

A Woman Ahead of Her Time:
How Mary Katherine Goddard Defied Tyranny and Declared Her Independence

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Women were excluded from business, government, and politics in colonial America; however, one brave woman broke the barriers that eighteenth-century society placed upon her and became the first United States government employee in 1776. Mary Katherine Goddard proved that she could succeed outside of the home by working in the news, printing, and postal fields, holding the same positions as her male counterparts. As a woman truly ahead of her time, she burst through barriers that would not be permanently demolished for hundreds of years. She set an example for future generations and led the way for women to participate in the United States government.

Mary Katherine Goddard was born on June 16, 1738, in Connecticut.¹ For much of her early life, Goddard followed her brother William to various colonial cities as he began newspapers and she gained experience in the printing field. William also became postmaster in Rhode Island, but his mother and sister operated the post office, marking Goddard's first foray into the postal world. She later helped him run *The Pennsylvania Chronicle* until it was forced to close when the British Royal Mail service refused to mail the editions to subscribers. When William started Baltimore's first paper, *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*, Goddard worked by his side (see Figure 1).² A year later, William abandoned his growing Baltimore business, leaving the paper in his sister's capable hands in early 1774.³ The years that Goddard spent working with her brother prepared her for the future, when she would use her skill and knowledge of printing and postal work to break the barriers set by society and become the first female employee of the United States.

¹ Belloff, Mindy. "Printed by a Woman: The Declaration of Independence in the Eighteenth and Twenty-First Centuries." *Guild of Book Workers Journal: 2010-2011*, vol. 44, 2014. 86.

² Felder, Deborah G. *The American Women's Almanac: 500 Years of Making History*. Visible Ink Press, 2020.

³ Trickey, Erick. "Mary Katharine Goddard, the Woman who Signed the Declaration of Independence." *Smithsonian Magazine*, 14 Nov. 2018, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/mary-katharine-goddard-woman-who-signed-declaration-independence-180970816/. Accessed 7 Jan. 2020.

Goddard took charge of *The Maryland Journal* as the colonies moved towards revolution. By publishing articles that spoke out against tyranny, she put words to patriot thoughts and made clear her position for freedom. Goddard broadcast the hardships of those trapped in Boston in the year leading up to the Revolutionary War's beginning. She encouraged women to be frugal and to produce their own cloth instead of buying from England. *The Maryland Journal* was one of the first newspapers to publish reports of Lexington and Concord, saying, "The ever memorable nineteenth of *April* gave an answer to the questions so often asked by the enemies of *American* freedom."⁴ Echoing Patrick Henry's powerful "Liberty or Death" speech a month earlier,⁵ the article read, "That day...evidenced that *Americans* would rather die than live as slaves!"⁶ Later, she would twice publish parts of *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine and become the first woman to print the text of the Declaration of Independence on July 10, 1776.⁷ Despite numerous physical barriers, such as wartime shortages of paper and money, Goddard continued to publish *The Maryland Journal*, never missing an issue.

Goddard first printed the newspaper under her brother's name, but she soon claimed it as her own. Starting on May 10, 1775,⁸ Goddard printed using the colophon "Baltimore: Published by M. K. Goddard" (See Figure 2).⁹ In an age when women had "no voice, or Representation,"

⁴ Force, Peter, compiler. *American Archives: Fourth Series. Containing a Documentary History of the English Colonies in North America, from the King's Message to Parliament, of March 7, 1774, to the Declaration of Independence by the United States*. Vol. 2, Washington, M. St. Clair Clarke and Peter Force, 1839. 350.

⁵ Henry, Patrick. "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death." 23 Mar. 1775. Red Hill, Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, redhill.org/speech/liberty. Accessed 29 Feb. 2020. Speech.

⁶ Force, *American Archives*, 350.

⁷ "Which Version Is This, and Why Does It Matter?" *Declaration Resources Project*, The President and Fellows of Harvard College, Jan. 2018, declaration.fas.harvard.edu/resources/which-version-and-why. Accessed 6 Feb. 2020.

⁸ Rasmussen, Frederick N. "An 18th-century Dynamo; Courage: Mary Katherine Goddard, Baltimore's First Postmaster, Was Also a Publisher and Patriot." *The Baltimore Sun*, 26 June 1999, www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-1999-06-26-9906260297-story.html. Accessed 10 Jan. 2020.

⁹ Goddard, M. K., editor. *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*. 21 June 1775. Print.

as Abigail Adams put it, Goddard seized this unique opportunity.¹⁰ As a woman, she could not become a soldier and fight with gunpowder, but she took advantage of her position as a printer to fight for freedom with words, both for herself and her country.

Meanwhile, William also sought freedom through business. Still angry with the Royal Mail for putting his Philadelphia paper out of business, he created a private postal service to keep the colonies connected and enable patriots to correspond without the threat of mail seizure by the British. On July 26, 1775,¹¹ Congress adopted William's postal service and appointed Benjamin Franklin as Postmaster General. This system protected users' privacy and avoided the taxes charged by the British Stamp Act. New offices were established, and postmasters and riders were hired across the colonies.

The post and press shared a strong connection. As the editor of *The Maryland Journal*, Goddard gained much of her information from sources posted by mail and sent the weekly newspaper to subscribers via post riders. Today, journalists still use the mail for their stories. Nat Hentoff, former columnist for the *Washington Post*, said:

I have sometimes been asked where my leads for stories come from. Much of the time, they come from opening the mail....It is through letters that I often receive highly confidential stories...from people who would not trust any other form of communication.¹²

¹⁰ Adams, Abigail. Letter to John Adams. 31 Mar. 1776. *Founders Online*, National Archives and Records Administration, founders.archives.gov/documents/Adams/04-01-02-0241. Accessed 14 May 2020.

¹¹ "Starting the System." *Smithsonian National Postal Museum*, Smithsonian Institution, postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/binding-the-nation/starting-the-system. Accessed 13 Jan. 2020.

¹² *Binding the Nation*. Permanent exhibition, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington, D.C., 30 July 1993.

With her spirit of patriotism, years of experience, and unique connection to her community, Goddard became the first female postmaster in Baltimore¹³ when she was appointed to the position in 1775.¹⁴ However, she was just getting started. When the thirteen colonies metamorphosed into the United States in 1776, Goddard became the first female postmaster in America and the first female employed by the new government, serving under the leadership of Postmaster General Franklin. She proved women capable of playing an active and successful role in the American government and established their place in the United States from the founding of the country.

