

## Hard Times and Worthless Money

The Revolutionary War had lasted eight long years. The United States government had little money throughout the war and still had little money when it was over. There was not enough money to feed and clothe its army or to pay its soldiers. The government issued special paper money, called Continental dollars, to pay the soldiers and for other expenses. This was a mistake. The money became worthless because so much had been printed.



**Continental paper dollar and silver coin.**

More problems were caused when the new government tried to build its treasury by raising taxes. Many of the soldiers who had fought in the war now could not pay the taxes on the farms and homes. The Continental dollars they had received could not begin to cover their higher taxes. When you can't pay your taxes, you lose your land or home.

Israel Stone served in the Revolutionary War. He had fought as a Minuteman at Lexington and New Concord in April of 1775. These battles were the first of the Revolutionary War. He continued in the Continental Army until the end of 1777.

He had been paid with Continental dollars. Israel could not pay the taxes on his farm, because the money he had been paid by the new United States government was of little worth. He was forced to sell the farm which had been in the Stone family for many generations. He was one many patriots who lost their land for this reason.