

Like her brother, she was an active partisan of the liberty of the press. On June 3, 1776, the Baltimore County Committee met and in its proceedings is found an interesting incident in the career of this courageous woman.

"Miss Goddard informed this Committee, by Letter, that on Wednesday last Mr. George Somerville came to her office and abused her with threats and indecent language on account of a late publication in her paper. The Committee, conceiving it to be their duty to inquire into everything that has a tendency to restrain the liberty of the Press, *Ordered*, That a summons be issued for the said George Somerville, returnable at three o'clock P.M."<sup>3</sup>

He refused to obey the summons and treated the messenger in an insolent manner so Captain Sterett was sent out with a detachment of the Independent Company and brought him before the Committee where he was tried for his offense.

"... by the evidence of Miss Goddard, that his conduct had a direct tendency to influence the freedom of the Press, which in every free country should be inviolably maintained, and on account of his contemptuous treatment of the Committee:

It was Resolved, unanimously, That Mr. Somerville be censured by this Committee; and, as he now refused to sign the Enrollment or Association Papers when tendered to him, it was determined that he give bond, with security, for his future good behavior, agreeable to directions of the Convention."<sup>4</sup>

#### MARY KATHERINE GODDARD—DEPUTY POSTMISTRESS OF BALTIMORE-TOWN

In recognition of his work in founding the Constitutional Post Office, William Goddard was probably allowed to name the postmaster at Baltimore as well as to hold the office of Surveyor of the Post Office. Mary Katherine Goddard was appointed Postmistress of Baltimore in 1775 and held that position until her removal in November 1789. Notices of changes in the schedules of the daily and weekly posts, lists of unclaimed letters and other advertisements relating to the Baltimore Post Office were printed by her in the *Maryland Journal*. She rendered the best service possible under existing conditions. For the convenience of the public who had been accustomed to call at the Post Office for their letters, she established a delivery service in 1784.

him that England had recently landed troops in Ireland, intimates that the news "... which comes by a ship from London to Baltimore, and from thence here ..." could not be relied upon since "... Baltimore has not been famed for the truth of its intelligence." Jefferson to Harrison dated Annapolis, December 24, 1783. In E. C. Burnett, ed. *Letters of Members of the Continental Congress*. Vol. VII, p. 400.

<sup>3</sup> *American Archives*, Series IV, Vol. VI, 1460-1461.

<sup>4</sup> *American Archives*, Series IV, Vol. VI, 1460-1461.