Goddard moved on to break barriers outside of the postal field. Later, she cemented her place in history as the first female government employee in the United States with the very document that established the states as “Free and Independent.”¹⁵

The first official printing of the Declaration of Independence occurred on the night of July 4, 1776, following its adoption by the Second Continental Congress.¹⁶ Irish immigrant John Dunlap printed 200 copies,¹⁷ yet an important element was missing. The text of the Declaration was printed in full but without the names of the Congressmen who signed it. Signing the document that separated the colonies from Britain was an act of treason, and the punishment for treason was death. Therefore, when the first copies of the Declaration of Independence were

¹³ "Mary Katharine Goddard Takes a Stance." *National Park Service*, 19 July 2019, www.nps.gov/articles/independence-goddard.htm. Accessed 10 Jan. 2020.

¹⁴ "Mary Katherine Goddard: Strength Ran in the Family." *The Evening Sun* [Baltimore], 8 Oct. 1975, p. 25, www.newspapers.com/clip/28034760/the-evening-sun/. Accessed 24 Feb. 2020.

¹⁵ United States, Congress. *In Congress, July 4, 1776. The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America*. Library of Congress, 18 Jan. 1777, www.loc.gov/item/90898037/. Accessed 7 Jan. 2020.

¹⁶ "Which Version Is This, and Why Does It Matter?" *Declaration Resources Project*, The President and Fellows of Harvard College, Last modified Jan. 2018, declaration.fas.harvard.edu/resources/which-version-and-why. Accessed 6 Feb. 2020.

¹⁷ Bomboy, Scott. "On This Day, the Declaration of Independence Is Officially Signed." *National Constitution Center*, 2 Aug. 2019, constitutioncenter.org/blog/on-this-day-the-declaration-of-independence-is-officially-signed. Accessed 1 Mar. 2020.

printed, the identities of the representatives were omitted. When Congress fled Philadelphia with the document in December 1776 and moved to Baltimore,¹⁸ the future of the monumental proclamation looked bleak.

Hope was rekindled after the American victories at Trenton and Princeton. On January 18, 1777, the Journals of the Continental Congress included this resolution: "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...."¹⁹ It was time to remind the world that they were "absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown."²⁰ The printer chosen for the task was Goddard.

As the official printer for John Hancock and the Second Continental Congress, Goddard had been printing documents for them since they had reconvened in Baltimore. She may have handled the original signed parchment as she set the type for every word, including the well-known phrase "all Men are created equal." She must have realized the irony, because at the bottom of each page is this line: "Baltimore, in Maryland: Printed by Mary Katharine Goddard" (See Figure 3). For the first time in her career, Goddard printed her full name and announced that she was a woman. With her "signature," she, too, was risking her life, fortune, and sacred honor, both by making known her gender and by printing a document considered traitorous to the British. She risked losing readers and income for those same reasons. She revealed her identity

¹⁸ Sneff, Emily. "March Highlight: Mary Katherine Goddard." *Declaration Resources Project*, The President and Fellows of Harvard College, 4 Mar. 2016, declaration.fas.harvard.edu/blog/march-goddard. Accessed 11 Jan. 2020.

¹⁹ "1777: January 1-May 21." *Journals of the Continental Congress*. Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1907. American Memory, [memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=lljc&fileName=007/lljc007.db&recNum=0&itemLink=r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(jc0071\)\)%230070001&linkText=1](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=lljc&fileName=007/lljc007.db&recNum=0&itemLink=r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(jc0071))%230070001&linkText=1). Accessed 17 Feb. 2020.

²⁰ United States, Congress. *In Congress, July 4, 1776*.

and simultaneously unmasked 55 of the men who had also dared to defy tyranny and declare independence.²¹

Her Goddard Broadside broke barriers by being the only official copies of the Declaration of Independence printed by a woman and the first copies printed for Congress by an American-born patriot. Most importantly, Goddard was the first person to expose the signers and write their names into America's story (See Figure 4). On January 31, 1777, a Goddard Broadside was sent to each state (See Figure 5). Eleven of her poster-like printings of the Declaration exist today, privately owned and in libraries, museums, and historical societies in seven of the thirteen original states.²² Their rarity and significance make them national treasures.²³

Goddard's post office was a thriving business during the war, and she kept detailed records. By the end of her first year as postmaster, she brought in £195, £65 more than Philadelphia's post office reported and £113 more than New York.²⁴ Baltimore was drastically smaller in population than those two significant cities yet still had the most active post office in the nation thanks to Goddard's "extraordinary judgment, energy, nerve and strong, good sense."²⁵ Her jobs as postmaster and newspaper publisher dovetailed. Part of her role as postmaster was to publish postal schedules and notices of unclaimed letters, and she used *The Maryland Journal* to do so.

Goddard again broke barriers of tradition in the postal world by being one of the first postmasters to use a letter carrier. Although it was customary to go to the post office for mail,

²¹ United States, Congress. *In Congress, July 4, 1776*

²² Sneff. "March Highlight."

²³ Belloff. "Printed by a Woman." 85.

²⁴ Ward. "Goddard, Mary Katherine."

²⁵ Trickey. "Mary Katharine Goddard."

this advertisement appeared in a 1784 edition of *The Maryland Journal*:²⁶ "A Penny-Post wanted. A man of good character, well qualified to perform the business, or Letter-Carrier in this Town, will meet with good encouragement by applying...at the Post Office."²⁷ Today, mail delivery is common. In 2006, there were 224,400 letter carriers in American cities,²⁸ but Goddard employed a letter carrier 80 years before free city delivery was established.²⁹

Despite her determination and skill in her businesses, some barriers were unbreakable for Goddard. After running *The Maryland Journal* successfully for nine years, her brother William forced her out of the business in January 1784.³⁰ While William's reasons are unknown, it is clear that Goddard hated the turn of events. The siblings never spoke again.

