

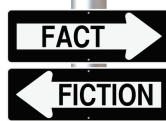


Currency & Patriots Freedom Is Never Free

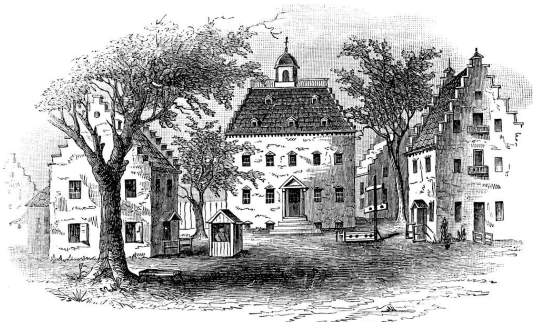
By Jeffrey R. Paunicka

Right before the 4th of July this year my fraternity brother from college and I were discussing the significant signers of Colonial Currency. It has always been my strategy on putting a Colonial Note collection together to focus on those gentleman that signed currency and who helped form this great country of ours. Historical Americana at its best. (Reference: <http://oldbucks.com/pdf/ColonialSS.pdf>)

We also discussed what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence and tried to differ stories of lore from fact. I thought of three individuals right away: John Hart from New Jersey, Arthur Middleton from South Carolina and George Clymer from Pennsylvania.



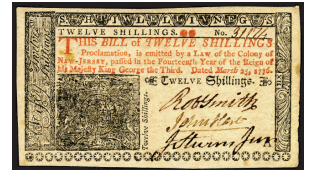
Five of the signers were captured by the British for military actions in battle. Many had their homes ransacked and burned as well as other residents in the area. Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army, while another had two sons captured. They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their honor. There are 4 individuals from these times I find very special and they all had strong ties to Colonial Currency. All were outstanding Patriots.



John Hart



John Hart, from New Jersey, was a representative who signed not only the Declaration of Independence but notes on February 20th, 1776 and March 25th, 1776. When the British overran the area of New Jersey where Hart resided in late November of 1776, he ran for his safety and returned several months later after General George Washington's famous crossing of the Delaware River on Christmas night.



Joseph Ogden



Ogden operated the Middle Ferry (Market St.) out of Philadelphia during the Revolutionary War. This Ferry was a key transportation link across the Schuylkill river. When paying the toll for the Ferry, Ogden would issue notes in lieu of change.

These notes were widely acceptable as cash in the Philadelphia area and as far west as Pittsburgh.

Even though Ogden was not a politician he still was a valuable Patriot in America. His actions led to his imprisonment to the Walnut Street Prison in Philadelphia by the British. Ogden had first hand knowledge of Continental Army movements and not only withheld that information from the British military, but impeded their movement on the Ferry.



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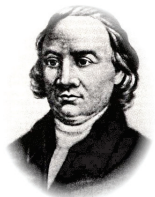
Arthur Middleton



Arthur Middleton of Charleston, South Carolina, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. He also signed currency from that Colony from 1750 to 1769. All of which are very rare and difficult to find. In 1776, Arthur was elected to succeed his father in the Continental Congress and his attitude toward Loyalists was said to be ruthless.

During the American Revolutionary War, Arthur served in the defense of Charleston. After the City's fall to the British in 1780, he was sent as a prisoner of war to St. Augustine, Florida until exchanged in July the following year. He died at the age of 44 in 1787.

John Morton



John Morton (1725 – April 1, 1777) was a farmer, surveyor, and jurist from the Province of Pennsylvania. He also served as a delegate to the Continental Congress during the American Revolution. Morton signed the Declaration and chaired the committee that wrote the Articles of Confederation.

In June 1776 Congress began the debate on a resolution of independence, the Pennsylvania delegation was split, with Benjamin Franklin and James Wilson in favor of declaring independence, and John Dickinson and Robert Morris opposed. Morton was uncommitted until July 1, when he sided with Franklin and Wilson. Thus from then on, Pennsylvania became known as the “Keystone” State.



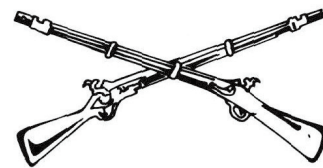
South Carolina



New Jersey



Pennsylvania



Acknowledgements to Wikipedia and Heritage Auctions for images.

About the Author

Jeffrey Paunicka is the President of Insight3, Portage Indiana. He has been actively involved with currency for over 52 years. He is a member of the Professional Currency Dealers Association (PCDA) and provides professional numismatic services. He holds an MBA from the University of Notre Dame. He can be reached at (574)315-0238.

