

“Doomed ... to eat the bread of dependency”?: Insuring the middle-class against hard times

**LIFE INSURANCE.
AGENCY AT HARTFORD,
OF THE
NEW-YORK LIFE INSURANCE AND TRUST
COMPANY.**

THIS COMPANY has a Capital of *ONE MILLION OF DOLLARS*, the whole of which is paid in and invested in Mortgages, and public Stocks, and the Company, by its Charter, is confined to the business of executing Trusts, and making Contracts involving the Casualties of Human Life.

The subscriber as Agent of the above named Company, is prepared to receive applications for Insuring Lives.

By means of a contract of this description, a person may secure the payment, at his decease, of any specified sum of money, to his wife, his children, or any other individual he may name.

Salaried Officers, Clerks, Clergymen, Mechanics, and indeed every person whose family is dependent upon his personal exertions for support, by laying aside a very small portion of his income, can make a comfortable provision for them after his death, and save his wife and children from pecuniary distress—or a debt can be secured by insuring the life of the debtor, or money may be borrowed upon the security which a policy affords.

Life Insurance has become as general in England as Fire Insurance, and is rapidly extending in this country as its benefits become known. It is the only mode by which a man without property, or whose property is involved in the hazards of business, can secure his wife and children from poverty after his death.

Further information on the subject of Life Insurance, and forms of application will be furnished gratuitously by the Agent,
WM. CONNER.
Hartford, State-street, May 6, 1837. *tf72

It is only when middle-class hopes and fears meet the realities of a modern economy that a fuller picture of this class's experience can emerge.

Dishonest Clerks and the Culture of

Capitalism



What's old is new again

The Prospect and Challenges of Rewriting the History of the American Revolution



The past is often portrayed in ways that celebrate the victors, and we are all familiar with versions of history that function as propaganda for those who hold power.

Salem Repossessed

Mary Clark Carr, it turns out, is even more interesting than Ann Carson. Anyone with a gun and a few friends can kidnap a governor, but how many women in the early republic had the talent, initiative, and opportunity to earn their living by writing?

[Introduction: Special Issue on Money](#)



This Article is Presented as part of the Special Issue: Money

Value means nothing unless it is translated into “real” money. And yet real money is no stable store of value.

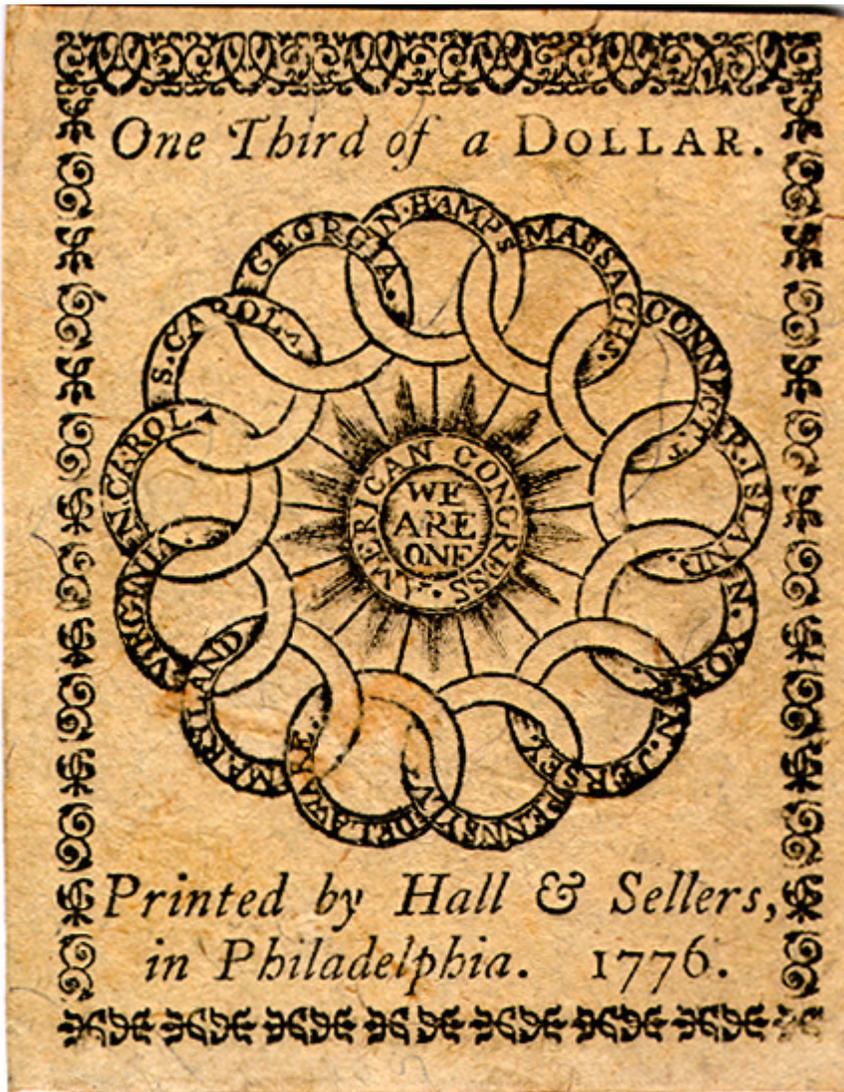
[Have You Heard the News About the Silver Fleet?](#)