Another blow came in November 1789.³¹ New Postmaster General Samuel Osgood appointed John White, a man with few qualifications, to take over Goddard's position. Osgood's office claimed that "more travelling might be necessary than a woman could undertake,"³² even though she had handled it with expertise for over a decade. Both Goddard and her community fought back. Maryland's governor and over 230 respected Baltimore citizens signed a petition for her reinstatement.³³ In January 1790, she begged the Senate for her job:

...these are but poor rewards indeed for fourteen years faithful services, performed in the worst of times...If two persons must be employed according to this new plan, She

²⁶ "Mary Katherine Goddard." *The Evening Sun*.

²⁷ Ward. "Goddard, Mary Katherine."

²⁸ "City Delivery." *About USPS*, United States Postal Service, May 2007, about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/city-delivery.pdf. Accessed 20 Feb. 2020. 2.

²⁹ United States Postal Service. *The United States Postal Service: An American History*. United States Postal Service, 2020.

³⁰ Trickey. "Mary Katharine Goddard."

³¹ United States, Congress, Senate. *Petition of Mary Katherine Goddard for Reinstatement as Postmaster of Baltimore*. Government Publishing Office, 29 Jan. 1790. *National Archives Catalog*, catalog.archives.gov/id/17364173. Accessed 10 Jan. 2020.

³² Trickey. "Mary Katharine Goddard."

³³ United States, Congress, Senate. *Petition of Mary Katherine Goddard*.

apprehends herself...as well qualified to give the necessary Instructions to the Riding Post Master as Mr White, or any other person hereto fore unexperienced in such business.³⁴

Neither the Postmaster General nor the Senate answered her letter.

Goddard also appealed to President George Washington for intervention. “She has been discharged from her Office, without any imputation of the least fault,” the letter says, “...no such Charge could possibly be made against her.”³⁵ She again presented reasons why she was qualified to continue as postmaster. Washington’s reply smothered any spark of hope left in Goddard: “I have uniformly avoided interfering with any appointments which do not require my official agency.”³⁶ That door was officially closed to her.

While Goddard never worked with the post office or a newspaper again, she continued her printing and bookbinding businesses for twenty more years. She died at age 78 on August 12, 1816.³⁷

By breaking the barriers eighteenth-century society put upon her, Mary Katherine Goddard was a trailblazer for women in the American government. She set a precedent for women printers by becoming the official printer for Congress and printing the first complete copy of the Declaration of Independence, the very document that allowed her to break barriers as the first female United States employee. She used her position as editor of *The Maryland Journal* to help establish the news industry as a voice for change.³⁸ She accomplished all of this

³⁴ United States, Congress, Senate. *Petition of Mary Katherine Goddard*.

³⁵ Goddard, Mary Katherine. Letter to George Washington. 23 Dec. 1789. *Founders Online*, National Archives and Records Administration, founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-04-02-0302. Accessed 3 Jan. 2020.

³⁶ Goddard. Letter to George Washington.

³⁷ Belloff. “Printed by a Woman.” 89.

³⁸ Ward. “Goddard, Mary Katherine.”

more than a hundred years before the equal rights movement began and women fought for opportunities in business, government, and politics.

Still, Goddard's story is an unfortunate example of history being written by the winners. After the Revolutionary War concluded, the era of relaxed political freedom ended. Women were left out when the Founding Fathers created the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Subsequently, Goddard's accomplishments went unnoticed for many years. Now that American culture does "Remember the Ladies,"³⁹ Goddard has become a representative of the courageous women who refuse to let societal barriers stop them from following their dreams and making a difference. For over 200 years, her story was buried beneath those of men, but today women and historians are resurrecting it. Goddard's position in the early years of the postal system makes her a role model for modern women. As School Programs Manager at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C., Jessie Aucoin includes Goddard in her programs to educate visitors of all ages about citizenship and equality. "Her story resonates with a lot of women who feel overlooked or disregarded because of their gender," she says.⁴⁰ Jennifer Lynch is Historian and Corporate Information Services Manager for the United States Postal Service, and her office incorporated Goddard's biography into the publication *The United States Postal Service: An American History*.⁴¹ She shares, "I'm proud of the role women have played throughout the history of the Postal Service."⁴²

Now that women are accepted into these roles, the fields in which Goddard worked have become more diverse. The Post Office Department reported in 1958 that they had "the largest

³⁹ Adams, Abigail. Letter to John Adams.

⁴⁰ Aucoin, Jessie. E-mail interview. 17 Jan. 2020.

⁴¹ United States Postal Service. *The United States Postal Service*.

⁴² Lynch, Jennifer M. E-mail interview. 24 Feb. 2020.

number of women branch managers of any business type operation in the world.”⁴³ At the time, almost half of United States postmasters were women and in 2008, that number had grown to over 61 percent.⁴⁴ Women’s roles in the postal service have also increased in importance over time. Megan Brennan was appointed United States Postmaster General in 2015, making her the first female to hold that position.⁴⁵

Female leaders in the news industry are writing headlines, too. Katharine Graham published *The Washington Post* for ten years and is often described as one of the most influential women of the twentieth century. She supported her reporters’ investigation of the Watergate scandal, which won a Pulitzer Prize in 1973, the highest honor for a publisher.⁴⁶

Goddard’s ambition is inspiring modern-day women to follow her example. Mindy Belloff, a printer in New York City, broke another barrier by becoming the first to recreate the Goddard Broadside on her own printing press in 2009.⁴⁷ She spent a year researching, setting the type by hand, and securing handmade paper to ensure that her reproductions would be accurate. After printing 100 copies,⁴⁸ Belloff shared her work with the public at Harvard University, Colonial Williamsburg, National Public Radio, and other institutions.

At a time when a woman’s sphere of influence remained at home, Mary Katherine Goddard ventured into the unknown and pursued a professional career. The pioneering role she

⁴³ "Women Postmasters." *About USPS*, United States Postal Service, July 2008, about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/women-postmasters.pdf. Accessed 11 Jan. 2020.

⁴⁴ "Women Postmasters."

⁴⁵ "Megan J. Brennan: Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer." *About USPS*, United States Postal Service, May 2019, about.usps.com/who/leadership/officers/pmg-ceo.htm. Accessed 3 Feb. 2020.

⁴⁶ "The Washington Post: For Its Investigation of the Watergate Case." *The Pulitzer Prizes*, www.pulitzer.org/winners/washington-post. Accessed 28 Feb. 2020

⁴⁷ Belloff. "Printed by a Woman." 92.

