

eight pages, that the distinction of being the first Hagerstown book belongs.

This book, published in September of 1791<sup>12</sup>, was A Letter from Miss S--a to Miss R-- who on her way to Bath visited St. Roze Villozo<sup>13</sup>, which was printed first in Shepherdstown and was now reprinted by Stewart Herbert. Its subject matter was local, a fact remarkable in itself, for American books of the eighteenth century, aside from publications of laws, seldom dealt with domestic occurrences. It had to do with Rosa Orndorff, daughter of Major Christian Orndorff of Washington County, and sister-in-law of Jonathan Hager, Jr. It was a description of the singular disease with which Rosa was afflicted, catalepsy; she was a spiritualist, would go into trances and converse with spirits, and while in these trances seemed to be entirely insensible of any pain. Visitors came from as far away as two hundred miles to see and experiment on this phenomenal personage,<sup>14</sup> and it is probable, although there is no record, that this early pamphlet from Herbert's press found a ready audience locally.

Transportation over the mountain roads must have been difficult during the early days of the Washington

12 Williams, T.J.C. History of Washington county, v. 1, p. 92.

13 Appendix A. Imprint bibliography, item 37.

14 Williams, T.J.C. op. cit. v. 1, p. 93.