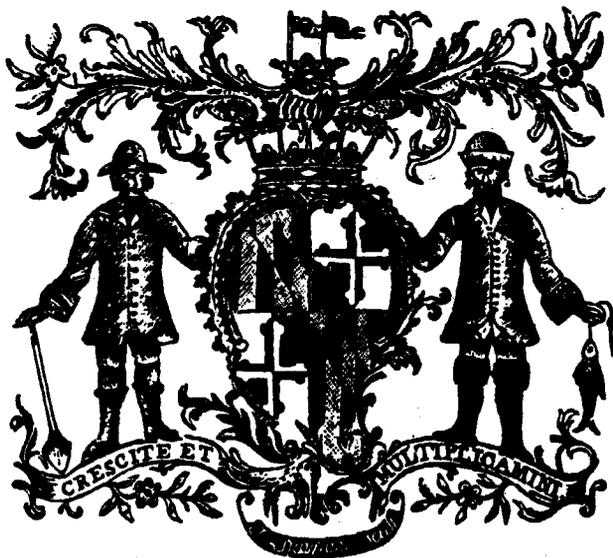


A
BIOGRAPHICAL
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THE MARYLAND
LEGISLATURE,
1635-1789



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SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: apprenticed to *Joseph Wickes* (ca. 1620–1692) in 1655 after his father's death; acquired the first land in his own name in 1667; he was naturalized in 1671. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: apprentice, 1655; planter; owned a gristmill. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Associators' Convention, Kent County, 1689–1692; Lower House, Kent County, 1692–1693, 1694–1697 (Aggravances 3, 4, 8), Cecil County, 1697/98–1700. LOCAL OFFICES: justice, Kent County, 1685–1697 (quorum, 1689–1697), Cecil County by 1702; St. Paul's Parish Vestry, Kent County, 1693–1703. MILITARY SERVICE: captain, by 1693; lieutenant colonel, 1694; colonel at the time of his death. STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES: supported the revolution of 1689. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: probably over 1,000 acres. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: will probated on April 27, 1704. PERSONAL PROPERTY: TEV, £1,066.4.1 sterling. LAND: 1,175 acres.

HANSON, JOHN, JR. (1721–1783). BORN: on April 3, 1721, in Port Tobacco Parish, Charles County; third surviving son. NATIVE: at least third generation. RESIDED: in Charles County; Frederick County, 1769. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: *Samuel Hanson* (ca. 1685–1740). MOTHER: *Elizabeth* (ca. 1688–1764), daughter of *Walter Storey* (ca. 1666–1726). UNCLE: *Robert Hanson* (ca. 1680–1748). BROTHERS: *Walter Hanson* (1711/12–1794); *Samuel Hanson* (1716–1794); *William* (1718/19–1721); and *William* (1726–?). SISTERS: *Elizabeth* (1707–?); *Mary* (1709/10–?); *Sarah* (1714–?); *Jane* (1721/22–?); *Charity* (1724–?), who married second, *Arthur Lee* (?–1760); and *Chloe*. FIRST COUSINS: *Dorothy Hanson* (1721–1752), who married *Richard Harrison* (?–1780); *Mary Hanson*, who married *Daniel Jenifer* (?–1795). NEPHEW: *Samuel Hanson, of Samuel* (ca. 1752–1830). MARRIED in 1747 *Jane* (1728–1812), daughter of *Alexander Contee* (ca. 1691–1740); granddaughter of *Thomas Brooke* (ca. 1659–1730/31); half niece of *Thomas Brooke* (1683–1744), *Sarah Brooke* (?–1724), who married first, *William Dent* (ca. 1660–1704) and second, *Philip Lee* (ca. 1681–1744), and *Priscilla Brooke*, who married *Thomas Gantt* (?–1765). Her brothers were *John Contee* (1722–ca. 1796); *Alexander, Jr.* (1724–1734); *Peter* (1726–ca. 1779); *Thomas Contee* (ca. 1729–1811); *Alexander* (1734–1744); and *Theodore* (1736–ca. 1764). Her sisters were *Catherine* (1732–1831); *Grace* (1738–?); and *Barbara* (1741–1796). Her first cousin was *Thomas Beall, of George* (1735–1819). CHILDREN. SONS: *Alexander Contee Hanson*