⁴⁸ Romero, Cynthia. "Printer Makes Her Own Declaration in the Declaration." *The Villager* [New York], 13 July 2010. *The Villager*, www.thevillager.com/2010/07/printer-makes-her-own-declaration-in-the-declaration/. Accessed 25 Feb. 2020.

held in history laid the foundation for women to be included in business, government, and politics. While she did not set out to advocate for women's rights, Goddard broke the barriers limiting her to a life at home and proved that a woman could succeed in a man's world.



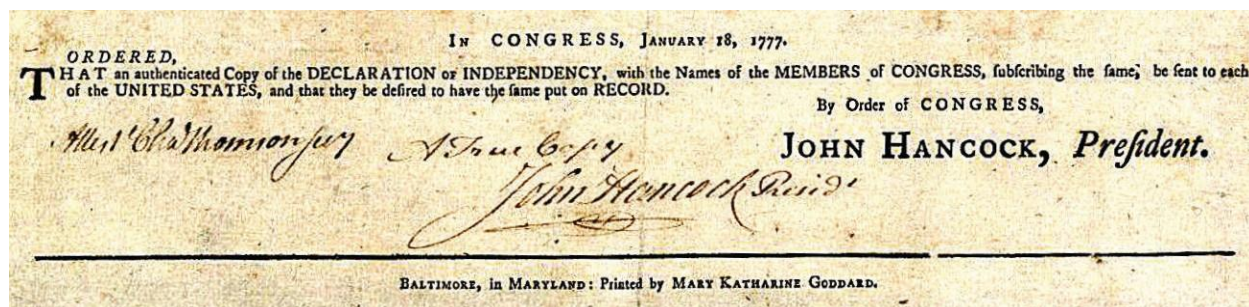
Goddard, William, editor. *The Maryland Journal and the Baltimore Advertiser*. 30 August 1773.

Fig. 1. This masthead is from a facsimile of the first edition of *The Maryland Journal*.

B A L T I M O R E : Published by M. K. GODDARD, at the PRINTING-OFFICE in MARKET-STREET, next Door above Dr. JOHN STEVENSON'S, where ADVERTISEMENTS, for ready Money, and SUBSCRIPTIONS for this PAPER, at TEN SHILLINGS per Annum, are taken in--all INTERESTING ESSAYS, or LETTERS of USEFUL INTELLIGENCE, (free of Postage) are received; and PRINTING WORK in general, performed with ACCURACY and EXPEDITION.

Goddard, M. K., editor. *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*. 21 June 1775.

Fig. 2. Mary Katherine Goddard ran *The Maryland Journal* for a year before publishing her name on the newspaper instead of her brother's; after that she used the colophon above.

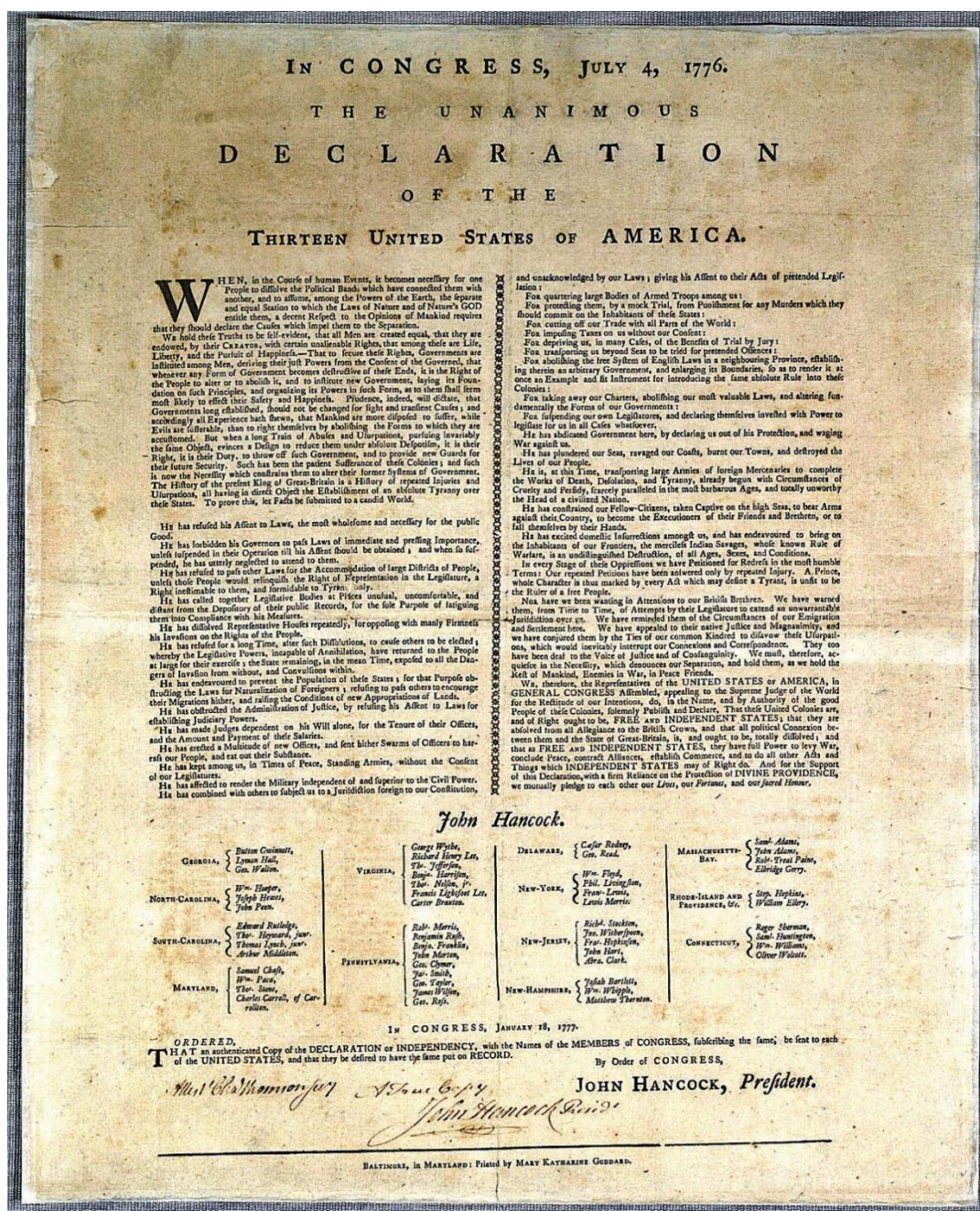


United States, Congress. *In Congress, July 4, 1776. The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen*

United States of America. Library of Congress, 18 Jan. 1777, www.loc.gov/item/90898037/.

