

## 202 HARPER

### Publisher

### Shepherdstown

Publisher of the *American Eagle* (1817-19) at Shepherdstown with one Maxwell (283), and its continuation, the *Potomack Register* (1819) with partner named Robinson (361).

Harper is an enigmatic figure, as no record of his given name has yet been found, making any identification speculative. Given the timing of his appearance in Shepherdstown and the origin of the *American Eagle's* founder, one John N. Snider (392), this Harper was almost certainly Kenton Harper (203), the son of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, printer-publisher George Kenton Harper, who had trained Snider. If not, this Harper was probably a like-named relative who came to Shepherdstown from that Pennsylvania press. He took control of the paper in mid-1817 and operated it for about two years.

Harper's two unidentified partners – Maxwell (1817-18) and Robinson (1818-19) – were probably local financiers and/or editors with short-term contractual associations with this printer. Robinson may have been Israel Robinson (1773-1828), a Berkeley County merchant-planter who then represented the county in the House of Delegates. The grandson of a like-named settler who came to the Back Creek area in the late 1740s, Israel Robinson served in the Assembly four times (1817-18, 1818-19, 1823-24, 1824-25) with his second term there matching the brief life of the *Potomack Register*. But as few copies of the *Eagle* survive, and none of the *Register* at all, and as the public record sheds almost no light on the partners involved with Harper, any fuller descriptions are impracticable.

***No confirmed Personal Data yet found***

Sources: Imprints; Brigham; Norona & Shetler.