

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE *of* AMERICAN HISTORY

Inside the Vault:

*Mary Katherine Goddard: Woman Printer,
Entrepreneur, and Postmaster in the Founding Era*

March 3, 2022

The session will start shortly. Please note:

- Your video and audio will automatically turn off.
- You can participate through the Q&A function.
- If you have technical difficulties, please email collectionprograms@gilderlehrman.org so we can assist you.

During the Session



- If you would like to ask a question, you can **use the Q&A feature.**
- We will be answering audience questions at the end of the session.

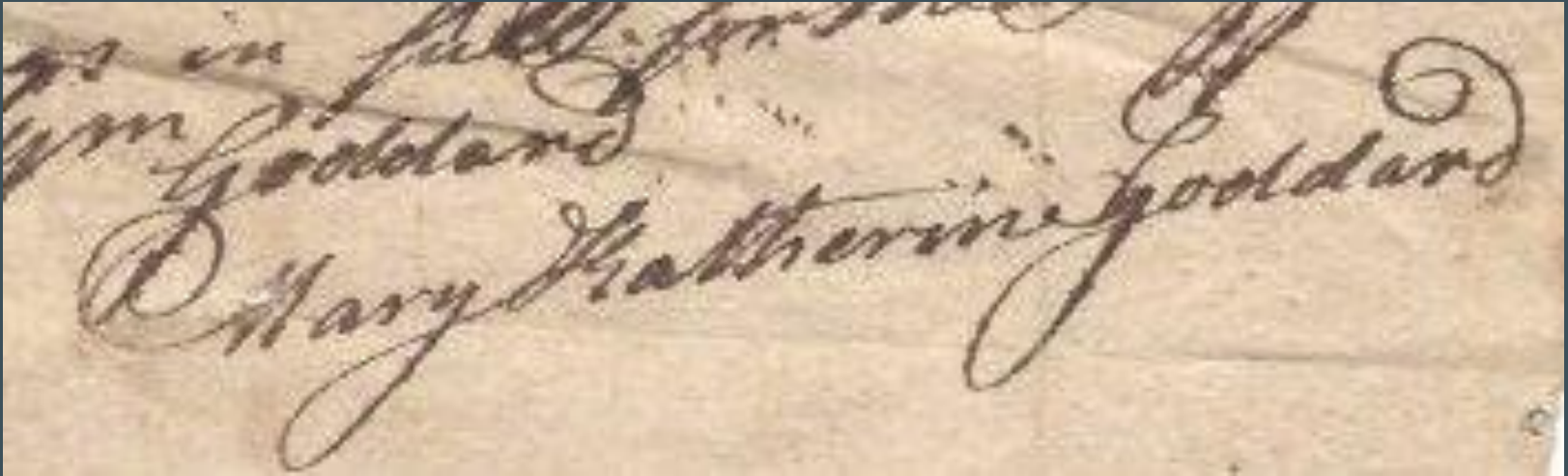
For Security and Privacy

- Your microphone is automatically muted.
- Your camera is automatically turned off.

Our Team

- Sandy Trenholm - Collection Director
- Allison Kraft - Assistant Curator
- Shelby Miller - Curatorial Intern
- Dr. Martha J. King - Senior Editor with the Papers of Thomas Jefferson at Princeton University

Mary Katherine Goddard (1738–1816)



Mary Katherine Goddard, Receipt for Fifteen Shillings for the Pennsylvania Chronicle, May 30, 1771. Image Courtesy of the Raab Collection

- 1738 - born in Connecticut, spent childhood in New London
- 1762 - moved to Providence, Rhode Island, to assist her brother William
- 1768 - moved to Philadelphia with her mother, Sarah Updike Goddard, to assist William
- 1774 - moved to Baltimore, Maryland

Providence Gazette and Pennsylvania Chronicle

[SEPTEMBER, MDCCLXVI.] THE [NUMB. 139.]

PROVIDENCE AND COUNTRY  R GAZETTE; JOURNAL.

Containing the freshest Advices, both Foreign and Domestic.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1766. [Vol. III.]

Providence Gazette, September 6, 1766

PROVIDENCE: Printed by SARAH GODDARD, and Company, at the Printing-Office near the Great Bridge, where SUBSCRIPTIONS, ADVERTISEMENTS, and LETTERS of INTELLIGENCE, &c. are received for this PAPER, and where all Manner of PRINTING WORK is performed with CARE and EXPEDITION.

[MAY, M.DCC.LXXIII.] (81) [NUMB. 330.]

THE

Pennsylvania Chronicle

AND

UNIVERSAL ADVERTISER.

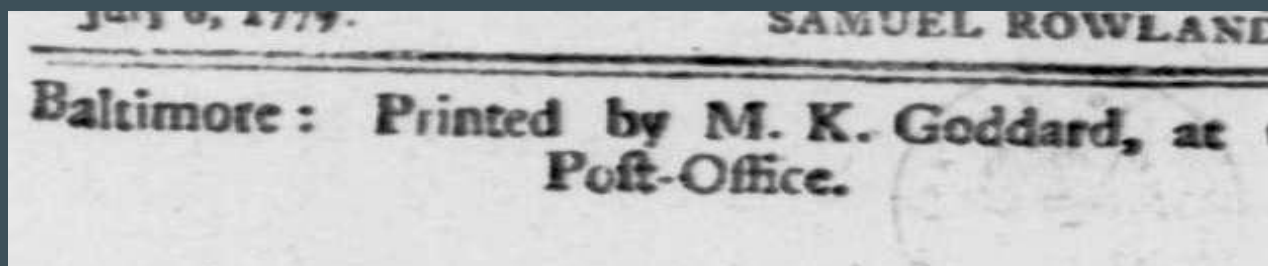
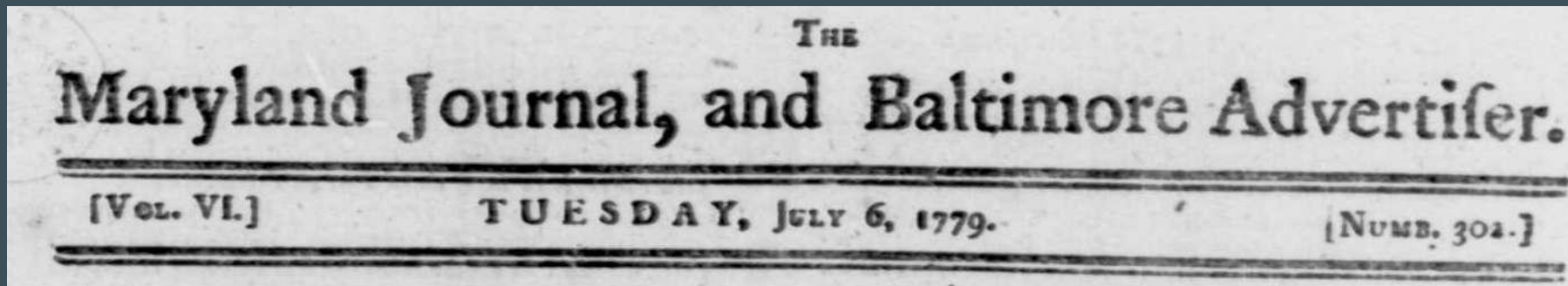
From MONDAY, MAY 3, to MONDAY, MAY 10, 1773. (No. 16, of Vol. VII.)

Pennsylvania Chronicle, May 10, 1773

PHILADELPHIA: Printed by WILLIAM GODDARD, at the NEW PRINTING-OFFICE in Front-Street, near Market-Street, on the Bank Side, and almost opposite to the London-Coffee-House, where Subscriptions, (at TEN SHILLINGS per Annum) Advertisements, Articles and Letters of Intelligence are gratefully received for this Paper, and where all Manner of Printing Work is performed with Care, Fidelity and Expedition.—Bills and Mand-Bills, in particular, are done on the shortest Notice, in a neat and correct Manner.

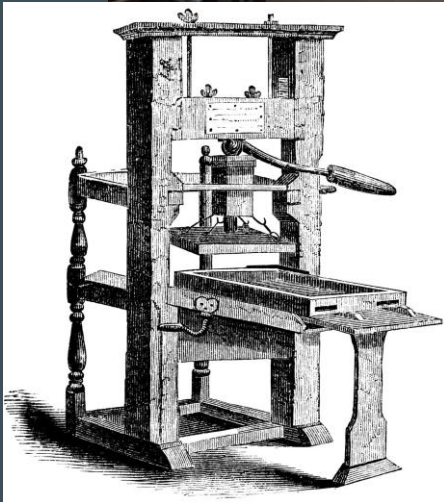
Maryland Journal, and Baltimore Advertiser

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY



Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser, July 6, 1779. Image courtesy of the Library of Congress.

