

# A New Original John Morton Document 1768

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I am happy that the John Morton Project has started well, to the credit, and enthusiasm, energy of Mrs Marilyn Ware, a former Ambassador of the USA to Finland. The first conference of the John Morton Project took place in Philadelphia in November 2008, at the time it was decided that the next meeting would take place in Finland, September 2009. It was also decided to try to find out any new information and documents related to the life of John Morton, a Signer of the Declaration of Independence of the USA in 1776.

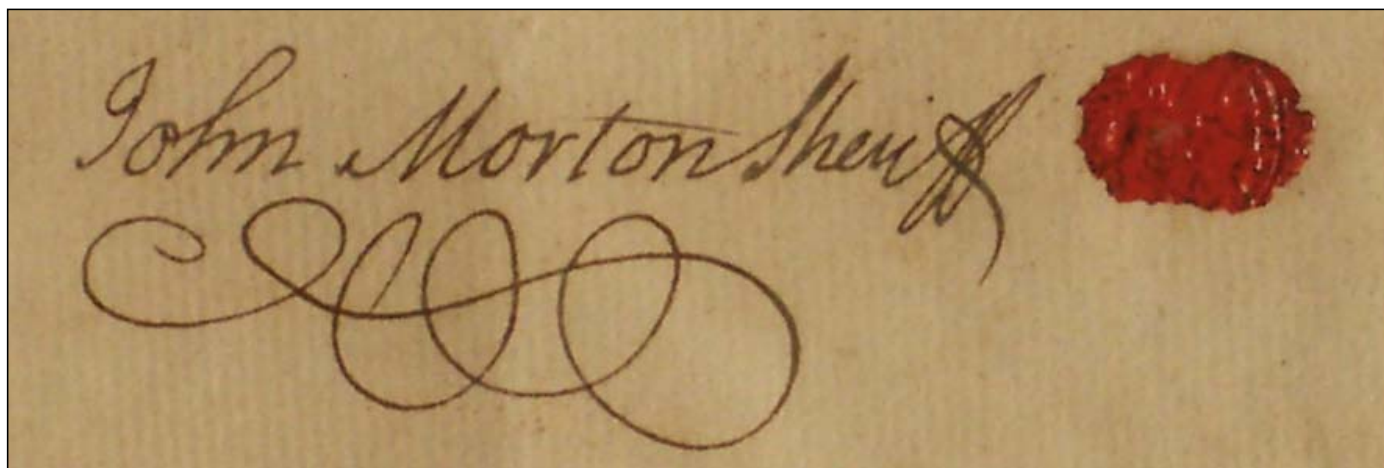
When coming back from Philadelphia to Turku, I was surprised to find on my e-mail, a message from Hawaii from a gentleman, living in Hawaii, but originally from Finland. He wrote that he has in his possession a document signed in 1768 by John Morton as a Sheriff. He knew the Institute of Migration and had thought that this document would be a good place for Institute in the future. The gentleman was “closing” his office where the document had been hanging since he acquired it in 1989. He is an admirer of Mr. John Morton, and wished to own something

related to him. He has a friend collecting the USA civil war memorabilia and other historical items and papers. This friend was helping him to find anything connecting to John Morton, and after some time he was able to find the above mentioned document. Knowing the important role of John Morton in the early history of the USA colonies the gentleman bought this original document signed by John Morton.

Aware the value of this unique document I made an offer behalf of the Institute which he was happy to accept. On December, the document arrived safely to the Institute. It is already a part of our permanent exhibition in the section of the Swedish-Finnish settlement in the Delaware River valley since 1638.

This John Morton document of 1768 is signed by John Morton as the Sheriff granting land to some individual and this transaction was witnessed by 12 people.

I will be very happy to show this unique document to the John Morton Project Advisory Board members or to other visitors.



**TRANSCRIPT of the document is as follows:**

*THIS INQUISITION Intended taken at Chester in the County of Chester in the Province of Pennsylvania, the ninth day of September in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven Hundred and Sixty Eight. Before me John Morton, Esq high sheriff of the said County by virtue of the Law of This inquisition intended taken at Chester in the County of Chester in the Province of this province and of his Majesty's writ to me directed and to this inquisition annexed by the respective oaths and solem affirmations of Edward Russell, John Hanley, John Crosby, Joseph Ashbridge, John Taylor, Davis Bevan, Peter Steel, Joshua Cowpland, John Eyere, Isaac Eyere, David Jackson & Thomas Pedrick. Twelve free and lawful men of the said County who upon their oaths and solemn affirmations respectively do say that the said Hayes Pennell in the said writ named is as tis said seized in his demesne as of fee and in a certain piece or parcel of land situate in Marpole Township in the said County containing fifty acres more or less bounded by lands of Jonathan Maris, James Worrall, Thomas Coultney and Joshua Pennell. Jr. and of and in a certain three acres and a half bounded by lands Joshua Pennell. Jr. Evan Pennell and Crum Creek.*

*And the inquest aforesaid do farther say that the clear profits of the said Plantation & Tract of land & premises are not beyond all reprises sufficient within the space of seven years to satisfy the debt and damage in the said writ mentioned` and the said inquest do further say that the said Hayes Pennell hath not any goods or chattels within the said county to their knowledge. In witness where of as well the said sheriff as the inquest aforesaid have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.*



With the document there is also the Certificate of Authenticity of the American Historical Guild dated March 10, 1989.

*the quest*  
 This Inquisition Indented taken at Chester in the County of Chester in the Province of Pennsylvania the Ninth day of September in the year of our Lord one Thousand Seven hundred and Eighty eight Before me John Morton Esq high Sheriff of the said County by Virtue of a Law of this Province and of his Majestys writ to me Directed and to this Inquisition Annexed by the Respective Oaths and Solemn Affirmations of Edward Russell John Hanley John Crosby Joseph Ashbridge John Dalgorn Davis Bwan Peter Steel Joshua Cowpland John Eyre Isaac Eyre David Jackson & Thomas Pedrick  
 Twelve free and Lawfull Men of the said County who upon their oaths and Solemn Affirmations respectively do say that the said Hayes Pennell in the said Writ named is as his said seized in his demeane as of fee of and in a certain piece or parcel of Land situate in Marpole Township in the said County containing fifty Acres more or less bounded by Lands of Jonathan Mann James Worrall Thomas Contry and Joshua Pennell for land of and in a certain piece or parcel of meadow ground situate in the said township containing three acres and a half Bounded by Lands Joshua Pennell for Isaac Pennell and Crum Creek  
 And the Inquest aforesaid do farther say that the Clear profits of the said plantation of Trees of Land & premises are not beyond all Repairs sufficient within the space of seven years to satisfy the debt & Damage in the said Writ mentioned  
 And the said Inquest do farther say that the said Hayes Pennell hath not any Goods or Chattels within the said County to their Knowledge In Witness Whereof as well the said Sheriff as the Inquest aforesaid have hereunto set their hands and seals this day and year first above Written.

John Morton Sheriff

Peter Steel

Edward Russell

Joshua Cowpland

John Hanley

Isaac Eyre

John Crosby

John Eyre

Joseph Ashbridge

John Dalgorn

John Bwan

Thomas Pedrick

Davis Bwan