamilton of Philadelphia, who had lived in Kent County, Maryland, shortly before Zenger's residence there. For an interesting discussion of the extent to which this fact influenced Zenger in choosing Hamilton to defend him, see Steiner, Bernard C., "Andrew Hamilton and John Peter Zenger," in vol. 20 of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History*. Isaiah Thomas wrote of Zenger that he "was a good workman, and a scholar, but not a correct printer of English." Some of his later biographers, however, are not willing to follow Thomas in his assertion that Zenger was a scholar, and it is generally believed that he had been used as a catspaw in the political dispute which resulted in his imprisonment and trial. Thomas relates that during the dispute Zenger gave such offence to a gentleman of the Council by an article in his newspaper, *The New York Weekly Journal*, that the irate colonel threatened to lay his stick over the printer. Thereafter Zenger went about his affairs armed with a sword, and the spectacle of a printer so accoutred gave Bradford the opportunity for the exercise of his powers of ridicule. The "crafty old sophister," as Franklin named Bradford, took a little more than full advantage of his opportunity.