A colonial print shop



Benson J. Lossing, *The Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1851), II:409

Timothy Print Shop, Charleston, South Carolina
Maggie McCain, November 10, 2013. Flickr.

Some other women printers

- Elizabeth Timothy, Charleston, South Carolina
- Ann Timothy, Charleston, South Carolina
- Anne Catharine Green, Annapolis, Maryland
- Clementina Rind, Williamsburg, Virginia
- Ann Smith Franklin, Providence, Rhode Island
- Cornelia Smith Bradford, Philadelphia
- Anna Catharina Zenger, New York
- Dinah Nuthead, Annapolis, Maryland

The Maryland Journal, and Baltimore Advertiser

THE MARYLAND JOURNAL
AND BALTIMORE ADVERTISER



Containing the FRESHEST ADVICES,
Omne tulit punctum, qui miscuit utile dulci,
both FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.
Lectorem delectanda, pariterque uersanda. HOR.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1776. (Vol. III)

THE THIRTEEN
United STATES
OF AMERICA,
Have declared INDEPENDENCY
IN CONGRESS, JULY 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION
By the REPRESENTATIVES of the
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
IN GENERAL CONGRESS ASSEMBLED.

WHEN in the course of
human events, it be-
comes necessary for one
people to dissolve the po-
litical bands which have
connected them with another, and to assume
among the powers of the earth, the separate
and equal station to which the laws of na-
ture and of nature's God entitle them, a de-
cent respect to the opinions of mankind re-
quires that they should declare the causes
which impel them to the separation.

injuries and usurpations, all having in direct
object the establishment of an absolute tyranny
over these States. To prove this, let
facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his assent to laws, the most
wholesome and necessary for the public good.
He has forbidden his governors to pass
laws of immediate and pressing importance,
unless suspended in their operation till his
assent should be obtained; and when so sus-
pended, he has utterly neglected to attend
to them.

He has refused to pass other laws for the
accommodation of large districts of people,
unless those people would relinquish the
right of representation in the legislature, a
right inestimable to them, and formidable
to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies
at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant
from the depository of their public records,
for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into
compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved representative houses re-
peatedly, for opposing with manly firmness
his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such
dissolutions, to cause others to be elected;
and in consequence of these refusals, incapacity of

from punishment for any Misdemeanors which
they should commit on the inhabitants of
these States: --

For cutting off our Trade with all parts
of the world;

For imposing Taxes on us without our
consent;

For depriving us, in many cases, of the
benefits of Trial by Jury;

For transporting us beyond Seas to be
tried for pretended offences;

For abolishing the free System of English
Laws in a neighbouring province, establish-
ing therein an arbitrary Government, and
enlarging its boundaries, so as to render it
at once an example and instrument for
introducing the same absolute rule into these
Colonies;

For taking away our charters, abolishing
our most valuable Laws, and altering fun-
damentally the Forms of our Govern-
ments;

For suspending our own Legislatures,
and declaring themselves invested with pow-
er to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by
declaring us out of his Protection, and with-
drawing his assistance, by assuming a
King's power against us.

He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our

- Reprinting of the Declaration
- WITHOUT names of the signers

BALTIMORE: Published by M. K. GODDARD, at the PRINTING-OFFICE in MARKET STREET,
next Door above Dr. JOHN STEVENSON'S, where SUBSCRIPTIONS for this PAPER, at TEN SHILLINGS per Annum, ADVERTISE-
MENTS and INTERESTING ESSAYS, or LETTERS of USEFUL INTELLIGENCE, are gratefully received for this PAPER; and where all
MANNER of PRINTING-WORK is performed with CARE, FIDELITY, and EXPEDITION. — BLANKS AND HAND BILLS are done on
the shortest NOTICE, in a NEAT and CORRECT MANNER.

Timothy & Goddard printings

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN HISTORY

In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

A DECLARATION,

BY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF
The UNITED STATES of America,
In General Congress Assembled.

WHEN in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires, that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great Britain, is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome & necessary for the public Good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless they should relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only. He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People. He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their Exercise; the State remaining in the mean Time exposed to all the Injuries and Usurpations to which absolute Despotism is so naturally apt to run. He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing their Migration hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Power. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries. He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance. He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power. He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they shall commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it, in one and the same Example, an Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, and altering fundamentally the Form of our Government: For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever: He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection, and waging War against us. He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People. He has endeavored to bring the Colonies under the Crown of Great Britain, and to make them a part of his Kingdom, by erecting in the Colonies a new and arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it, in one and the same Example, an Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies: He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People. He has endeavored to bring the Colonies under the Crown of Great Britain, and to make them a part of his Kingdom, by erecting in the Colonies a new and arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it, in one and the same Example, an Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies: He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

Ordered by the Congress, that the Declaration be printed, and that the Members of Congress, subscribing the same, be sent to each of the UNITED STATES, and that they be delivered to the same post as RECORD.

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

CHARLES THOMSON, Secretary.

In CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

THE UNANIMOUS DECLARATION OF THE THIRTEEN UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

WHEN, in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the Political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires, that they should declare the Causes which impel them to the Separation.

We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness—That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these Ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its Foundation on such Principles, and organizing its Powers in such Form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient Causes; and accordingly all Experience hath shewn, that Mankind are more disposed to suffer, while Evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the Forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long Train of Abuses and Usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their Right, it is their Duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future Security. Such has been the patient Sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the Necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The History of the present King of Great Britain is a History of repeated Injuries and Usurpations, all having in direct Object the Establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid World.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public Good. He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing Importance, unless suspended in their Operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them. He has refused to pass other Laws for the Accommodation of large Districts of People, unless they should relinquish the Right of Representation in the Legislature, a Right inestimable to them, and formidable to Tyrants only. He has called together legislative Bodies at Places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the Depository of their public Records, for the sole Purpose of fatiguing them into Compliance with his Measures. He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly Firmness his Invasions on the Rights of the People. He has refused for a long Time, after such Dissolutions, to cause others to be elected; whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their Exercise; the State remaining, in the mean Time, exposed to all the Injuries and Usurpations to which absolute Despotism is so naturally apt to run. He has endeavored to prevent the Population of these States; for that Purpose obstructing their Migration hither, and raising the Conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. He has obstructed the Administration of Justice, by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Power. He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the Tenure of their Offices, and the Amount and Payment of their Salaries. He has erected a Multitude of new Offices, and sent hither Swarms of Officers to harass our People, and eat out their Substance. He has kept among us, in Times of Peace, Standing Armies, without the Consent of our Legislatures. He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power. He has combined with others to subject us to a Jurisdiction foreign to our Constitution, and unacknowledged by our Laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation: For quartering large Bodies of Armed Troops among us: For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States: For cutting off our Trade with all Parts of the World: For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent: For depriving us, in many Cases, of the Benefits of Trial by Jury: For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended Offences: For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it, in one and the same Example, an Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies: For taking away our Charters, and altering fundamentally the Form of our Government: For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all Cases whatsoever: He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection, and waging War against us. He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People. He has endeavored to bring the Colonies under the Crown of Great Britain, and to make them a part of his Kingdom, by erecting in the Colonies a new and arbitrary Government, and enlarging its Boundaries, so as to render it, in one and the same Example, an Instrument for introducing the same absolute Rule into these Colonies: He has plundered our Seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our Towns, and destroyed the Lives of our People.

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JOHN HANCOCK.

GEORGIA,	Batist Ocmulgee, James Oglethorpe, Gov. Walton.	VIRGINIA,	George Wythe, Richard Henry Lee, Thos. Jefferson, Bacon, Harrison, Thos. Nelson, Jr., John Page, Carter Brant.	DELAWARE,	Caesar Rodney, Geo. Read.	MASSACHUSETTS,	Samuel Adams, John Adams, Ezekiel Pemberton, Lodge Gerry.
NORTH CAROLINA,	Wm. Hooper, Joseph Martin, John Penn.	NEW YORK,	Wm. Floyd, Paul Livingston, Lewis M. Lewis, Lewis Morris.	NEW JERSEY,	Richard Stockton, Jas. Witherspoon, Francis Hopkinson, John Jay, Abner Clark.	CONNECTICUT,	Roger Sherman, Francis Pickens, Wm. Williams, Oliver Wolcott.
SOUTH CAROLINA,	Edward Rutledge, Thos. Moultrie, junr., John Rutledge, Arthur Middleton.	PENNSYLVANIA,	Robert Morris, Benjamin Franklin, John Mifflin, Geo. Clymer, Geo. Ross.	NEW HAMPSHIRE,	John Stark, Josiah Bartlett, John Langdon.	VERMONT,	Richard Chittenden, John Chandler.
MARYLAND,	Samuel Chase, Thos. Lee, Charles Carroll, of Cal- verton.						

