

THE PRESS IN EASTON

James Cowan, First Printer of the Eastern Shore.-

Easton, in Talbot County, became the location for Maryland's first printing press on the Eastern Shore. Easton was the logical city for the first press; it was the Maryland's "Little Capital," with the Land Office for the Eastern Shore and the judge and register for that office, and with the Treasury of the Eastern Shore. The Court of Appeals for the Eastern Shore met at Easton, as did, occasionally, the District Court of the United States. The commodious Court-House was built for the accomodation of the General Assembly, which contemplated, for a time, holding alternate sessions in Easton.¹

On June 3, 1789, James Cowan published a prospectus for a newspaper to be published weekly at Easton:

To the public.

It is of infinite importance to every free people, that they should be accurately and speedily informed of the measures of government. A partial view of them would create discontent; an ignorance of them might terminate in loss of liberty... the editor of the proposed plan takes the liberty of observing, that a paper established at Easton, commonly called Talbot Court-House, would, in a great degree, put it in the power of the Eastern Shore to obtain every public information by a ready and cheap communication. His paper would reach the

¹ Easton star. June 23, 1874.