Accessed 7 Jan. 2020.

Fig. 3. Along with Goddard's "signature," Congress President John Hancock and Secretary Charles Thomson also signed most broadsides to attest to their authenticity.



United States, Congress. In Congress, July 4, 1776. The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen

United States of America. Library of Congress, 18 Jan. 1777, www.loc.gov/item/90898037/.

Accessed 7 Jan. 2020.

Fig. 4. The Goddard Broadside remains the only copy of the Declaration of Independence printed by a woman for Congress and was the first to reveal the identities of the signers.

(Circular) Baltimore Jan'y 31st 1777

Gentlemen

As there is not a more distinguished event in the history of America, than the Declaration of her Independence, — nor any, that in all probability, will so much excite the attention of future ages, it is highly proper, that the Memory of that Transaction together with the Causes that gave Rise to it, should be preserved in the most careful Manner that can be devised.

I am therefore commanded by Congress to transmit you the enclosed Copy, of the Act of Independence, with the list of the several Members of Congress subscribed thereto, — and to request that you will cause the same to be put upon Record, that it may hereafter form a Part of the Archives of your State, and remain a lasting Testimony of your Approbation of that necessary and important Measure.

I have the honor to be,
Gentlemen,
Your most Obedt
J very hble serv
John Hancock Presid.^t

Hancock, John. Letter to Richard Caswell. 31 Jan. 1777. Governor's Letter Book: 1775-1779,
North Carolina States Archives, Raleigh, N.C.

Fig. 5. This letter by John Hancock, along with a Goddard Broadside, was sent to North Carolina's governor to be placed in "the Archives" of the state. Each of the thirteen states received this same letter from the President of the Congress, emphasizing the importance of preserving it for future generations.

Annotated Bibliography

Primary Sources

1777: *January 1-May 21*. Journals of the Continental Congress. Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1907. *American Memory*, [memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=lljc&fileName=007/lljc007.db&recNum=0&itemLink=r?ammem/hlaw:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(jc0071\)\)%230070001&linkText=1](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=lljc&fileName=007/lljc007.db&recNum=0&itemLink=r?ammem/hlaw:@field(DOCID+@lit(jc0071))%230070001&linkText=1). Accessed 17 Feb. 2020.

The Journals of the Continental Congress records the January 18, 1777 order for a second official printing of the Declaration of Independence. This primary source is proof that the Goddard Broadside unmasked the signers for the first time.

Adams, Abigail. Letter to John Adams. 31 Mar. 1776. *Founders Online*, National Archives and Records Administration, founders.archives.gov/documents/Adams/04-01-02-0241. Accessed 14 May 2020.

In early 1776, John Adams was a delegate to the Second Continental Congress and played a key role in the creation of the Declaration of Independence. John and Abigail Adams kept a constant correspondence, and in this letter, Abigail urges her husband to “Remember the Ladies” while forming the new government. Her educated and insightful opinion makes this a valuable source for learning how women felt about the limitations set upon them by male leaders.

Aucoin, Jessie. E-mail interview. 3 Feb. 2020.

Jessie Aucoin is the School Programs Manager at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C. Through my conversation with her, I learned what the museum is doing to share Goddard’s legacy with students and visitors today.

Belloff, Mindy. “Printed by a Woman: The Declaration of Independence in the Eighteenth and Twenty-First Centuries.” *Guild of Book Workers Journal: 2010-2011*, vol. 44, 2014, pp. 84-96.

Mindy Belloff is a modern-day printer in New York City. In 2009, she became the first to create a historical reprint of the Goddard Broadside on her own press. A little later, she printed an all-inclusive version of the broadside, reading “...all People are created equal.” I consider this to be a primary source because the information about her experience recreating the Goddard Broadside was helpful in showing me the impact that Goddard’s story is having to women in the field of printing now.

Dean, Ruth. "Mrs. Harden Pioneers High Role for Women in Postal Sphere." *Congressional Record: Proceedings and Debates of the 86th Congress*, compiled by United States Congress, Washington, D.C., Government Printing Office, 1960, p. 3155. Originally published in Washington Evening Sun, 10 Apr. 1959.

This source shines a light on the progress that was made for women in the postal field during the twentieth century. The newspaper article describes how Cecil Harden, United States Representative and women's rights advocate, broke her own barriers and became an adviser of women affairs for the Postmaster General in 1959, the highest position held by a female in the Postal Service at the time.

Force, Peter, compiler. *American Archives: Fourth Series. Containing a Documentary History of the English Colonies in North America, from the King's Message to Parliament, of March 7, 1774, to the Declaration of Independence by the United States*. Vol. 2, Washington, M. St. Clair Clarke and Peter Force, 1839.

The fourth book in a series of six, this collection of primary source documents was compiled by the order of Congress in 1833 and it includes letters, proceedings, and newspaper articles from the early Revolution years. I found part of *The Maryland Journal's* report of the battles of Lexington and Concord in early 1776 in this compilation.

Goddard, Mary Katherine. Letter to George Washington. 23 Dec. 1789. *Founders Online*, National Archives and Records Administration, founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-04-02-0302. Accessed 3 Jan. 2020.

After being let go from her position as postmaster of Baltimore, Goddard sent a request for reinstatement to President George Washington. I gained insight on the frustration that she was feeling by the way she wrote her petition. The Founders Online page also includes scholarly notes explaining the context of the letter and Washington's reply.

Goddard, M. K., editor. *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*. 16 June 1778.

This Maryland Journal edition published by Goddard includes writings by Thomas Paine, signed "COMMON SENSE," about the alliance between France and the United States. This is evidence that many of her readers relied on her paper to keep them informed of wartime news. While viewing the paper, I noticed similarities in printing style between *The Maryland Journal* and the Goddard Broadside.

