

other newspaper, or other business venture under the same name, there seems to be no record of it.

The "Mr. Wilmer, at Havre de Grace" mentioned in the Maryland Journal advertisement as a possible partner of Gerrish's, was quite likely the Reverend James Jones Wilmer, who had helped to publish the Eagle of Freedom in Baltimore, for about four months in 1796, and who, at the time the advertisement was issued, was conducting schools in different Maryland towns, among which was Havre de Grace.⁷ Luckily for Wilmer, the proposed partnership with Gerrish was probably never consummated.

Information is much more uncertain concerning Robert Saunders, Jr., Gerrish's partner during the first four weeks of their Chestertown venture.

Robert Saunders was probably the son of Robert Saunders, planter of Harford County, Maryland, and of Elizabeth Andrews, his wife, and was born July 12, 1772.⁸ There is no absolute proof that this Robert Saunders of Harford County was the first printer⁹ of

7 Dictionary of American biography. v. 20, p. 314.

8 Joppa, Md. St. John's Protestant Episcopal church. Church records. p. 184.

9 L.C.Wroth's History of printing in colonial Maryland (p. 49-53) investigates the Maryland episode in the life of John Peter Zenger, who may have operated a printing press in Chestertown or Kent county in 1720 and 1721. However, nothing has been proved concerning Zenger's Maryland press; and it is possible that Saunders and Gerrish set up Chestertown's first printing office.