


## CHAPTER TWO

### *Mary Katherine Goddard, Printer During and After the Revolution and Deputy Postmistress of Baltimore-Town*

 MARY KATHERINE GODDARD, four years older than her brother, was born in 1736 at New London, Connecticut. When her mother and brother moved to Providence in 1762, she probably accompanied them and there received her first training in printing. William Goddard's departure in 1765 left the two women in charge of the printing office, under the name of Sarah Goddard and Company. In 1768, John Carter purchased their business in Providence and they removed to Philadelphia where they joined William Goddard. On January 5, 1770, Mrs. Sarah Goddard died, leaving brother and sister alone to face one of the most difficult situations in their careers. In addition to helping her brother with the press work, Mary Katherine Goddard apparently kept the accounts of the printing business, and the likelihood is that she attended to most of the business details.<sup>1</sup> When he went to Baltimore to found the *Maryland Journal* he probably left to his sister the disagreeable task of continuing the newspaper in spite of the opposition of his former partners. In February 1774, she was called to Baltimore to take over the paper there while her brother organized the Constitutional Post Office. From 1775 to 1784, a period of great anxiety and difficulty in the history of American journalism, she printed the paper without a break and at a standard of excellence that rivaled the leading newspapers of the day. The significance of this achievement is better realized when it is recalled that it was the only newspaper printed in Baltimore from July 5, 1779 to May 16, 1783. With pardonable pride she boasted in the *Maryland Journal* on November 16, 1779, that her paper circulated as extensively as any in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> A receipt signed by her on February 2, 1771, for the annual subscription to the *Pennsylvania Chronicle* is in the Norris Family Accounts, I, 80 at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

<sup>2</sup> The news printed in her paper and in that of her Baltimore competitor, James Hayes, Junior, did not at all times maintain a high standard of accuracy. Thomas Jefferson, writing to Governor Benjamin Harrison of Virginia to inform