Ordered by the Congress, that the Declaration be printed, and that the Members of Congress, subscribing the same, be sent to each of the UNITED STATES, and that they be delivered to the same post as RECORD.

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

Declaration of Independence

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY

rollen. Geo. Rejs. Matthew Thornton.

IN CONGRESS, JANUARY 18, 1777.

ORDERED,
THAT an authenticated Copy of the DECLARATION of INDEPENDENCY, with the Names of the MEMBERS of CONGRESS, subscribing the same; be sent to each of the UNITED STATES, and that they be desired to have the same put on RECORD.

By Order of CONGRESS,

JOHN HANCOCK, *President.*

*Allert Richardson Junr A True Copy
John Hancock Presid*

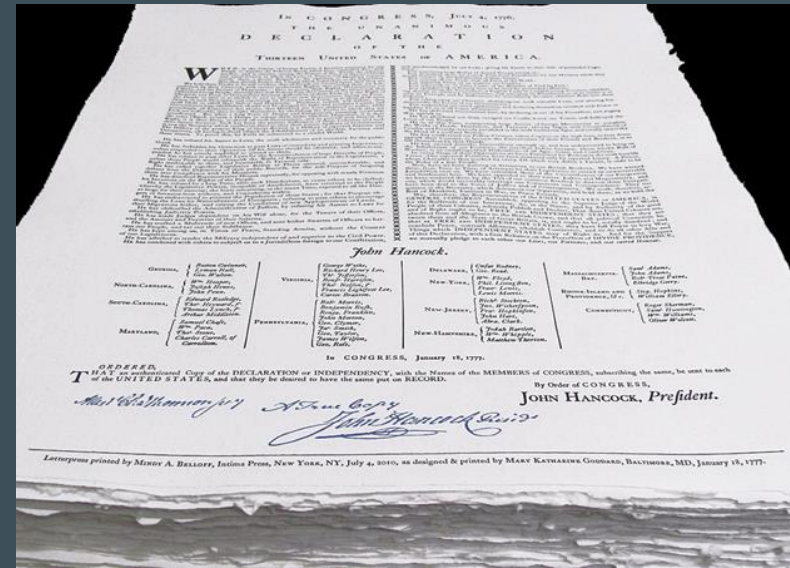
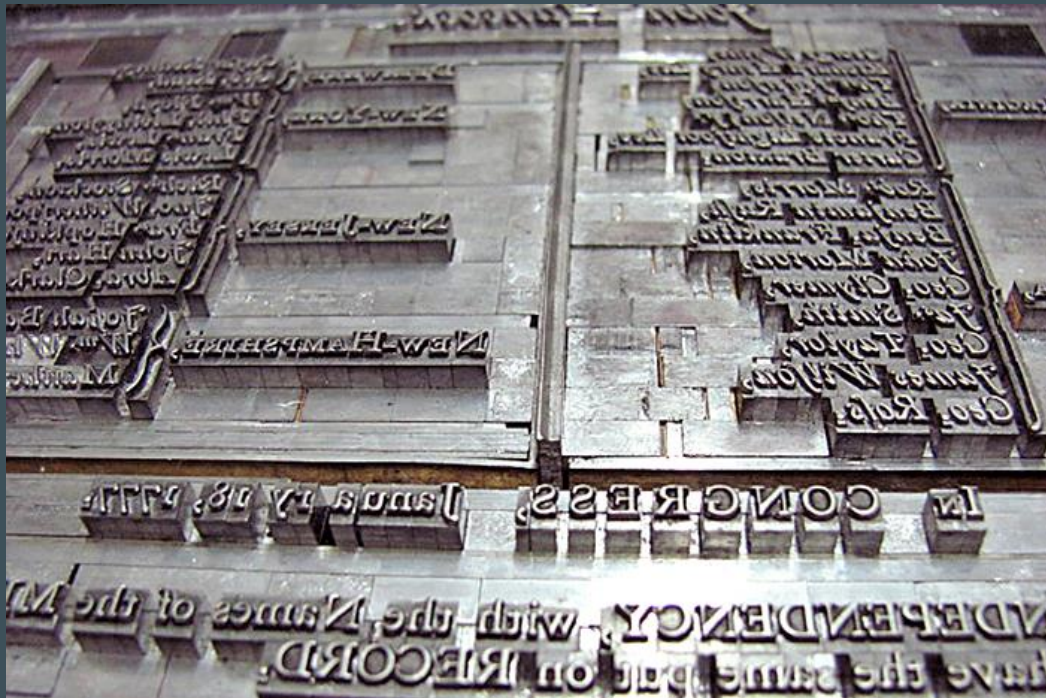
MYERS COLL
MS. DIV. NYPL

BALTIMORE, in MARYLAND: Printed by MARY KATHARINE GODDARD.

Goddard Broadside, Declaration of Independence,
1777, Image Courtesy of The New York Public Library

Printing Process &

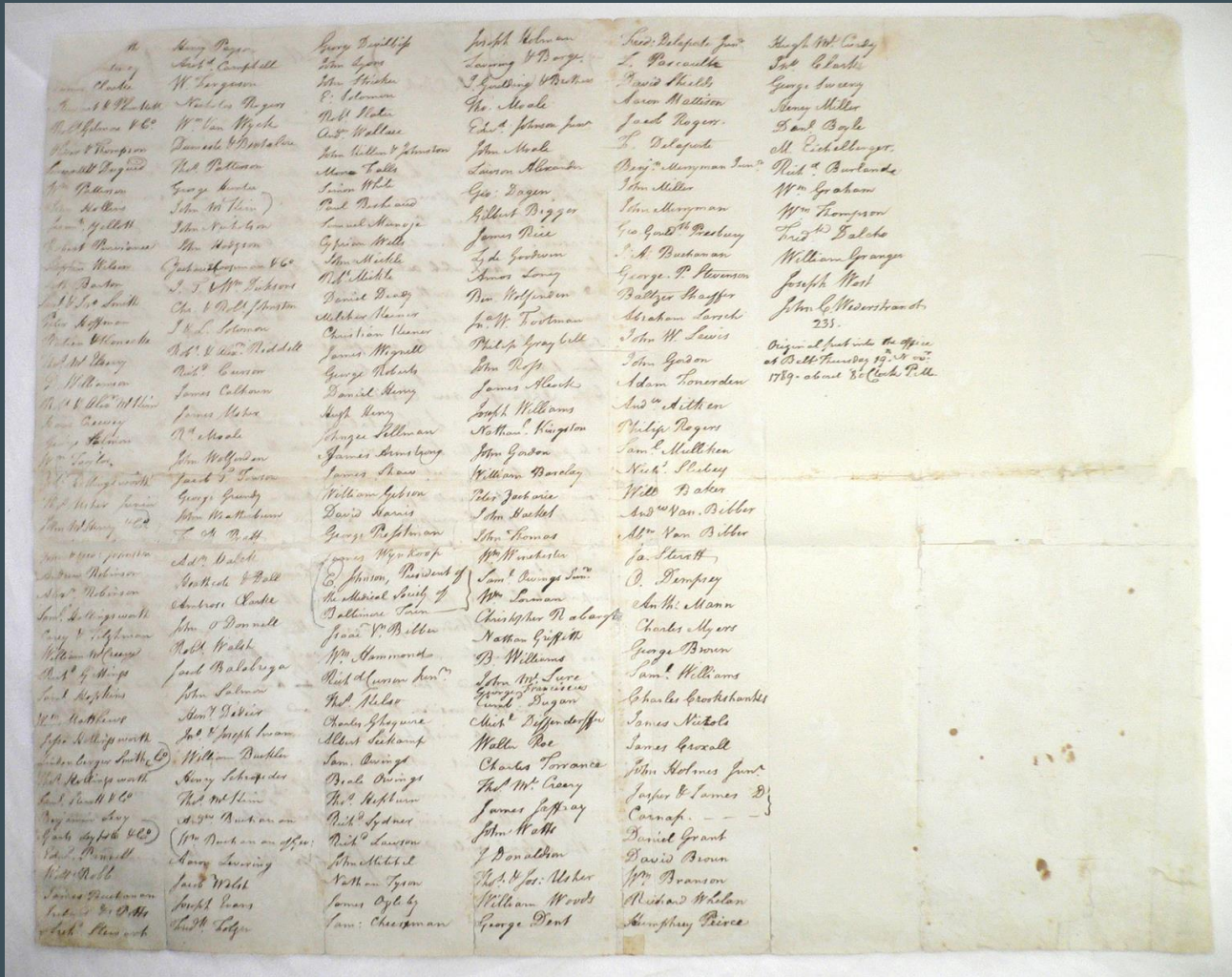
Replicating the Goddard printing



Postmaster of Baltimore 1775– 1789

- August 1775 - Goddard appointed as Postmaster of Baltimore
 - She was the only woman in that position.
- Autumn 1789 - removed from the post
 - A petition for her reinstatement was signed by more than 200 Baltimore citizens.
- December 1789 - She wrote to President Washington
- February 1790 - Her petition is presented to the Senate
- May 1790 - her claim is sent to the House of Representatives

