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## *A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland*

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ANNE CATHARINE GREEN AND HER SONS, WILLIAM,  
FREDERICK AND SAMUEL

Throughout the life of her husband, Mrs. Anne Catharine Green, the widow of Jonas, was heard of only incidentally, but after his death in 1767, she showed the sturdy stuff that was in her by assuming the direction of the Green establishment and the responsibility for its completion of the government work then in hand. At this time she must have been about forty-five years of age; she had borne fourteen children and buried eight of them; she had nursed her household through a smallpox epidemic and through the infinitude of small ailments which must have beset so large a family. At a time when a less aggressive woman would have been content to seek the chimney corner, she undertook the support of her children and the accomplishment of important tasks in the public service.

After announcing the death of her husband, Mrs. Green's first concern was to solicit the continued patronage of his friends and customers for the press which she proposed to continue. "I Presume to address You," she wrote in an appeal to the public,<sup>1</sup>

"for your Countenance to Myself and numerous Family, left, without your Favour, almost destitute of Support, by the Decease of my Husband, who long, and, I have the Satisfaction to say, faithfully served You in the Business of Provincial Printer; and, I flatter myself, that, with your kind Indulgence and Encouragement, Myself, and Son, will be enabled to continue it on the same Footing. . . . I am willing to hope, that the Pains taken by my late Husband, to oblige his very extensive Acquaintance, and the Character he deservedly bore, of an honest, benevolent Man, will recommend to your Regard,

Your grateful and faithful  
humble Servant,  
A. C. GREEN.

The event will show that the confidence which she begged and received from the public was not misplaced. Under her management neither the *Maryland Gazette* nor the public printing suffered retrenchment or deterioration.

Assisted by her son, Mrs. Green completed the "Acts" and the "Votes" of the session of 1767, which had been left unfinished by the death of her husband, maintaining throughout the ensuing year a sufficient number of hands to enable her to care for whatever public business came to her for execution. In its act for her encouragement, the Assembly of 1768 recited these facts and declared that in all things she had performed the duty of Printer to the Province,<sup>2</sup> and provided that for these services of the year

<sup>1</sup> *Maryland Gazette*, April 16, 1767. The son referred to in this extract was William Green.

<sup>2</sup> If a statement in the *Maryland Gazette* for September 22, 1768, could be taken at full value it would seem