

Street" was not to her liking or convenience.

Mrs. Shaw had been with the theatrical troop of Wignell and Reinagle since 1794; she must have been a good character actress to have played such parts as Lady Waitford in the Dramatist (her first recorded role), Betty Pry in the Lying Valet, Mrs. Candour in School for Scandal, Mrs. Malaprop in the Rivals, the Queen, in Hamlet, and the Nurse in Romeo and Juliet.¹⁹ She must have been successful, too, judging by the appraisal which the director, Thomas Wignell made of his actresses in 1797: he graded them numerically upon an ideal score of 15, stating that he based his judgment more upon public than private opinion. He gave Mrs. Shaw 10 - not bad, considering that only two of his troop received more, Mrs. Ann Brunton Merry a perfect score of 15, and Mrs. Whitlock 13.²⁰

"Mr. Shaw" (there seems no reason to believe that he was not Ralph Shaw, the music publisher) was likewise of the theatrical profession; in 1794 he was designated as "R. Shaw of the Theatre Charlestown";²¹ he occasionally appeared as a singer in the New Theatre of Baltimore,²² but as far as can be ascertained, did

- 19 Pollock, T.C. The Philadelphia theatre in the eighteenth century. p. 202-217.
 20 Ibid. p. 60.
 21 Norton, M.D.H. Haydn in America (before 1820). p. 333.
 22 e.g. Federal gazette. November 20, 1795.