-- -- --. *The Maryland Journal and Baltimore Advertiser*. 21 June 1775.

This copy of *The Maryland Journal* provided a picture of Goddard's colophon, which read "M. K. Goddard" until she printed the Declaration of Independence for Congress. Below her name, she describes the services that are available at the "Printing-Office."

Goddard, William., editor. *The Maryland Journal and the Baltimore Advertiser*. 20 August 1773.

William began his third newspaper in 1773 after the first two unsuccessful papers failed. I discovered William's goals for the newspaper by reading the letter to subscribers he printed in the first issue of *The Maryland Journal*.

Hancock, John. Letter to Richard Caswell. 31 Jan. 1777. Governor's Letter Book: 1775-1779, North Carolina States Archives, Raleigh, N.C.

On January 31, 1777, Congress President John Hancock sent a letter to each of the thirteen states, along with the Declaration of Independence printed by Goddard. When North Carolina's Governor Richard Caswell received the letter, it was copied into his letter book. Reading this missive helped me to understand the importance of the Goddard Broadside and sparked my curiosity to find out more about North Carolina's copy.

Henry, Patrick. "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death." 23 Mar. 1775. *Red Hill*, Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, redhill.org/speech/liberty. Accessed 29 Feb. 2020. Speech.

Patrick Henry is often called the Voice of the Revolution because of his fiery "Liberty or Death" speech, which set the American Revolution in motion. I saw parallels between Henry's speech and the article Goddard published about the battles of Lexington and Concord.

Lynch, Jennifer M. E-mail interview. 24 Feb. 2020.

As Historian and Corporate Information Services Manager for the United States Postal Service, Jennifer Lynch is an expert on America's postal history. She gave me her opinion of the progress women have made in the service over time and provided statistics that helped me understand the roles women are playing in it today.

Smith, E. *The Compleat Housewife: Or Accomplish'd Gentlewoman's Companion*. 15th ed., London, 1753.

This popular eighteenth-century guide is clear evidence that women during this time were expected to stay at home. The book helped me grasp the context and magnitude of Goddard's accomplishments.

Thomas, Isaiah. *The History of Printing in America: With a Biography of Printers, and an Account of Newspapers. To Which Is Prefixed a Concise View of the Discovery and Progress of the Art in Other Parts of the World*. Vol. 2, Worchester, 1810. 2 vols.

This 1810 book featured a comprehensive list of printers that operated before and during the American Revolution. Not only did it feature the stories of Mary Katherine Goddard and her brother William, but it included stories of the few other female printers during the eighteenth century. This book is a primary source because the author interviewed some of the newspaper owners that he wrote about, including William.

United States, Congress. *In Congress, July 4, 1776. The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America*. Library of Congress, 18 Jan. 1777, www.loc.gov/item/90898037/. Accessed 7 Jan. 2020.

The Library of Congress holds a Goddard Broadside in its collection and digitized it for accessibility. Quotes from the text of the Declaration of Independence were essential to my paper and this document is proof that Goddard "signed" the document and is the only woman to have done so.

United States, Congress, Senate. *Petition of Mary Katherine Goddard for Reinstatement as Postmaster of Baltimore*. Government Publishing Office, 29 Jan. 1790. *National Archives Catalog*, catalog.archives.gov/id/17364173. Accessed 10 Jan. 2020.

The National Archives Catalog houses a digitized copy of Goddard's petition to the U.S. Senate in 1790. This three-page document is full of reasons for why Goddard should have been reinstated as Baltimore's postmistress. The information about the document included on the webpage was also beneficial.

"The Washington Post: For Its Investigation of the Watergate Case." *The Pulitzer Prizes*, www.pulitzer.org/winners/washington-post. Accessed 28 Feb. 2020.

This webpage lists the specific Pulitzer Prize that the Katharine Graham's Washington Post won in 1973 for their investigative report of the Watergate scandal. It shows that women have moved forward in the field of journalism and publishing since Goddard ran *The Maryland Journal*. I consider the source to be primary because it gives firsthand information about women's roles in the modern era.

The Whole Duty of a Woman, Or, an Infallible Guide to the Fair Sex. London, T. Read, 1737.

This eighteenth-century book goes into detail about the duties and virtues women of the time should have, limiting them to the home. It provided evidence of the popular thought of the day that women were unaccepted in business, government, and politics.

Secondary

"Abigail Adams." *The White House Historical Association*, www.whitehousehistory.org/bios/abigail-adams. Accessed 19 May 2020.

Abigail Adams was not just a First Lady, but a woman who spoke out against the barriers set around women during her time, and I found it enlightening to learn about her views. It was interesting to find out why Adams felt strongly about women's rights.

Aucoin, Jessie. E-mail interview. 17 Jan. 2020.

As an employee and educator at the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Jessie Aucoin has studied Goddard's life and accomplishments. She shared her opinion of the legacy that Goddard left behind as the first female postmaster with me in this interview.

Belloff, Mindy. Telephone interview. 13 Feb. 2020.

Mindy Belloff, a printer in New York City and owner of Intima Press, did extensive research about Goddard and the broadside to create a historical reproduction of the document. In my conversation with her, she discussed Goddard's impact on the field of printing and how she broke many barriers during her career.

Binding the Nation. Permanent exhibition, *Smithsonian National Postal Museum*, Washington, D.C., 30 July 1993.

I explored the National Postal Museum's permanent exhibit, Binding the Nation, and gained information about the founding and early years of the postal service, which was the sole form of communication in the country for a long time. I also discovered an interview with Nat Hentoff, who was a journalist for the Washington Post and Village Voice, finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, and author of books defending the first amendment, giving his firsthand experience with the connection between the post and press.

Bomboy, Scott. "On This Day, the Declaration of Independence Is Officially Signed." *National Constitution Center*, 2 Aug. 2019, constitutioncenter.org/blog/on-this-day-the-declaration-of-independence-is-officially-signed. Accessed 1 Mar. 2020.

Scott Bomboy, Editor in Chief for the National Constitution Center, discusses the Declaration of Independence's history, focusing on the delegates that signed the document. Reading about what was happening to the Declaration prior to Goddard's printing helped me to understand the importance of Goddard's role in its history.

"City Delivery." *About USPS*, United States Postal Service, May 2007, about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/city-delivery.pdf. Accessed 20 Feb. 2020.

