



## August 2019 Her Story ENewsletter Newspaper Editors

Newspapers have been important sources of information during much of this country's history. In this month's ENewsletter we profile two women who ran newspapers and made historic contributions in those roles: Mary Katherine Goddard and Katharine Graham.



**Mary Katherine Goddard**

Born in 1738, Mary Katherine Goddard learned the printing business from her brother in Providence, Rhode Island, after the death of her physician father. With her mother, she published the Providence Gazette. Later, in 1768, she moved to her brother's printing office in Philadelphia where she assisted in the publication of the Pennsylvania Chronicle. When the Philadelphia shop closed, Goddard moved to Baltimore, Maryland where her brother had begun publishing Baltimore's first newspaper, the Maryland Journal.

In 1775, the Maryland Journal masthead was changed to read "Published by M. K. Goddard." Goddard is also remembered as the first printer to publish a copy of the Declaration of Independence that included the names of the signers. Later Goddard became postmaster of Baltimore, the first woman so appointed in the colonies and the first woman to be appointed to such a position after the Declaration of Independence. She held the position until 1789 when she was replaced against her will, by a man who could do the traveling that a woman of that time could not do. More than 200 of the leading businessmen in Baltimore petitioned to allow her to continue in the position, but they were not successful. Goddard stayed in Baltimore and operated a book shop.



**Katharine Graham**

Katharine Graham characterized herself as a "doormat wife." After her husband committed suicide, she became the publisher of The Washington Post, the paper her father had restored to prominence and her husband had run after her father's retirement. Said Graham about her husband taking the helm of the newspaper, "Far from troubling me that my father thought of my husband and not me, it pleased me. In fact, it never crossed my mind that he might have viewed me as someone to take on an important job at the paper."

Surprising her male colleagues as well as herself, Graham ran the paper with much success for two decades. She was the first female Fortune 500 CEO. Graham is known for leading the coverage of Watergate that resulted in President Richard Nixon's resignation. Her memoirs, published in 1997, received the 1998 Pulitzer Prize. Graham has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and her story was the subject of the 2017 movie *The Post*, where Graham was portrayed by Meryl Streep. Graham posthumously received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Alicia Shepard, former NPR Ombudsman and author said of Katharine Graham, "She was always recognized as an icon and a pioneer to women and journalists of my generation."

Mary Katherine Goddard and Katharine Graham are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Women's accomplishments continue to inspire and encourage us all. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

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