



Significant Signers

Nicolas Gillman

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 Nicolas Gillman Jr. (8/3/1755-5/2/1814) He was chosen to represent the New Hampshire colony at the Continental Congress 1786-1788. He is also noted for signing currency from New Hampshire. The notes he signed are from: 1/20, 6/20, 7/25, 8/24 and 11/3 all in 1775. The

notes he signed are well worth having in a super collection.

Early Life and Family

Nicolas Gillman Jr. was born 1755 in Exeter NH. The family included 6 siblings. He worked in a family general store where he experienced the overburden of the British taxation and needs to reform. He represented his community in the New Hampshire Provincial Congress until hostilities broke out in Lexington and Concord in 1775.



Military Leader

He enlisted in the Continental Army in the War for Independence. A committee of the state legislature appointed young Nicholas Gilman to serve as adjutant, or administrative officer, of the 3rd New Hampshire Regiment. He lead both a combination of raw recruits from around the state and ragged veterans into a force recognized as one of the mainstays of General Washington's Continental Army. It was during this time he built a strong relationship with George Washington and other senior patriots. He served throughout the war up to the rank of Captain.



Post War Statesman

After the war he returned home and continued with the family business and his involvement in local politics, which included being the position of the state's treasurer. In 1786 he was appointed to be a representative in the Continental Congress and lead New Hampshire in its role with the rest of the colonies. At the time of the signing of the Constitution he was 32 years of age.



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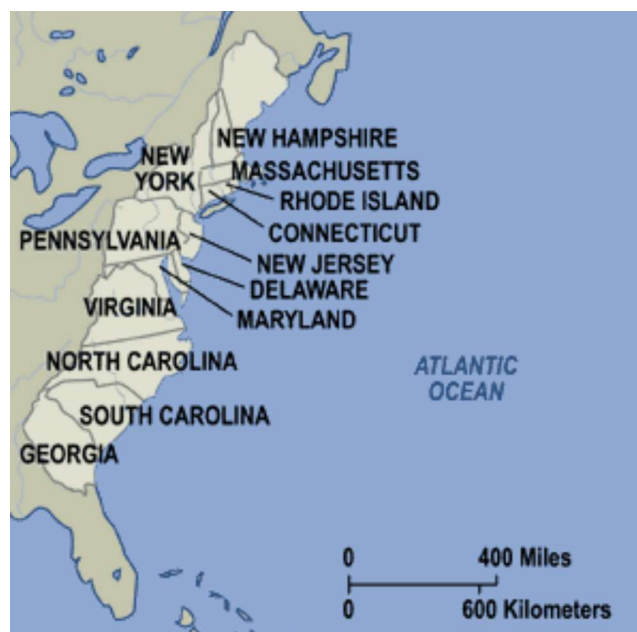
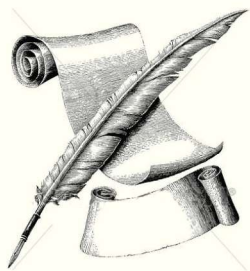
Nicolas Gillman

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With his strong background in business, previous position at state treasurer and leadership skills as the nation evolved he also was selected in 1786 to represent the state at the Annapolis Convention. Although he was unable to attend, his selection recognized Gilman's emergence as a nationalist spokesman since the convention had been called specifically to address the country's serious economic problems and the inability of the separate states or Congress to solve them. He continued his devotion to the county by authoring modifications of the Articles of Confederation leading up to the United States Constitution that he signed in 1787.



Gillman was a member of the House of Representatives for the First Congress and he held that position for 4 terms. Nicolas later returned home to Exeter and eventually became a State Senator until his death in 1814. He is buried in Exeter. There is no record of him having a wife or children. His older brother John Taylor Gillman was Governor of New Hampshire for 14 years.



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.