Petition to Reinstate Goddard - After Treatment



Petition Addressed to Samuel Osgood,
November 12, 1789.
Gilder Lehrman Collection

Before Treatment



Henry Dagen John Campbell	Henry Smith John Gage	Joseph Nelson George W. Dyer	Joseph W. Lewis John Clark
W. Sargason John Fisher	John Fisher E. Johnson	L. Gauding Bretton	George Loring Henry Miller
Charles Rogers Wm Van Hook	Robt. Water Asa Waller	Edw. Johnson John Gage	Paul Bayle all Eckelbarger
James Thompson Darius B. Westcott	John Nelson John Gage	John Gage George P. Johnson	Richd. A. Burdette Wm. Thompson
John Gage John Gage	John Gage John Gage	John Gage John Gage	Richd. A. Burdette Wm. Thompson

Original put into the office
at D. B. Thurston's office
1789, about 8th March, P.M.

Henry Dagen John Campbell	Henry Smith John Gage	Joseph Nelson George W. Dyer	Joseph W. Lewis John Clark
W. Sargason John Fisher	John Fisher E. Johnson	L. Gauding Bretton	George Loring Henry Miller
Charles Rogers Wm Van Hook	Robt. Water Asa Waller	Edw. Johnson John Gage	Paul Bayle all Eckelbarger
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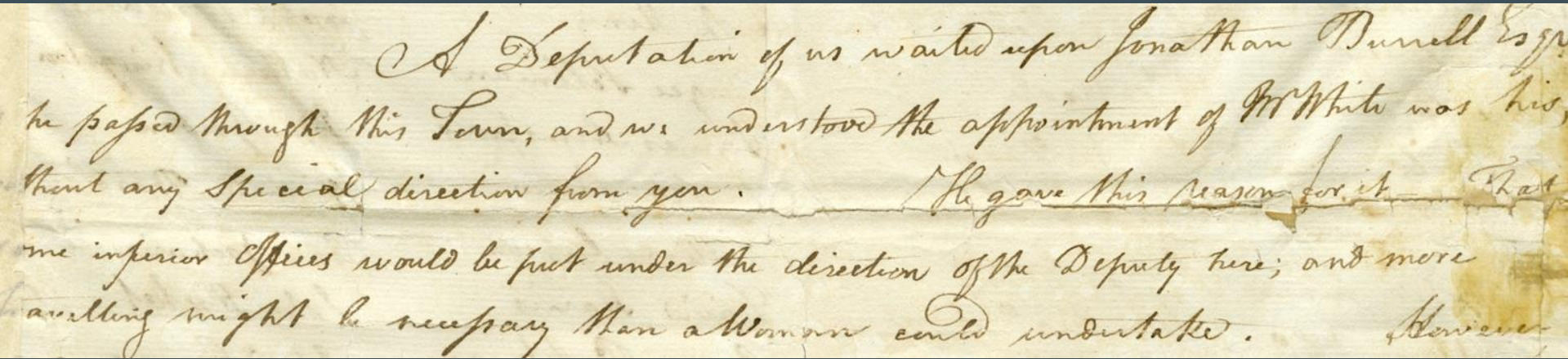
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W. Sargason John Fisher	John Fisher E. Johnson	L. Gauding Bretton	George Loring Henry Miller	Richd. A. Burdette Wm. Thompson	Richd. A. Burdette Wm. Thompson	Richd. A. Burdette Wm. Thompson	Richd. A. Burdette Wm. Thompson
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Original put into the office
at D. B. Thurston's office
1789, about 8th March, P.M.

After Treatment



Petition to Samuel Osgood



A Deputation of us waited upon Jonathan Burrell Esqr. as he passed through this Town, and we understood the appointment of Mr White was his, without any special direction from you. He gave this reason for it that some inferior Offices would be put under the direction of the Deputy here; and more travelling might be necessary than a Woman could undertake. However

“A Deputation of us waited upon Jonathan Burrell Esqr. as he passed through this Town ... He gave this reason for it that some inferior offices would be put under the direction of the Deputy here; and more travelling might be necessary than a Woman could undertake.”

Petition to Samuel Osgood

Under a persuasion that the removal of Miss Goodard has taken place for want of a more early application, and of your not being sooner informed of her merits. We ~~beg~~ have to request it as a favour, that you will re-consider the matter, and restore her to her former appointment. We wish her to be continued in office no longer than her conduct is consistent with the Duties and Interest of the Establishment.

“We beg leave to request it as a favour, that you will reconsider the matter, and restore her to her former appointment. We wish her to be continued in office no longer than her conduct is consistent with the Duties and Interest of the Establishment.”

Petition to Reinstate Goddard as Baltimore's Postmaster

Excerpt of a Letter from Baltimore to a friend in Philadelphia dated Nov. 13, 1789.

X FIRING MARY KATHLEEN GODDARD

The change made in the Post Office department of this place, has excited the surprise & indignation of the whole Community. This Office was held by a Lady upwards of 43 years, whose conduct, during that time, gave uncommon satisfaction; and all the Postmasters General have been heard to declare, that the regularity of her accounts & payments were equalled by few, & exceeded by none, upon the Continent. The subject of her removal being mentioned, one of these Gent^l observed, that he regretted it much, on her own account, as well as that of the Public, who could not possibly be benefited by a change.

As the Lady, considered the business, during the arduous difficulties attending the depreciation of the Continental currency, when its value was as equivalent to her trouble, she could not conceive it possible, that any person would cast a wishful eye upon it, at least whilst she wished to enjoy it, and did change its status with so much punctilious satisfaction. And although there are many wealthy Offices and Offices of State, to whom the emoluments, hitherto as they are, might have a reasonable relief, yet this sense of honor & delicacy has been such, as to disclaim every idea of that kind, upon any other terms than that of her own free & voluntary resignation. These Gent^l of course have declined the attempt, and it was reserved for Cloud John White, late Com^{rs} of Accounts, & carelessly given in Baltimore, evidently to step in & take the Lady's living from her - An act which no Gentleman in this State, in his necessities ever so pressing, would be mean enough to stoop to for relief. When the scheme of getting the Office was known here, all the Merchants & respectable Sobol^l stands joined in an address to be presented to the Postmaster Gen^l & the Postoffice, that this Lady should be dis^lin^l in her Office. On White discovering that the people were unanimous in against him, he pushed away to meet Mr. Burrell, the Postoffice, & engaged him thereof. Upon this emergency they concluded to represent the affair as irrecoverably lost; for that Mr White had actually received his Com^{rs}, which he would not part with; and by this means, it was expected the people of Baltimore would be reconciled to their fate as a thing irrevocable.

His father's conduct brings to my remembrance a similar story of last respect a Gen^l of great Family Interest & Connections, who had the misfortune of being put upon ~~to~~ for his life, before a Judge, will

well known to have been long at Ennity with his Prosecutors; and this was the first opportunity the conscientious dispenser of Justice had of doing any of them an injury. The Gen^l the innocent of the charge, was, through the address of the Judge, found guilty; and whilst he was upon his trial, an apparatus was ordered to get ready for an immediate execution, from the Court House windows, which was accordingly done as soon as the Jury returned their Verdict. This summary way of doing business prevented any application, either for mercy, or a reconsideration of the Evidence upon which he was found guilty.

