

on March 20, 1796,³⁵ Cary, Winter's former partner, found himself with no newspaper. Hagerstown was equipped with German and English newspapers, Gruber's Westliche Correspondenz, and Mrs. Herbert's well-established Washington Spy. Frederick had at least two, the Rights of Man, Bartgis's Federal Gazette, and possibly a German paper published by Bartgis.

Cary returned to Frederick and opened a printing office on Patrick Street, "nearly opposite to Mrs. Kimbol's tavern",³⁶ and from there he proposed publishing a weekly periodical to be called the Key, to consist of:

original and selected essays, natural history, agricultural discoveries, tales, poetry, &c. A room will, every week, be opened by the Key to show farmers and others interested therein, the current prices of wheat, flour, bacon, pork, &c. at George-Town and Baltimore - Short advertisements may be inserted in the last page, at times, provided they do not interfere with the main design of the work. Authentic and important intelligence will have a place, should it come to hand so as to make this paper the earliest vehicle for conveying it to the public; not otherwise, for the editor has no wish to meddle with news or politics - he wishes to amuse and be useful. Literary favors, postpaid, will be thankfully received, and destroyed with secrecy, if not thought proper for insertion.³⁷

The Key, named in compliment to General John Ross Key,³⁸ did not make its initial appearance until

³⁵ Washington spy. June 1, 1796.

³⁶ Bartgis's Federal gazette. March 23, 1797.

³⁷ Ibid. May 4, 1797.

³⁸ Scharf, J.T. op. cit. v. 1, p. 529.