THE ENGLISH PRESS OF HAGERSTOWN

Stewart Herbert, Pioneer Printer of Hagerstown. - It is not surprising that Hagerstown, standing as it does at the junction of East-West and North-South highways, now known as U. S. Routes 40 and 11, should be distinguished for having the first Maryland press west of the Blue Ridge range. Frederick, only thirty miles away, east of the mountains, had a press as early as 1777[1]; Winchester, in the valley to the south, had a press in 1787[2]; and in the Cumberland valley to the north, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, acquired a press in 1785[3], and Chambersburg in 1790[4].

Jonathan Hager, founder of Hagerstown, laid out his village in 1762, and named it after his wife Elizabeth, the former Elizabeth Kershner of Washington County, calling the village Elizabethtown. It was known, however, as Elizabethtown and Hagerstown, alternately, and was sometimes designated Elizabeth (Hager's) Town; gradually "Elizabeth" was dropped and it was known exclusively as Hagerstown[5]. The village

1 Wheeler, J.T. The Maryland press. p. 59.
2 McMurtrie, D.C. A history of printing in the United States. p. 303.
3 Ibid. p. 86.
4 Sealock, R.B. Publishing in Pennsylvania, 1785-1790. p. 2.
5 Scharf, J.T. History of Western Maryland. v. 2, p. 1059-1060.