Mr. Burrell on his arrival at Baltimore, was waited on by a Committee of Merchants, who ^{represented the} ~~were~~ of the Town, that the Lady should not be removed from Office; he whom he was graciously pleased to promise an answer; but on the day appointed for that purpose, Mr. Burrell like an experienced general treating with an Enemy, thought proper to disappear, leaving for business, that he could not comply with their request. He was naturally cautious in avoiding an interview with the poor Lady, this known a sacrifice to Mr. White's influence. It was not easy to let her know in prison any of the incapacities under which she laboured, but he should either comfort or visit her; and Mr. Burrell, the three days in Town, never came near either her or the Office. This is what the vulgar part of the world call travelling to settle negotiate the business of Post Office, but which, in this instance, the Office scorned even to look at - for it can not be supposed that he was ashamed to do his duty. Thus much however, is certain, that Mr. Burrell was extremely sorry to hear, that the Lady was so strongly recommended on all sides except his own.

The most disagreeable part of the narrative is, that notwithstanding the number of years she has been indefatigably employed, a variety of long Ep^l has swallowed up the fruits of her Industry, which was her totally incapable of sustaining the additional one.

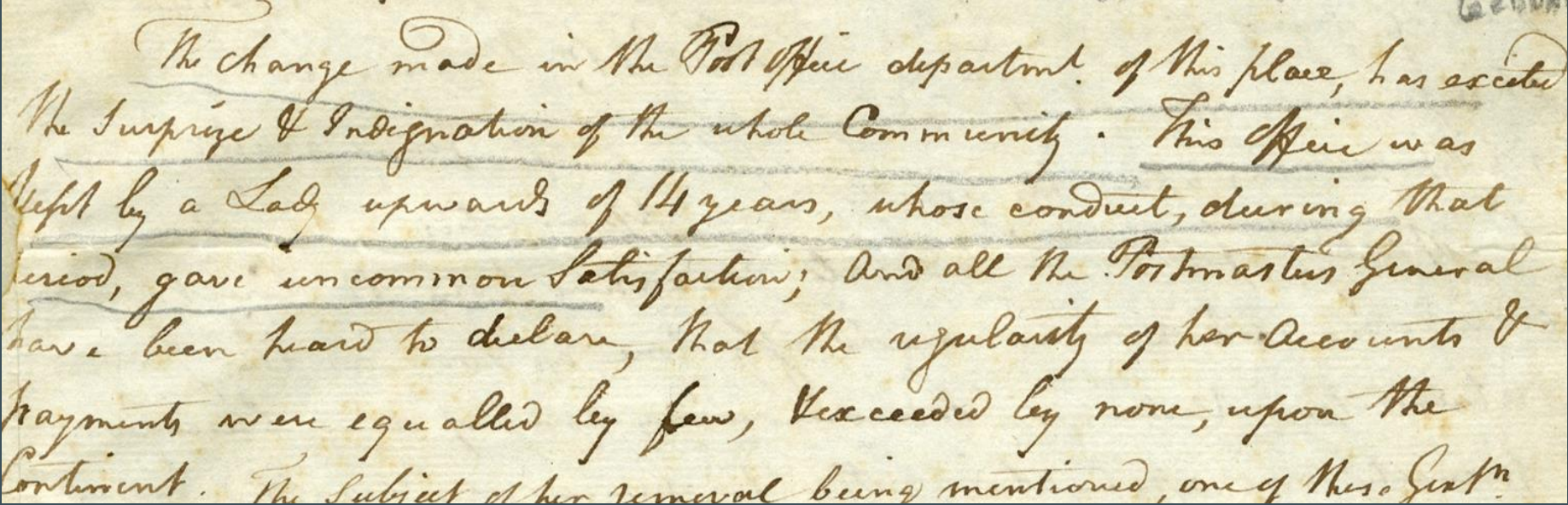
Mr. White, her own Countryman, has for a long while past often visited her, as an acquaintance, to whom her Situation was well known, and her divorce was the first he came to on his return from New York, when he engaged her Office. Little could he suppose that he was employed in supplanting her in a Secret and unobtrusive manner, and at the same time visiting her under the garb of friendship; but so

as to be the consequence what they may, either now or hereafter.

This is the first instance known of a military Gen^l being a making prize of all the worldly dependence of a female subject & ally. Plunder thus acquired, should make an heroic private blood for meanness, tamis being the honorable possession of Arms, with Spirits taken from even an Enemy's Petty costs."

Petition to reinstate Goddard as Baltimore's Postmaster, November 13, 1789. Gilder Lehrman Collection

Petition to Reinstate Goddard



The change made in the Post Office department of this place, has excited the Surprize & Indignation of the whole Community. This Office was kept by a Lady upwards of 14 years, whose conduct, during that period, gave uncommon Satisfaction; And all the Postmasters General have been heard to declare, that the regularity of her Accounts & Payments were equalled by few, & exceeded by none, upon the Continent. The Subject of her removal being mentioned, one of these Gent^l

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Petition to Reinstate Goddard

As this Lady conducted the Business during the arduous difficulties attending the depreciation of the Continental currency, when its value was not adequate to her trouble, she could not conceive it possible, that any person would cast a wishful Eye upon it, at least whilst she wished to enjoy it, and discharged its duties with so much punctuality and Satisfaction. And although there are many worthy Officers and

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Mary Katherine Goddard to George Washington

To his Excellency George Washington Esq^r President of the United States
The Representation of M^{rs} K. Goddard

Assembly knoweth. That she hath kept the Post Office at Baltimore for upwards of 18 years; but with what degree of satisfaction to all those concerned, she does leave to refer to the number & respectability of the persons who have publicly expressed the highest approbation of her assistance, on the subject after late removal from Office: And as M^r Ogden has not yet favour'd between him & these hundreds of the principal Merchants & inhabitants of Baltimore with an answer to their last application, transmitted on the 19th day of Nov^r ultimo, not with any answer to sundry private letters, accompanying the transcript of a late application, made to M^r Burrell, when at Baltimore: She therefore at the instance of the Gentlemen thus pleas'd to interest themselves on her behalf, lays before your Excellency, Superintendent of that Department, as briefly as possible, the nature & circumstances, of what is conceived to be an extraordinary act of oppression towards her.

That upon the dissolution of the old Government, when from the non-impairment agreement & other causes incident to the Revolution, the Revenue of the Post Office was inadequate to its disbursements, she accepted of the same, and at her own risque advanced hard money to discharge & pay the charges of Post riders for many years, when they were not to be procured on any other terms; and that during this period, the whole of her labor and industry in establishing the office was necessarily unrewarded; the emoluments of which being by no means equal to the then high rent of an office, & to the attention required both to receive & forward the letters, as well as to the various papers by the schedule accounts annexed, and therefore whoever thus established and continued the office, at the gloomy period when it was with no persons acceptance might easily to be thought worthy of it when it became more valuable. And as it had been universally understood, that no person would be removed from office, under the present government, unless manifest misconduct appeared, and as no such charge could possibly be made against her, with the least colour of Justice, she was happy in the idea of being secured both in her office, and the protection of all those who wish'd well to the Prosperity of the Post Office. When the new Government in general, that she has sustained many heavy losses, with the consent of the Gentlemen of Baltimore, which swallow'd up the fruits of her industry, without even gratifying her for reimbursement to that day, altho' her accounts with the Post Office were always considered, as amongst the most punctual & regular of any upon the Continent; notwithstanding which, she has been discharged from her office, without any imputation of the least fault, and without any previous official notice: The first intimation on that head being an order from M^r Burrell, whil'd at Baltimore, to deliver up the office to the Bearer of his Note; and altho' he had been there several days, yet he did not think proper to indulge her with a personal interview, but for treating her in the style of an unfeeling delinquent, unworthy of common civility, as well as common Justice. And altho' M^r White who succeed'd her, might doubtless have been mysterious in the different Offices he sustained, yet, she humbly conceives he was not more worthy of public notice & protection, than she has uniformly been.

It must therefore become a matter of serious importance & of peculiar distress to her, if Government can find no means of rewarding this Gentleman's Services, but at the expense of all that she had to rely on, for her future Dependence & Subsistence.

That it has been alleg'd as a Plea for her removal, that the Defunct Postmaster of Baltimore will hereafter be oblig'd to ride & regulate the Office to the Satisfaction, but that she conceives, with great deference to the Postmaster General, is wholly impracticable, & morally impossible; because the business of the Baltimore Office will require his constant attendance, and he also can't give Satisfaction to the people, if therefore the duties of the Defunct Post Office are to be performed by any other than himself, surely it can not well be attempted by those who are fully occupied with their own; and as two persons must be employ'd, according to this new plan, she apprehends, that she is more adequate to give Instructions to the Riding Post-Master, than to Act, than any other person possibly could, least for inexperienced in such Business.

