

obviously purporting to be Martin's biography. It was written partly in narrative, partly in dramatic form, and appeared as a serial in the Baltimore Weekly Magazine,¹⁰⁷ edited by John B. Colvin and printed by Pechin. This anonymous History of Jack Martin, claimed in its second installment on August 9, 1800, to be founded on fact, but in the issue of March 18, 1801, the author denied having "the most distant intentions of injuring the feelings of any man." In the issue of August 30, 1800, when a poem was inserted to the memory of Mrs. Sally Martin, Alexander Martin's wife, who had died during the yellow fever epidemic of 1800, the editor, perhaps from some delicacy of feeling, did not include an installment of the History of Jack Martin - which facts may indicate identification of Martin, then editor of the American, with the principal character of the pasquinade.

To take what appear to be the main events of the subject's life from the scurrility which composes the History of Jack Martin, the "hero" was born in or near Boston, attended a public free school, and later served an apprenticeship in the "black art" (used throughout the tale to indicate printing). He followed the usual course, printer's "devil", "head devil"; and at the conclusion of his apprenticeship, voyaged

107 Appendix A. Imprint bibliography, item 556.