
OUR HERITAGE

www.manheim1762.org 717-381-1681



Published by the Historic Manheim Preservation Foundation, Inc., 27 Market Square, Manheim, PA 17545

July 2026

"Issued in defense of American Liberty"

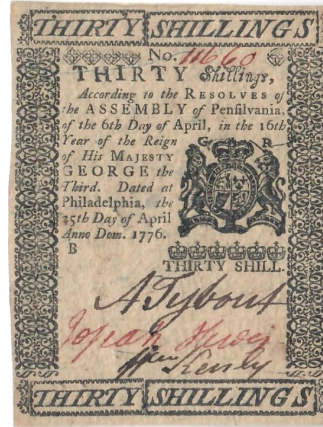
The following are excerpts from Eric Newman's definitive book **The Early Paper Money of America**:

"On the commencement of hostilities in 1775, each colony considered itself free of all English restraints on the issuance of paper money, even though the settlement of political differences with the Crown seemed possible to some people before and after the Declaration of Independence. A profusion of emissions by each state to cover its own governmental and military expenditures kept engravers and printers busy.

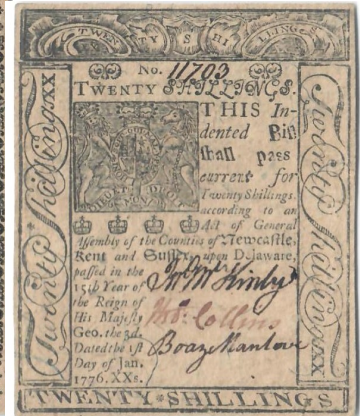
Surprisingly enough, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware dated their authorizations of Revolutionary War issues by a reference to the reign of George III in the text of the bills themselves. In Georgia a crown was used as the vignette on a five shillings certificate of 1776, but was soon eliminated in favor of a more patriotic seal. Some issues retained the English coat of arms for a short period, but new State Arms and mottoes soon made their debut in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, and Virginia.

The most propaganda-filled issue was that of the July 26, 1775 Maryland emission, which showed George III trampling on the Magna Charta while setting fire to an American city, and American Liberty trampling on slavery while backed by a large army. In several Massachusetts issues beginning with that of August 18, 1775, Paul Revere engraved on the back plate the motto ISSUED IN DEFENCE OF AMERICAN LIBERTY and showed a Minute Man holding a sword."

In the next column are examples of the currency issued by Delaware, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and New Jersey prior to the war for independence.



Pennsylvania, Thirty Shillings, April 25th, April, 1776



Delaware, Twenty Shillings, January 1st, 1776



New Jersey, Thirty Shillings, March 25, 1776



Massachusetts, Forty-Two Shillings, Dec. 7, 1775
Issued in defense of American Liberty

Issued in 1776, the year of American Independence.

Considered The Most Beautiful Issues



The above two colonial-period notes are considered by many collectors of American colonial paper money to be the most beautiful notes issued. The three and six-pound notes were issued by New Jersey on March 25, 1776. Some of the lower denomi-

nations of the March 25, 1776 issue were signed by John Hart, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, but none of the three and six-pound notes are known to bear his signature. The Eighteen Pence note, shown below, does bear John Hart's signature.



Excerpts from UShistory.org:

John Hart, 1711-1779

Birthplace: Hopewell, New Jersey

Education: Farmer

Service: Member of the New Jersey Assembly, 1761-1771; Served on the Committee of Safety, Committee of Correspondence, 1775; Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Member of Provincial Assembly 1775; Elected to the Continental Congress, 1776.

His father had moved from Connecticut to a farm near Hopewell, New Jersey. He helped to build, and later inherited, that very successful farm and was a leading member of his community. His first public service was as Justice of the Peace. Hart's property was looted in the course of the war. His wife died on October 8, 1776. When the area was overrun by the British in November of that year, he was forced to hide for a time. He was engaged in public service throughout the war. On June 22, 1778 he invited the American army to encamp on his farm. Washington had lunch with him, then had his famous Council of War at the nearby Hunt House. Twelve thousand men camped on his fields during the growing season. After resting and preparing for battle the troops left on the 24th.

Published in memory of the Baron Stiegel Coin Club.