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## Matthias Bartgis, Pioneer Printer at Frederick

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apothecary shop, and bookstore, in Fredericktown; or at Bartgis's paper mill five miles from Fredericktown, Maryland."

### BARTGIS'S PRINTING VENTURES IN PENNSYLVANIA AND VIRGINIA

His interests were not limited to Frederick alone. He printed at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, from 1776 to 1781 and the year after the establishment of the two newspapers at Frederick he broadened the scope of his journalistic business to include a paper at Winchester, Virginia and another at York, Pennsylvania. By so doing he established the first newspaper at both of these important towns of the "Old West" and identified himself with the cultural history of a whole area that was being largely settled by the Scotch-Irish and Germans. On April 18, 1787, an announcement of the establishment of a printing press at Winchester appeared in the *Maryland Chronicle* with the proposal to print a paper entitled *The Virginia Gazette, and Winchester Advertiser* on or before the first Tuesday in May at two dollars a year, providing there were enough subscribers. The date of publication was postponed until June, and not until July 11, 1787, did the first number appear. Bartgis and Willcocks published it during the remainder of the year and in January the firm name became M. Bartgis and Company. The last located issue of this paper is that of November 26, 1791.<sup>15</sup> The York paper was begun later in the year and the following advertisement announced the establishment of a press there.

"Printing, In all its various Branches performed with accuracy and dispatch, by M. Bartgis and Company, At their Printing-Office, York (Pennsylvania.) They beg leave to announce that they have, at heavy expence, erected a complete Printing Apparatus, English and German, in the Borough of York, where they are ready to serve the Public in every thing relative to that Art.

We intend to publish a Weekly News-Paper, entitled the Pennsylvania Chronicle or the York Weekly Advertiser, some time this Month, provided a sufficient number of Subscribers can be obtained by that time. Those Gentlemen possessed of Subscription-Papers will be pleased to send them to the Printing-Office as soon as possible. Subscriptions are received at the Printing-Office in Winchester, Virginia, and at the Printing-Office Frederick-Town (Maryland) and by the Printers hereof, at the moderate cost of two Dollars per Annum."<sup>16</sup>

The first number was probably published October 24, 1787, and no copies have been located after March 7, 1788.<sup>17</sup>

The last number of *The Maryland Chronicle* which has been located

<sup>15</sup> See Brigham, *Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1720. Virginia.*

<sup>16</sup> *Maryland Chronicle*, October 17, 1787.

<sup>17</sup> See Brigham, *op. cit.* Pennsylvania.