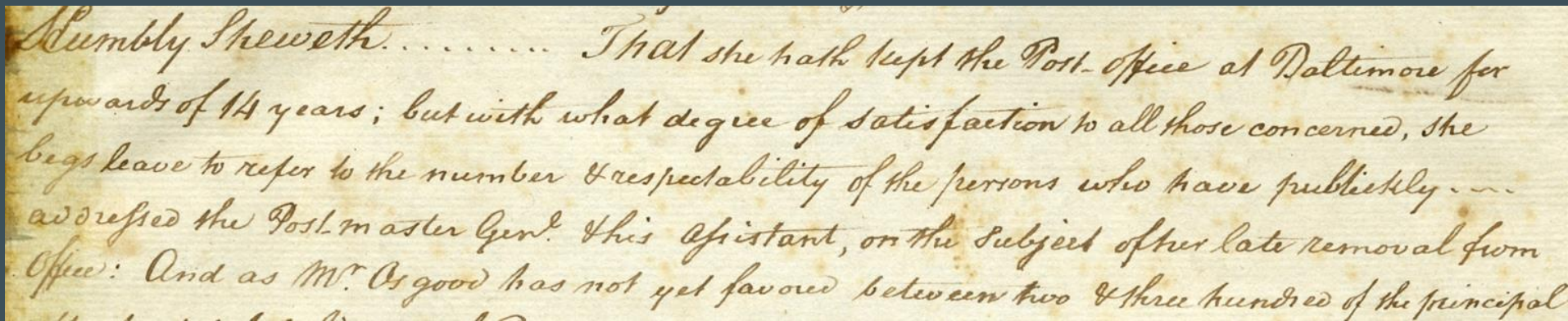
She therefore most humbly begs from your Excellency's Philanthropy and wond'ring humanity, You will take her Situation into consideration; and as the grievance complained of, has happened whil'd the Post Office Department was just under your auspicious protection, by a resolve of Congress, that your Excellency will be graciously pleas'd to order that she may be restor'd to her former office, and as in duty bound, she will ever Pray &c

Baltimore December 23^d 1789.

x - This plea is now known to be absolutely false - It must be a ~~poor~~ wretched system, indeed, which stands in need of so despicable a species of ~~sub~~ an Auxiliary, as a palpable lie, invented by Men high in office - signing themselves for Gentlemen of Property & Independence -

Mary Katherine Goddard to George Washington, December 23, 1789.
Gilder Lehrman Collection

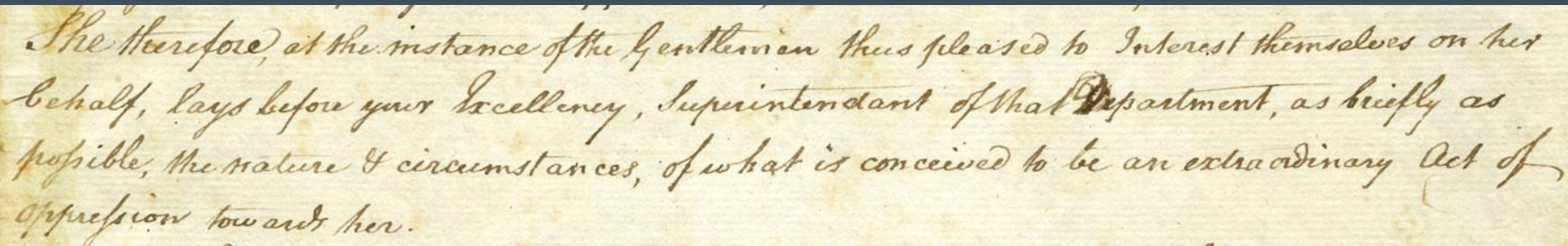
Mary Katherine Goddard to George Washington



Humbly Sheweth..... That she hath kept the Post-Office at Baltimore for upwards of 14 years; but with what degree of satisfaction to all those concerned, she begs leave to refer to the number & respectability of the persons who have publicly— addressed the Postmaster Genl. His Assistant, on the Subject of her late removal from Office: And as Mr. Asgood has not yet favoured between two & three hundred of the principal

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THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY

That upon the dissolution of the old Government, when from the non-import-
-ation agreement & other causes incident to the Revolution, the Revenue of the Post-
Office was inadequate to its disbursements, she accepted of the same, and at her own
risque advanced hard money to ~~discharge~~ defray the charges of Post-riders for many
years, when they were not to be procured on any other terms; and that during this
period, the whole of her labor and industry in establishing the Office was necessarily
unrewarded; the Emoluments of which being by no means equal to the then high Rent
of an Office, or to the attention required both to receive & forward the Mails, as will

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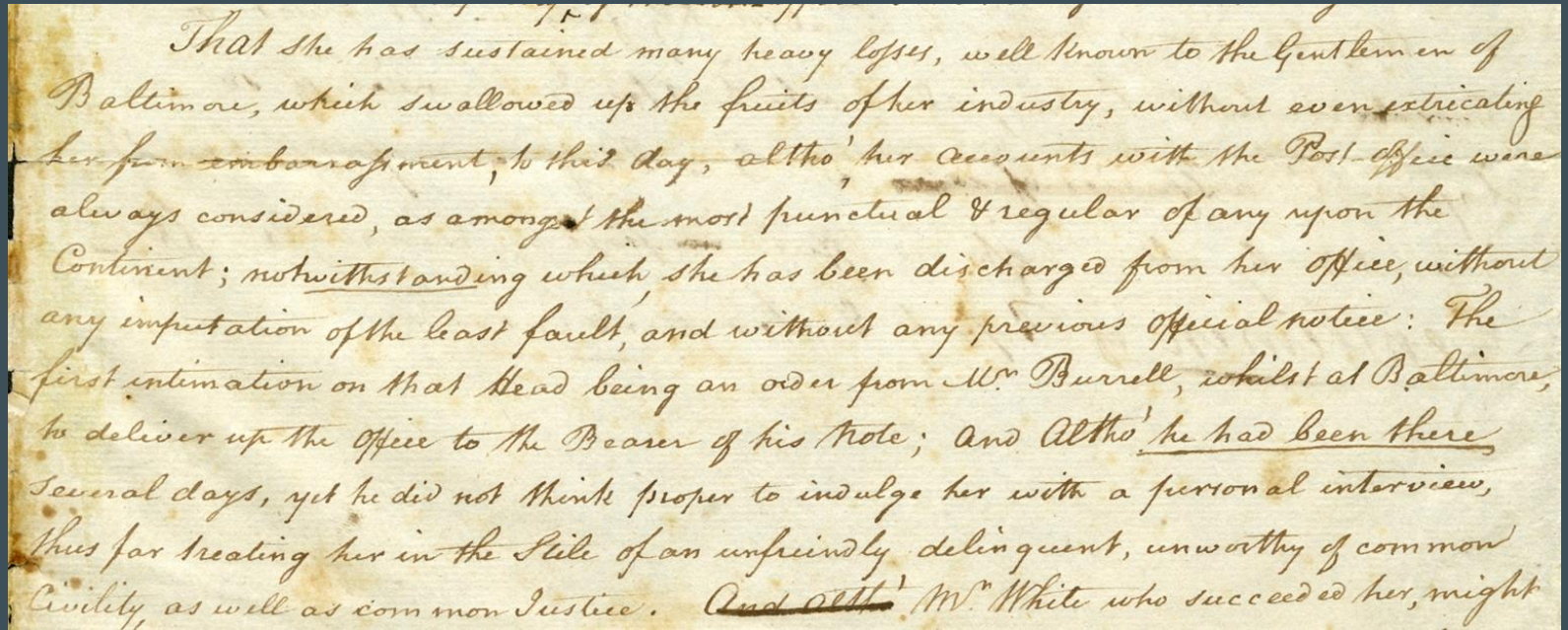
Mary Katherine Goddard to George
Washington, December 23, 1789.
Gilder Lehrman Collection

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She therefore most humbly hopes from your Excellency's Philantropy and wonted humanity, You will take her Situation into consideration; And as the grievance complained of, has happened whilst the Post-office Departmt. was put under your Auspicious protection, by a Resolve of Congress, that your Excellency will be graciously pleased to order that She may be restored to her former office, and as in duty bound, She will ever