Written by a historian of the United States Postal Service, this article delves into the establishment of city delivery. While letter carriers were not officially used for free delivery for another 80 years, Goddard hired someone for that position during her time as Baltimore's postmaster.

Crenson, Matthew A. *Baltimore: A Political History*. Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017.

This Baltimore history taught me about an incident with a political club who threatened Goddard after she refused to disclose the identity of a writer for *The Maryland Journal*. She stood up for the freedom of her press, years before the first amendment passed. I also learned about the atmosphere in Goddard's home city in the early years of the war.

"The Declaration of Independence -- Goddard Broadside." *National Park Service*, 21 Mar. 2019, www.nps.gov/articles/goddard.htm?utm_source=article&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=experience_more. Accessed 11 Jan. 2020.

I got a short description of why the Goddard Broadside came to be and when and where they were published by her from this webpage.

Dvorak, Petula. "History's 'Unknown Woman.' Few Cared Who She Was or What She Accomplished." *The Washington Post*, 20 July 2017, www.washingtonpost.com/local/historys-unknown-woman-few-cared-who-she-was-or-what-she-accomplished/2017/07/20/3868c52c-6d62-11e7-96ab-5f38140b38cc_story.html.

In this editorial, Washington Post columnist Petula Dvorak explores the "Unknown Woman" in history, sharing how many women were not written into the history books because of their gender. She also talks about how Goddard's story has grown in recognition and popularity over the last two decades because researchers and historians are paying more attention to women's roles in history than ever before.

-- -- --. "This Woman's Name Appears on the Declaration of Independence. So Why Don't We Know Her Story?" *The Washington Post*, 3 July 2017, www.washingtonpost.com/local/this-womans-name-appears-on-the-declaration-of-independence-so-why-dont-we-know-her-story/2017/07/03/ce86bf2e-5ff1-11e7-84a1-a26b75ad39fe_story.html. Accessed 14 Feb. 2020.

Petula Dvorak writes about Goddard's courage to print the Declaration of Independence and break through societal barriers by being a female businesswoman. She makes connections from Goddard's time to now, which helped me think through the impact that Goddard had on the founding of the country.

Emery, Marty. "National Postal Museum Opens 'From Royal Mail to Public Post' Exhibition: Observing the 500th Anniversary of the United Kingdom's Royal Mail." *Smithsonian National Postal Museum*, Smithsonian Institution, 21 Oct. 2016, postalmuseum.si.edu/about/press/national-postal-museum-opens-%E2%80%9Cfrom-royal-mail-to-public-post%E2%80%9D-exhibition. Accessed 3 Mar. 2020.

This press release was helpful because of its basic information about the British Royal Mail, the system that eventually led to William's Constitutional Post, today known as the United States Postal Service.

Felder, Deborah G. *The American Women's Almanac: 500 Years of Making History*. Visible Ink Press, 2020.

The chapter about Goddard was a great overview of the accomplishments she made during her publishing and printing career.

"The First to Edit Papers: Early Days of American Journalism (Women Were in the Field Almost as Soon as Men-Some of Those Who Took up Work of Husband or Brother and Continued It)." *The Kansas City Journal*, 27 Feb. 1898, p. 16. *Chronicling America*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn86063615/1898-02-27/ed-1/seq-16/. Accessed 16 Apr. 2020.

I accessed this page through the Chronicling America database and learned what Goddard's legacy was like during the nineteenth century. The article's praise of early female printers and comparison of women's roles was invaluable to my understanding of the how American society's view of women in business has changed over time.

Howat, Kenna. "Mythbusting the Founding Mothers." *National Women's History Museum*, 14 July 2017, www.womenshistory.org/articles/mythbusting-founding-mothers. Accessed 6 Jan. 2020.

This article dispels common myths about women during the Revolutionary era. I found it helpful to learn about the few other women that also broke gender barriers at that time and compare them to Goddard, who is also featured on this webpage.

"Katharine Graham." *National Women's Hall of Fame*, www.womenofthehall.org/inductee/katharine-graham/. Accessed 28 Feb. 2020.

Katharine Graham was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2002 for her impressive achievements during her career as a publisher and businesswoman. This short biography demonstrated how much woman have advanced in the publishing industry since Goddard first set a precedent for them to do so.

"Mary Katharine Goddard Takes a Stance." *National Park Service*, 19 July 2019, www.nps.gov/articles/independence-goddard.htm. Accessed 10 Jan. 2020.

I increased my knowledge of Goddard's position as official printer for the Second Continental Congress from this essay by the National Park Service.

"Mary Katherine Goddard." *Smithsonian National Postal Museum*, Smithsonian Institution, postalmuseum.si.edu/research-articles/women-in-the-us-postal-system-chapter-1-women-in-postal-history-early-postal-women. Accessed 16 Feb. 2020.

This research article by the National Postal Museum showed me that Goddard felt a sense of duty to her community and she expressed that by keeping them informed and connected with her jobs as newspaper editor and postmaster.

"Mary Katherine Goddard: Strength Ran in the Family." *The Evening Sun* [Baltimore], 8 Oct. 1975, p. 25, www.newspapers.com/clip/28034760/the-evening-sun/. Accessed 24 Feb. 2020.

Goddard was a woman of many talents, and that shows in her various businesses. I discovered information about her entrepreneurship in this newspaper article.

Meekins, Chris. E-mail interview. 28 Jan. 2020.

Chris Meekins is the Imaging Unit Head for the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources' Archives and History Office. I asked him where North Carolina's copy of the Goddard Broadside is now, and he explained that it is no longer in the state and that its current location is unknown. Eleven copies of the rare document exist today and apart from one owned privately, they reside in archives in Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Washington, D.C.

"Megan J. Brennan: Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer." *About USPS*, United States Postal Service, May 2019, about.usps.com/who/leadership/officers/pmg-ceo.htm. Accessed 3 Feb. 2020.

Megan Brennan became the first female United States Postmaster General when she was appointed to the position in 2015. This brief article gave a summary of Brennan's history with the United States Postal Service, why she was qualified for the important leadership role, and her goals for her time in office. This story is evidence to me that what Goddard began at the birth of the nation has now come full circle.

