



# Significant Signers Charles Pinckney Jr.

By Jeffrey R. Paunicka

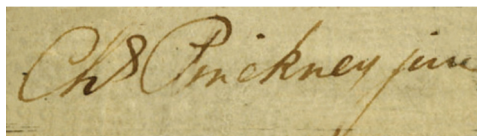
**I** try to add notes to my inventory that would make a difference to even the best collections. These notes are part of a series I have acquired that contain significant signers of great documents in history and Americana from the birth of our Nation in Colonial times. I am speaking of documents such as the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, Stamp Act Congress and the U. S. Constitution.

My series of articles called "Significant Signers" profiles great patriots that not only signed these important documents but also signed issues of Colonial currency. These notes were actually handled and signed by each patriot. The signatures were not printed by presses,



This edition covers Charles Pinckney Jr. (10/26/1757 - 10/29/1824), a lawyer and politician from South Carolina who served as Governor of that State on 3 occasions. He attended the Federal Constitutional Convention, where he played a critical role in drafting the

United States Constitution of which he signed. The notes he signed are well worth having in a super collection.



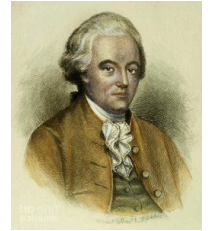
## Early Life and Family

Charles Pinckney was born in Charleston, South Carolina. He was homeschooled, studying first with private tutors and later with his father. He was admitted to the bar in 1779.

In 1788, he married Mary Eleanor Laurens, and they would have three children: Frances, Mary and Henry.

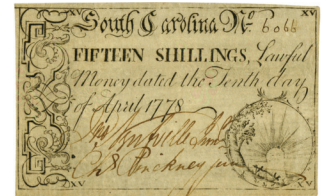
## Military Service

In 1779, Pinckney enlisted in the South Carolina militia, eventually rising to the rank of lieutenant. He fought at the siege of Savannah, and was later taken prisoner during the fall of Charleston in 1780. He remained a prisoner of war until June of 1781.



## Continental Congress

Pinckney was appointed to the Continental Congress in 1785, and served through 1787. During his time in Congress, he served as a strong voice for nationalism and increased congressional power.



## Constitutional Convention

Pinckney played an important role at the Constitutional Convention in 1787, having put forth what has come to be known as the "Pinckney Plan". In fact, he claimed to have been the most influential representative, and to have submitted a draft which served as the basis of the finalized United States Constitution. While these claims are viewed with skepticism by historians, they nonetheless agree that his role was a vital one, and that his influence in shaping the Constitution was considerable.

Other members of the South Carolina delegation to the Convention were Pierce Butler, John Rutledge, and his cousin Charles Cotesworth Pinckney.

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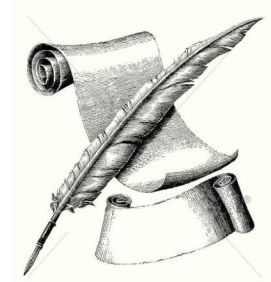
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## Later Political Service

Following the Constitutional Convention, Pinckney attended the State constitutional conventions in 1788 and 1790 and served as president; in this capacity, he worked hard to ensure ratification. He became Governor of South Carolina in 1789, and served until 1792; later, he would again serve as Governor from 1796-1798. Following his second term as Governor, he was elected in 1798 as a Democratic Republican to the United States Senate, serving until his resignation in 1801. Pinckney was appointed Minister to Spain in 1801, remaining in this position until 1804; following this, he embarked on a third term as Governor of South Carolina, serving from 1806-1808. In 1819, Pinckney was elected to the Sixteenth Congress, serving until 1821.



FORT MOULTRIE FLAG 1775



## Death and Legacy

Pinckney died in Charleston, South Carolina, on October 29, 1824; he was buried in St. Philip's Churchyard. Pinckney's plantation property, known as "Snee Farm", is designated as a National Historic Landmark.



Please do not miss the next installment of the "Significant Signers" series. Ask for a copy at the next show, call me or refer to my web page of articles at <http://www.oldbucks.com/page14.html>.

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.

