



## Reliving History, Inc.

*Supporting the ca. 1751 Peter Burr House  
The oldest wood frame house in West Virginia*

[www.RelivingHistoryInc.org](http://www.RelivingHistoryInc.org)

Contact us for upcoming events and to arrange presentations at your school or organization.

# Colonial Arithmetic

### DIRECTIONS:

People used British monetary units in colonial times:

- 1 pound (£1) was worth 20 shillings,
- 1 shilling was worth 12 pence (or pennies),
- 1 penny was worth 4 farthings, and
- 1 guinea was worth 21 shillings.

The problems below show the kinds of arithmetic problems children who lived in the colonies might have had to solve. Can you solve them?

1. 1 pound = \_\_\_\_\_ pence
2. 1 shilling = \_\_\_\_\_ farthings
3. 2 guineas = \_\_\_\_\_ shillings
4. 100 farthings = \_\_\_\_\_ shillings \_\_\_\_\_ pence
5. 6 shillings 3 pence = \_\_\_\_\_ pence
6. 30 pence = \_\_\_\_\_ shillings \_\_\_\_\_ pence
7. 488 pence = \_\_\_\_\_ pounds \_\_\_\_\_ pence
8. 504 pence = \_\_\_\_\_ guineas
9. 5 pounds = \_\_\_\_\_ guineas \_\_\_\_\_ shillings
10. 2 guineas 6 pence = \_\_\_\_\_ farthings

### CHALLENGE PROBLEM:

Sarah and Nathaniel sold the extra vegetables from their garden to travelers on their road to Philadelphia. They sold 32 tomatoes for 1 farthing each, 16 bunches of carrots for 1 pence a bunch, 96 ears of corn for 1 shilling a dozen, and 48 potatoes at two for 1 pence.

1. How much money did they make in pence? \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many shillings did they each earn? \_\_\_\_\_

## Visit the Peter Burr House

170 E. Burr Blvd., Kearneysville, WV 25430  
(at Burr Industrial Park in the far right back corner)  
See website for directions.