

BALTIMORE'S NON-PARTISAN NEWSPAPER PRINTERS

John Hayes, Dean of Baltimore Printers. - At the beginning of the last decade of the eighteenth century, only three printing firms were operating in Baltimore, William Goddard and his brother-in-law James Angell, the Baltimore branch of the Wilmington firm of Samuel and John Adams, and John Hayes. Of these, the only one who continued into the nineteenth century was John Hayes.

His career as publisher of the Baltimore Maryland Gazette from 1783 until January 6, 1792 has been covered in Joseph Towne Wheeler's The Maryland Press, 1777-1790; but since the publication of that book in 1938, some further information has come to light. Yet Hayes remains an enigmatic figure. He was a good printer and a successful business man. As far as statistical records go, there is a fairly complete record of his life; he was a member and officer of at least two Baltimore societies; from the point of view of his imprints, he was one of the most important Baltimore printers of the 1790's, and he was editor of one of the city's two leading newspapers for nearly nine years. However, there seems to be a complete absence of personal details which might give an idea of the difficulties he had to face, how he overcame