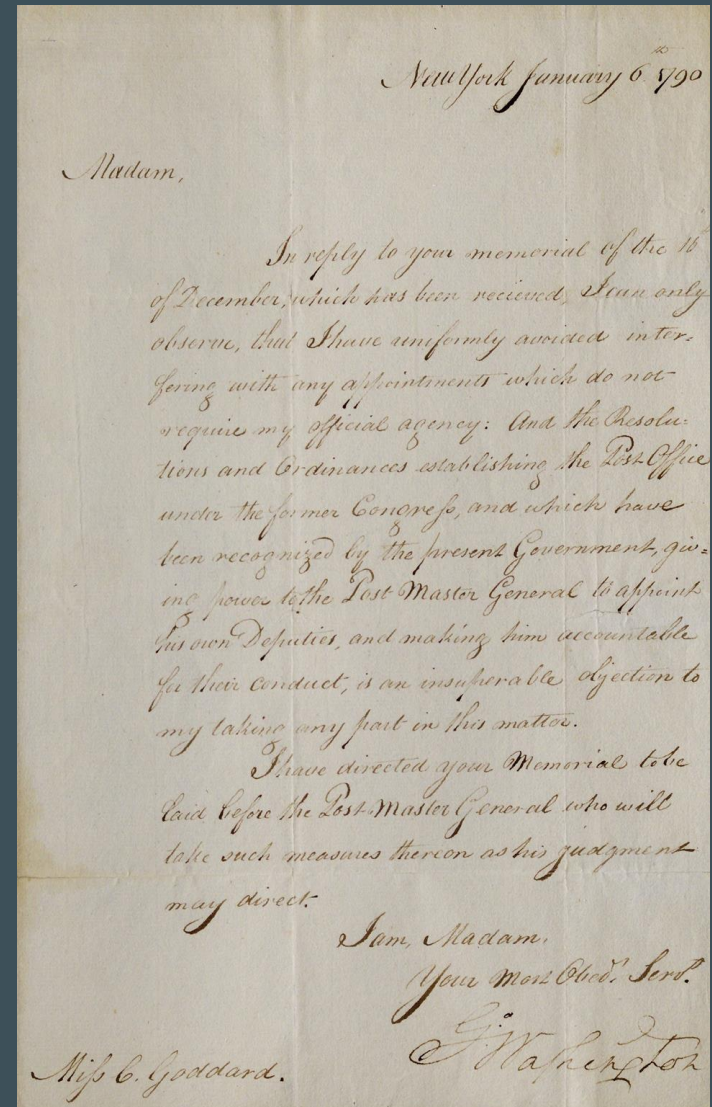
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George Washington to Mary Katherine Goddard,

“I can only observe, that I have uniformly avoided interfering with any appointments which do not require my official agency:”

“... giving power to the Post Master General to appoint his own Deputies, and making him accountable for their conduct, is an insuperable objection to my taking any part in this matter.

I have directed your Memorial to be laid before the Post Master General who will take such measures thereon as his judgment may direct.”



George Washington to Mary Katherine
Goddard, January 6, 1790.
Gilder Lehrman Collection

What happened to Mary Katherine Goddard?

- Not reinstated or reimbursed as postmaster
- Operated a bookstore and stationery shop
- Died in August 1816, giving freedom and “all the property of which I may die possessed” to “my female slave Belinda Starling”

*Where else might we find clues to history's
mysteries?*

Newspaper Advertisements

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY

Blank Bonds, Manifests, Ap-
prentices and Servants indentures, Seamens articles
and journals, with a variety of other Blanks for sale
at the Printing Office of the *Evening Post*, and at the
Book store of *Mary K. Goddard*,
Baltimore, February 21, 1793.

The Maryland Journal, and Baltimore Advertiser



AND
BALTIMORE ADVERTISER.

OMNE TELIT PUNCTUM, QUI MISQUIT UTILE DULCI,
LECTOREM DELECTANDO, PARITERQUE MONENDO. HOR.

[No. 16, of VOL. X.]

TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 1783.

[No. 503.]

A ROBBERY.

FIFTY DOLLARS REWARD.
STOLEN, from the Subscriber, out of the Room adjoining the Post Office, in Market-Street, Baltimore, on Tuesday Evening, or Wednesday Morning last, a *small TRUNK*, covered with black Leather, and ornamented with Gold-Leaf, containing (besides a Variety of Letters, Receipts, and other Papers of no Value to any one but the Owner) the following Articles, viz.

Fourteen Guineas and a Half, } wrapped up in
and Four Half-Johannes, } Paper,
Thirty or Forty Dollars and French Crowns;
One Bank Note for Fifty Dollars;
One Ditto, for Forty Dollars;
One Ditto, for Ten Dollars;
And about Twenty Five-penny Bits, and other
small Pieces of Silver.

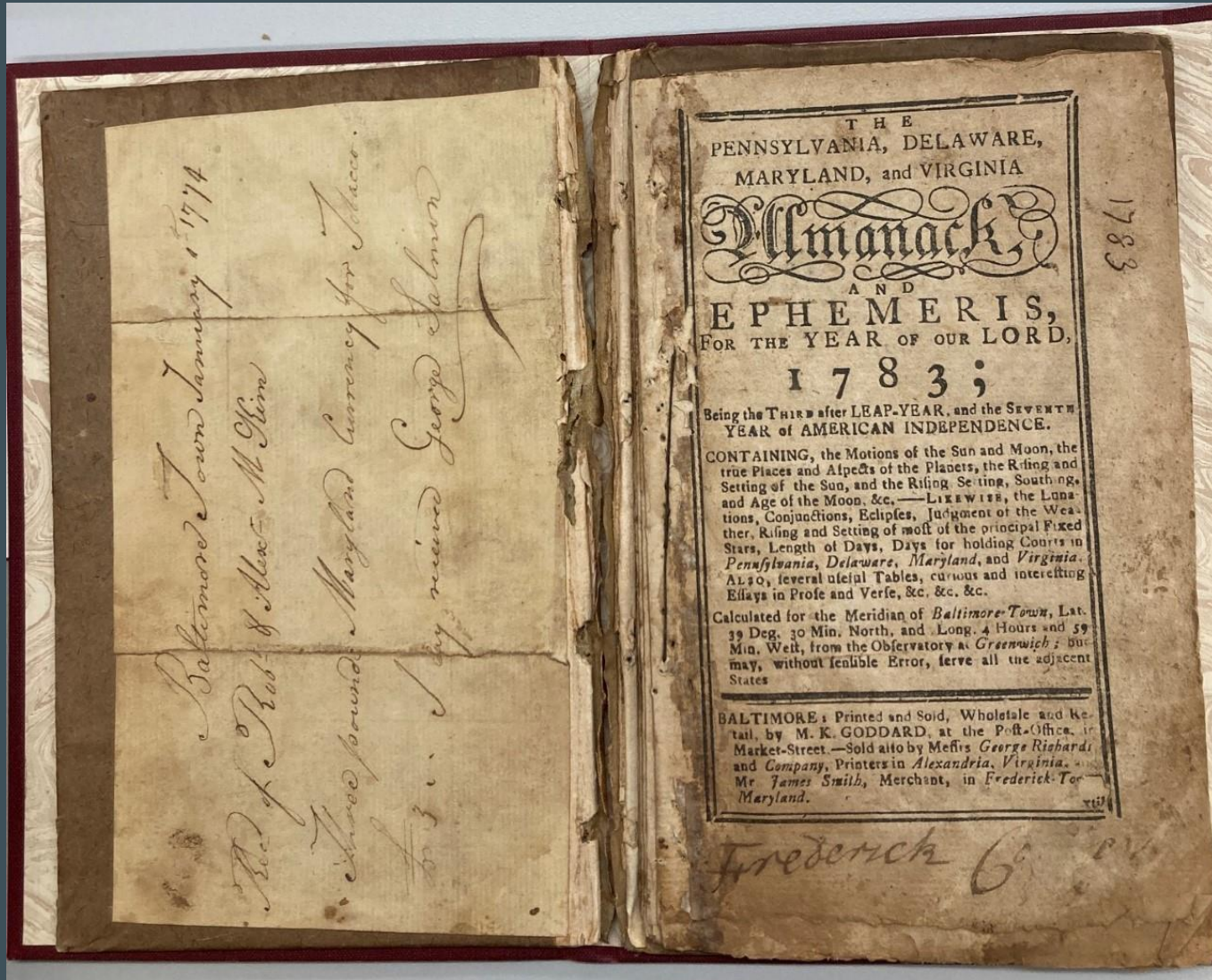
One of the Bank Notes had the Figures 23, with others, on the Back of it.