This Article is Presented as part of the Special Issue: Money

Huge crowds in The Hague, Leiden, Haarlem, and Amsterdam welcomed Piet Hein as a hero. His valor appealed to the imagination of many young men, especially orphans, who broke off their vocational training to sign up as sailors with the WIC.

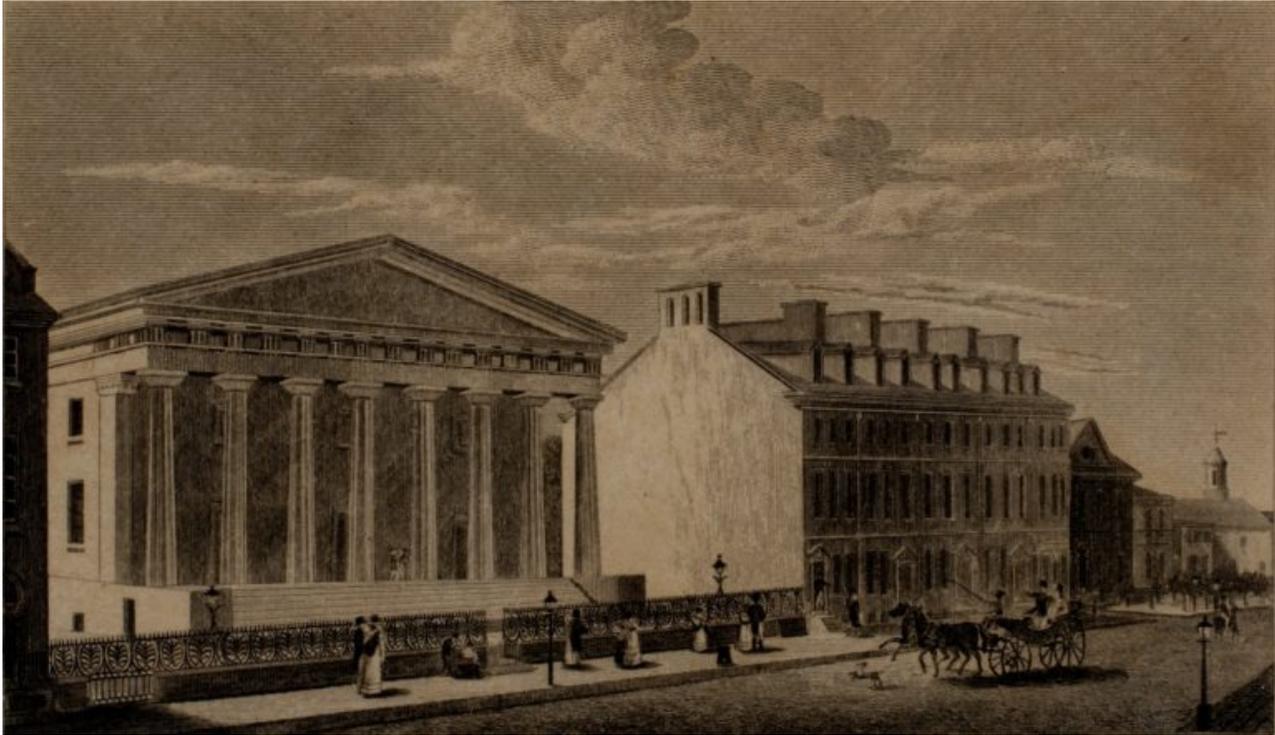
[Paper Money Gets Personal](#)



Presented as part of the Special Issue: Money

Advocates of paper money did not deny its risks, but they also saw it as a resource that could expand the money supply and, in so doing, facilitate exchange and stimulate enterprise.

[“A Bank on Parnassus”](#)



Presented as part of the Special Issue: Money

Whom did state banks, which were primarily privately owned and operated, really represent? What did banknotes, whose value rested largely on trust, likewise represent?

[Bookkeeping as Ideology](#)

BOOK-KEEPING

APPLIED TO



AGRICULTURE,



MANUFACTURES,
COMMERCE,



BANKING, AND EXCHANGE



IRA MAYHEW.

BOSTON:

NICHOLS & HALL.

Presented as part of the Special Issue: Money

Nineteenth-century capitalists were frantic system builders, not because of any innate personality trait or some vague ethical imperative handed down by the Protestant Reformation, but because they had destroyed the existing foundations of social order in their rise to power.