

**023 BARTGIS, C. B.**

**Publisher**

**Winchester**

Publisher of *The Winchester Advertiser* in 1790 and 1791 in partnership with the publishing entrepreneur Matthias Bartgis (024), evidently a relative.

Little can be said of this Bartgis that is certain, as this activity is the only appearance of that name in the record of the American printing trade. The last publisher of the *Winchester Advertiser* was recorded as the firm of M. & C.B. Bartgis. The pairing suggests that Matthias Bartgis brought either a son or nephew into his ongoing Winchester business; however, his only relatives with those initials were his mother and his daughter, each named Catherine. Knowing that, the timing of this alliance is suggestive. In 1791, the family's aging patriarch, Michael Bartgis, was slowly dying, and so had abandoned his tavern business in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The situation would have left his spouse, Catherine, in need of financial support. So it seems likely that Matthias Bartgis now made his mother his absentee partner in the Winchester paper as a way of supporting her. Such a suggestion is buttressed by the fact that Michael died in late 1791, and Matthias closed his four-year-old *Advertiser* shortly thereafter – just at the moment his mother would be receiving any legacy due to her from her husband's estate. If this Bartgis is not Catherine, then they are essentially unidentifiable without other historical evidence.

***Personal Data is Uncertain***

Source: Imprints; Brigham; genealogical data from Bartgis family charts posted on USGenWeb (August 2012).