Whoever recovers the said CASH and NOTES, and delivers them at the Post-Office, shall receive **THIRTY DOLLARS** Reward, and have no Questions asked; and the above Reward shall be paid for apprehending and securing the Thief, so that the above-mentioned Articles may be regained, and he or she be brought to Justice.

MARY KATHERINE GODDARD.

March 21, 1783.

BALTIMORE: Printed by M. K. GODDARD, at the POST-OFFICE---by whom *Advertisements, interesting Essays and Articles of well-authenticated Intelligence, for this Paper, are gratefully received.*—These Labels for Windows, large Posting Bills, Ship-Bills, Hand-bills, Blanks, Printing is performed with Correctness, Elegance, and all possible Despatch. Uniform Engravings will be used to give general Satisfaction as well in the Execution of the Printing-Bizness, as in the Book-binding and Stationary Branches, which, under Favour of a generous and candid Public, will be extensively prosecuted. *Copper-Plate Printing* neatly performed, in various Colours, at the Office above-mentioned.



Baltimore Town January 1774
Recd of Dr. & Alex. M. Kim
Three pounds Maryland Currency for Tobacco
to 3... Day received George Salmon

THE
PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE,
MARYLAND, and VIRGINIA
Almanack
AND
EPHEMERIS,
FOR THE YEAR OF OUR LORD,
1783;

1783

Being the **THIRD** after LEAP-YEAR, and the **SEVENTH** YEAR of AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE.

CONTAINING, the Motions of the Sun and Moon, the true Places and Aspects of the Planets, the Rising and Setting of the Sun, and the Rising, Setting, Southing, and Age of the Moon, &c. — LIKEWISE, the Lunations, Conjunctions, Eclipses, Judgment of the Weather, Rising and Setting of most of the principal Fixed Stars, Length of Days, Days for holding Courts in *Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.* ALSO, several useful Tables, curious and interesting Essays in Prose and Verse, &c. &c. &c.

Calculated for the Meridian of *Baltimore-Town*, Lat. 39 Deg. 30 Min. North, and Long. 4 Hours and 59 Min. West, from the Observatory at *Greenwich*; but may, without sensible Error, serve all the adjacent States

BALTIMORE: Printed and Sold, Wholesale and Retail, by M. K. GODDARD, at the Post-Office, in Market-Street. — Sold also by Messrs *George Richards and Company*, Printers in *Alexandria, Virginia.* — Mr *James Smith*, Merchant, in *Frederick-Town, Maryland.*

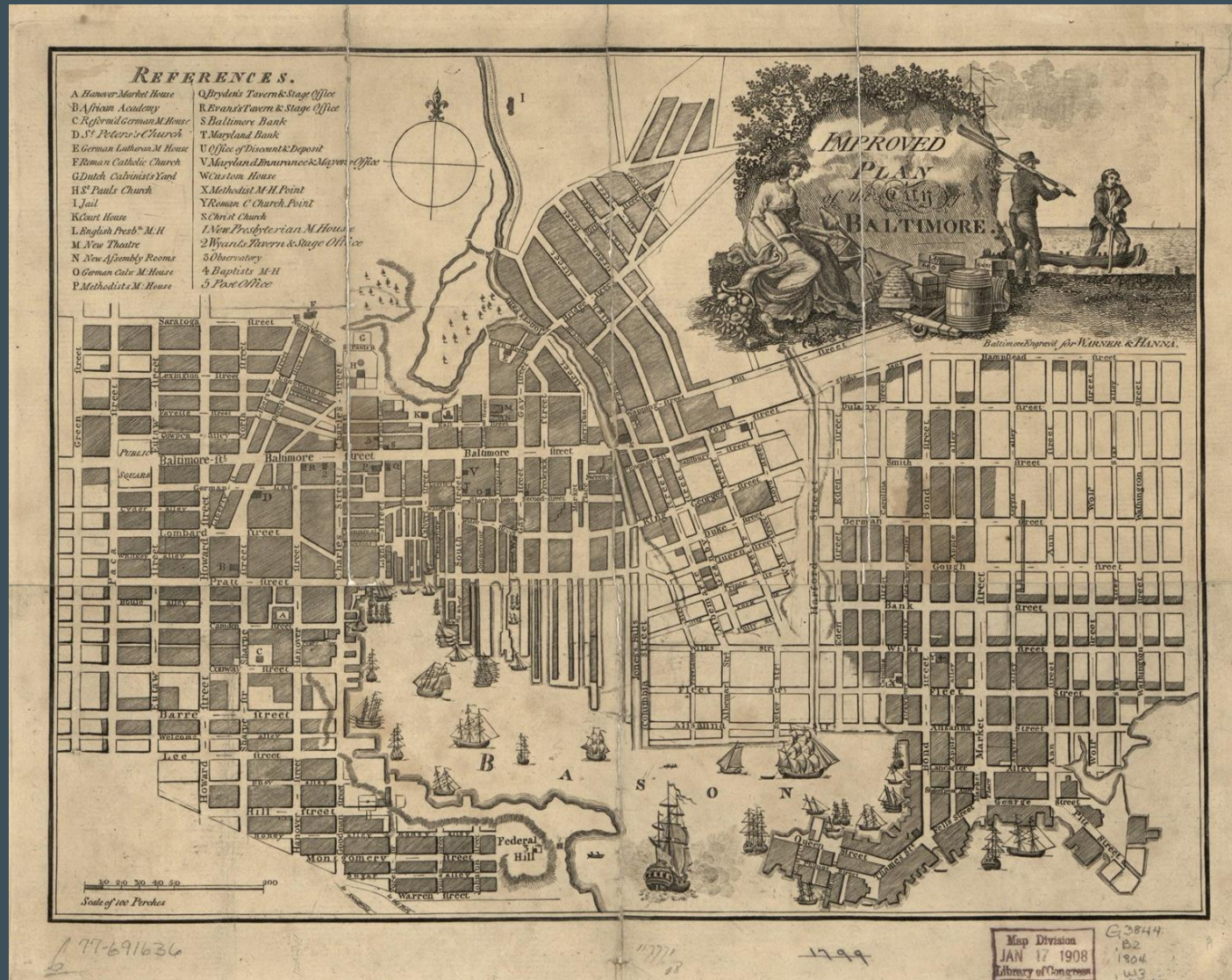
Frederick Town

Mary Katherine Goddard's Almanack and Ephemeris for 1783, Courtesy of the John Carter Brown Library

Jacob Hoffman	3	4	3	3		
William Woods		2	1	1	1	
Peter Diffendaffer		1	1	3		
Hugh Tweney		1	2	5		
James Bull		5	1	11		1
Joseph Williams		4				
Reuben Giddin		3				
Christ Mathiet		2	11	2		
Conrad Zollikoffen		1	2	2		
George Lindenberg		1	3	2		2
William Adams		1		1	1	2
Isaac Causton		2	11	2		
Harman Judd		1	1	2		
Captain Stuart		1	1	3		
Catherine Goddard				1	1	11
William Barkley		5			1	1
David Williamsen		2	1	4		8
John Kullen		2	1	11		
William Slater		1		2		
Andrew Key		3	1	1	1	
Moses Jacobs		2	1	11		1
Charles Guandu		3				
Abraham Usker		4		1	1	1
John Shultz		1		3		1
James Fisher		0	3	2	1	1
Louis Boyer		2	1	2		
James Bryden		2	2	2	1	
Thomas McFurn		3		1		1
Robert Courtney		3				1
John Brown		2	4	3	1	1
John G Reed		1	2	1	1	
Walter Eichelberger		1	3	7		
Robert Michim		2				
William Wilson		8	3	2		
Charles Wier		2	2	1		

Census Records

Contemporary Maps



Improved Plan of the City of Baltimore, 1804.
Image courtesy of the Library of Congress

Digital Visualizations



Courtesy of Anne Sarah Rubin UMBC digital project:
<https://earlybaltimore.org/ssfs> and <https://bearings.earlybaltimore.org>

Mary Katherine Goddard

Why does she matter?

Questions?

Upcoming Programs

- *Inside the Vault*: April 7 at 7 p.m. ET (4 p.m. PT)
 - *A Summary View of the Rights of British America* with Professor Andrew Robertson
- Gilder Lehrman Teacher Seminars registration is now open!
 - Seminars led by Carol Berkin on Women in the American Revolution and Kellie Carter Jackson on Black Women's History
- Free Professional Development in Baltimore, Maryland: March 12
 - Focusing on aspects of the Black soldier's experience in American military history and how to bring that topic back to the classroom with Professor John H. Morrow and Master Teacher Jermain Corbin