

# OUR HERITAGE

www.manheim1762.org 717-381-1681



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

July 2024

## Richard Bache, B. Franklin's Son-In-Law

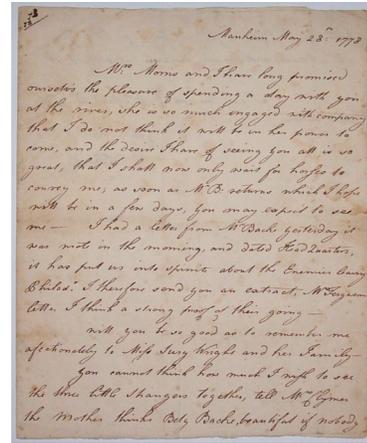
During the period that the British occupied Philadelphia, Richard Bache and his family relocated to Manheim and occupied a house later to become known as the Bache House. Sadly, the wonderful colonial period building was removed to build the Manheim National Bank. A picture of the building, circa 1912, is seen below.



Mrs. Bache, Sarah, was Benjamin Franklin's daughter, and during the time she lived in Manheim she wrote a letter to Mrs. Samuel Meredith at Columbia, Pa. Fortunately, we have a copy of the letter. It's a historically important letter written from Manheim at the time of the Revolutionary War.

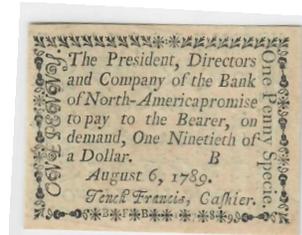
"I had a letter from Mr. Bache yesterday, it was wrote in the morning, and dated Headquarters, it has put us into spirits about the Enemies leaving Philad. I therefore send you an extract, Mrs. Ferguson's letter I think a strong proof of their going—"

The letter offers a research challenge.



Manheim, May 28th 1778

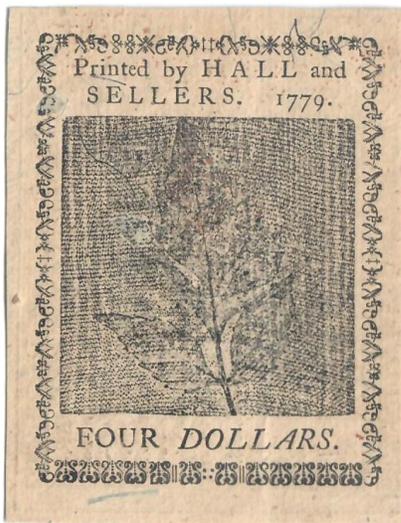
Richard and Sarah had eight children and one was named Benjamin Franklin Bache, obviously after his grandfather. B. F. Bache (1769-1798) was also a printer and he printed the August 6, 1789 notes for the Bank of North America. The specialized marbled paper on which the notes were printed was provided by his grandfather, Benjamin. Below are examples of a One Penny and a Three Pence note.



## "Not Worth a Continental"



**Wild Boar facing a spear.**  
Latin: AUT MORS AUT VITA  
(Either death or an honorable life)



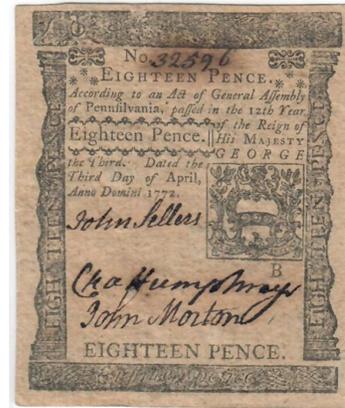
**Mulberry leaf**

To help finance the American Revolutionary War, the Continental Congress issued currency known as Continental Currency. Since the currency was not backed by gold or silver, by 1780, the notes became almost worthless, hence the expression: "not worth a Continental". Around this time the Continental Congress stopped printing money. It took \$40.00 in Continental notes to equal one Spanish Piece of Eight (dollar). By 1781, the currency fell to 1000 Continentals to a \$1.00 coin. The Continental Congress issuing more and more bills of credit led to widespread inflation.

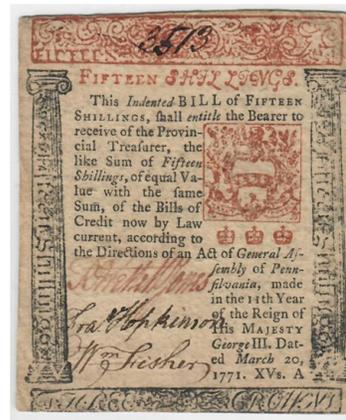
**Is the 1779 Crisis headed our way today?**

## Three Who Pledged and Signed Currency

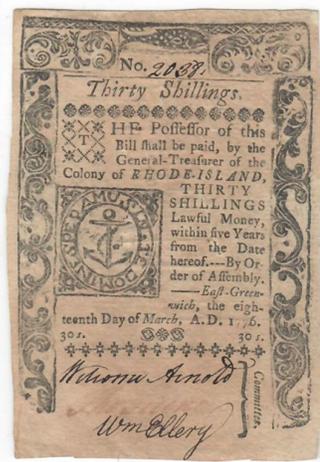
Pictured below are three choice and rare specimens of colonial currency signed by men who expressed: "*we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor*" These great and honorable men signed the **Declaration of Independence**. Many of those who signed the **DI** lost everything and were persecuted by the British.



**Eighteen Pence, April 3, 1772, PA note, signed by John Sellers, Cha. Humphreys and DI signer, John Morton**



**Fifteen Shillings, March 20, 1771, PA note, signed by Robert Stretton Jones, Francis Hopkinson, a DI signer, and Wm. Fisher.**



**Thirty Shillings, March 18, 1776, Rhode Island note, signed by Welcome Arnold, Thomas Greene and Wm. Ellery, a DI signer.**