

interior parts of each county - and hundreds who could not choose to take more expensive and distant prints, might profit by the communications. To the lower and more inland counties, a press at Easton would be, a source from which political intelligence might diffuse itself, of the highest consequence... 2

Samuel Alexander Harrison, "Talbot's local annalist,"³ states that, judging by the similarity of James Cowan's name to names in Pennsylvania, Easton's first printer was possibly a Pennsylvanian and acquired his trade under the Bradfords of Philadelphia.⁴ Whether this is true or not, it is certain that he had close connections with Frederick and Samuel Green of Annapolis. The prospectus, quoted above, was issued from Annapolis, and was probably printed at the Green press.⁵ On May 28, 1789, Cowan married Jane McHurd in Anne Arundel County.⁶ On March 31, 1790, Frederick and Samuel Green advertised that "a lad of good character and capacity" was "wanted immediately, as an apprentice to the printing business, on the Eastern Shore."⁷ This advertisement undoubtedly originated with Cowan. It may be significant that

2 Wheeler, J.T. The Maryland press. p. 72.
(Letter from J.T. Wheeler 5/15/42 corrects date of prospectus.)

3 Tilghman, Oswald. History of Talbot county.
p. [1].

4 Easton star. June 23, 1874.

5 Wheeler, J.T. op. cit. Bibliography, item 496.

6 Anne Arundel county. Marriage records.

7 Maryland gazette (Annapolis) April 1, 1790.