

1795, one week after Stewart Herbert's death, Phebe Herbert, widow of Stewart Herbert, appears as printer of the Washington Spy. In the same issue with her husband's obituary, the new editor inserted a card:

The public are respectfully informed, that the Washington Spy will be continued by the subscriber, who will use every exertion to make the same both instructive and entertaining. She begs leave to return her sincere thanks to those who have heretofore (in the lifetime of her husband) patronised this paper, and most earnestly solicits a continuance of those favors, as the only means now left for the support of herself and three helpless infant children. She will take care to provide a skilful and attentive journeyman, and she hopes that none, by withdrawing their subscriptions, will add the misery of want to the misfortunes she has already experienced.³⁹

Whether or not Phebe Herbert acquired the services of "a skilled and attentive journeyman," she soon obtained a partner. John D. Cary, who had been associated with John Winter, printer, of Frederick, was appointed administrator of Stewart Herbert's estate,⁴⁰ and during 1795 the imprint of the Washington Spy became "Printed by Phebe Herbert and John D. Cary."

There are no indications of how successfully the partnership was carried on, except that it was of rather short duration. It was dissolved by mutual consent on March 20, 1796, according to an advertisement which directed:

39 Washington spy. March 10, 1795.

40 Ibid. March 17, 1795.