Rasmussen, Frederick N. "An 18th-century Dynamo; Courage: Mary Katherine Goddard, Baltimore's First Postmaster, Was Also a Publisher and Patriot." *The Baltimore Sun*, 26 June 1999, www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-1999-06-26-9906260297-story.html. Accessed 10 Jan. 2020.

This article by The Baltimore Sun talked about how Goddard excelled at her many jobs and was a trailblazer for the news business. I received a considerable amount of information about Goddard's career in Baltimore during and after the war.

Rodricks, Dan. "Looking to Mark History at the Local Rite Aid." *The Baltimore Sun*, 15 Jan. 2015, www.baltimoresun.com/maryland/bs-md-rodricks-0115-20150115-column.html. Accessed 14 Feb. 2020.

Andrew Carroll is a historian, author, and advocate for forgotten history. He has traveled the country marking sites of historic value that have not been recognized. Columnist Dan Rodricks discusses Carroll's mission to commission a plaque at a Baltimore Rite Aid, the location of Goddard's print shop in the eighteenth century. This shows that Goddard's story is growing in importance as time goes on.

Romero, Cynthia. "Printer Makes Her Own Declaration in the Declaration." *The Villager* [New York], 13 July 2010. *The Villager*, www.thevillager.com/2010/07/printer-makes-her-own-declaration-in-the-declaration/. Accessed 25 Feb. 2020.

This New York newspaper describes printer Mindy Belloff's journey to recreate the Goddard Broadside, the first time that has been done. I learned more about the process of making the reproduction in this article.

Sneff, Emily. E-mail interview. 28 Jan. 2020.

Emily Sneff is a graduate student and teaching assistant of history at the College of William and Mary and knows a great deal about Goddard and her broadside because of her affiliation with Harvard's Declaration Resources Project. She talked to me about the importance of the Goddard Broadside and why she believes Goddard should be remembered.

-- -- --. "March Highlight: Mary Katherine Goddard." *Declaration Resources Project*, The President and Fellows of Harvard College, 4 Mar. 2016, declaration.fas.harvard.edu/blog/march-goddard. Accessed 11 Jan. 2020

The Declaration Resources Project is a website led by researchers and scholars from Harvard College with the goal of compiling resources about the Declaration of Independence to be available for everyone. The author of this article and her partner discovered a new copy of the Declaration in 2017. This post was a great resource for details about exactly how Goddard printed her broadside, including how she listed the names of the signers. I also learned about how one member of Congress did not sign the document until later in 1777, after the Goddard Broadside was printed.

"Spinning Patriotic Sentiment in Colonial America." *Historic Hudson Valley*, hudsonvalley.org/article/spinning-patriotic-sentiment-in-colonial-america/. Accessed 4 Feb. 2020.

This article taught me about the movement by the colonists to produce their own homespun cloth rather than importing it. The textile industry was one of the biggest revenues for England and refusing to buy from them was a form of resistance for the colonists. This webpage gave me an idea of what it meant for Goddard to be supporting this movement through *The Maryland Journal*.

"Starting the System." *Smithsonian National Postal Museum*, Smithsonian Institution, postalmuseum.si.edu/exhibition/binding-the-nation/starting-the-system. Accessed 13 Jan. 2020.

This webpage includes information about the first portion of the National Postal Museum's permanent exhibit, Binding the Nation, which is about how communication through mail improved through early American history. Included are short biographies about Goddard and her brother.

Trickey, Erick. "Mary Katharine Goddard, the Woman who Signed the Declaration of Independence." *Smithsonian Magazine*, 14 Nov. 2018, www.smithsonianmag.com/history/mary-katharine-goddard-woman-who-signed-declaration-independence-180970816/. Accessed 7 Jan. 2020.

This article gave a detailed account of Goddard's printing career. It featured great quotes that helped me to understand the barriers that Goddard broke to make her such an important part of American history.

United States Postal Service. *The United States Postal Service: An American History*. United States Postal Service, 2020.

This new publication is a thorough history of the United States Postal Service that includes stories of how the system has grown and improved over time. I primarily benefited from the city delivery facts and Goddard's biography in the chapter about diversity.

Ward, Harry. "Goddard, Mary Katherine (1738–1816)." *Women in World History: A Biographical Encyclopedia*, Encyclopedia.com, Last modified 10 Feb. 2020, www.encyclopedia.com/women/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/goddard-mary-katherine-1738-1816. Accessed 15 Feb. 2020.

This comprehensive article shares important dates and facts about Goddard's many businesses and her "extraordinary career." I also utilized the information on the Goddard siblings' rocky relationship.

"What Really Happened on First Independence Day." *Meade County News* [Meade, Kansas], p. 6. *Chronicling America*, chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85030287/1915-07-01/ed-1/seq-6/. Accessed 17 Apr. 2020.

This Independence Day piece gave me an idea of the incredible impact the Declaration of Independence has had throughout American history. It dispels some legends about the creation of the document and briefly mentions Goddard's role in its history.

"Which Version Is This, and Why Does It Matter?" *Declaration Resources Project*, The President and Fellows of Harvard College, Last modified Jan. 2018, declaration.fas.harvard.edu/resources/which-version-and-why. Accessed 6 Feb. 2020.

The Declaration Resources Project features a complete list of the early known copies of the Declaration of Independence, including the original signed parchment, official and unofficial printings, and engravings. It was essential to my understanding of the timeline of the Declaration and the importance of Goddard's version.

Will, Megan E. E-mail interview. 19 Feb. 2020.

Megan Will is an attorney and owner of a law firm in Somerset, Pennsylvania. I interviewed her for her legal opinion of the first amendment and freedom of the press. Three times, Goddard defended her right to publish whatever she wished, and I was interested in contemporary opinions.

"Women Postmasters." *About USPS*, United States Postal Service, July 2008, about.usps.com/who-we-are/postal-history/women-postmasters.pdf. Accessed 11 Jan. 2020.

This article was written by a historian with the United States Postal Service about female postmasters. The statistics influenced my view of the progress that has been made for women in the postal system.

Wroth, Lawrence C. A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland, 1686-1776. Typothetae of Baltimore, 1922.

Since Goddard played a big role in establishing the news industry in Baltimore, she is given a chapter in this printing history. This book provided dates, as well as the story of how *The Maryland Journal* began and the events that influenced it.