(1749–1806); *John* (1753–1760); *Samuel* (1756–1781), a physician; and *Peter Contee* (1758–1776), who died at Fort Washington during the Revolutionary War. DAUGHTERS: *Catherine Contee* (1744–?), who married *Philip Alexander*; *Jane Contee* (1747–1781), who married in 1773 *Dr. Philip Thomas* (1747–1815); *Elizabeth* (1751–1753); and *Grace* (1762–1763). PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Protestant. SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES: Gent., 1744; Esq., by 1778. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: merchant, 1769; by 1772 he and his brother-in-law *Thomas Contee* (ca. 1729–1811) owned a store and warehouse in Frederick Town. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Charles County, 1757–1758 (Bills of Credit 1, Cv, 2), 1758–1761 (Bills of Credit Cv 1, 1, Cv 2, 2, 3, Cv 3), 1762–1763 (Bills of Credit 1, 2), 1765–1766 (Bills of Credit 2, 4; Accounts 3, 4; Laws to Expire 4), 1768–1769 (Claims 1; discharged from the Assembly at the beginning of the 2nd session after he had accepted the office of deputy surveyor of Frederick County); Conventions, Frederick County, 1st, 1774 (appointed, but did not attend), 4th, 1775 (elected, but did not attend), 5th, 1775; Lower House, Frederick County, 1777 (elected, but did not attend; resigned early in the 1st session), 1778–1779 (Claims 1, 2), 1779–1780 (Elections and Privileges 1; Claims 1; Manufactories 1), 1780–1781 (elected, but did not attend), 1781–1782 (elected, but did not attend; resigned early in the 1st session). LOCAL OFFICES: sheriff, Charles County, 1750–1753, Frederick County, commissioned 1771; deputy surveyor, Frederick County, commissioned 1769, 1771, 1773, and 1777 (resigned 1777); chairman, Committee of Observation, Frederick County, 1775; treasurer, Frederick County, elected 1775; commissioner to establish gunlock manufactory in Frederick Town, 1776; loan officer (to receive subscriptions for loan of money to the Continental Congress and to the State of Maryland), appointed 1777; judge, court of appeals, appointed under the Act to Procure Troops for the American Army, Frederick County, appointed 1778. OUT OF STATE SERVICE: delegate, Continental Congress, 1779–1782 (elected in December 1779, but did not attend until June 1780; reelected in November 1780 and November 1781). ADDITIONAL COMMENTS: Hanson was elected president of Congress on November 5, 1781. One week later he considered resigning from this position because of poor health, family responsibilities, and the "irksome" qualities of the "form and ceremonies" required as president. He was urged to continue by fellow mem-

bers who cited the great difficulty Congress would have selecting a replacement, since only seven states were then represented. Hanson decided to remain as president contingent upon his reelection as a delegate by the Maryland Assembly. On November 28, 1781, Maryland returned him as one of her four delegates, and he continued as president of Congress until November 4, 1782. STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES: as part of the Maryland congressional delegation he signed the Articles of Confederation in 1781, causing their adoption and closing a prolonged debate over the disposition of western lands that had at last been resolved to Maryland's satisfaction. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: 1,312 acres in Charles County. SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: by 1769 Hanson had sold all of his land in Charles County and moved to Frederick County. During the next ten years he purchased 223 acres in Frederick County, took two 14-year leases on another 255 acres there, purchased 1 lot in Georgetown, Frederick County (later Montgomery County), and at least 2 lots in Frederick Town. In 1779 he purchased part of a tract adjoining Frederick Town for £4,000 current money, and divided it into lots, possibly totaling 10 lots. Hanson sold 6 of these lots for £4,008 current money between 1780 and 1781. WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED: on November 15, 1783, at the home of his nephew, Thomas Hanson, at Oxon Hill, Prince George's County; buried at Oxon Hill, Prince George's County. PERSONAL PROPERTY: requested no appraisal of his estate; 11 slaves were mentioned in his will. LAND: probably owned 223 acres and leased 255 acres, all in Frederick County, plus at least 6 lots in Frederick Town, Frederick County, and 1 lot in Georgetown, Montgomery County.

HANSON, ROBERT (ca. 1680-1748). BORN: ca. 1680 in Port Tobacco Hundred, Charles County; eldest son. NATIVE: at least second generation. RESIDED: in Charles County. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: John Hanson (?-1714), of Charles County; possibly an immigrant; planter. MOTHER: Mary, daughter of Thomas Hussey, of Charles County. BROTHERS: John (ca. 1681-1754), who married Elizabeth Hussey, a widow; Benjamin (?-1719); and *Samuel Hanson* (ca. 1685-1740). SISTERS: Mary, who married first, Rev. William Maconchie (1710-1742), and second, Theophilus Swift; Anne (1692-?); and Sarah. MARRIED first, by 1705 *Benedicta*. MARRIED second, ca. 1714 *Mary* (1692-1718), daughter of *Philip Hoskins* (ca. 1650-1718). Her brothers were William

(1690-1727); Philip, Jr. (1696-?); Oswald (1699-1720); Bennett (1701-?); and Ballard (1703-?). Her sisters were *Benedicta* (1679-1685); *Jane* (1681-?); *Benedicta* (1685-?); *Elizabeth* (1687-?); *Margaret* (1696-?); *Mary Ann*; and *Martha* (ca. 1705-?), who married *Thomas Stone* (1677-1727). MARRIED third; ca. 1720/21 *Dorothy*, widow of *John Parry* (?-1719); daughter of *Cornelius White*. MARRIED fourth, ca. 1727 *Violetta*, widow of *William Hoskins* (1690-1727); daughter of *Francis Harrison*. MARRIED fifth, on April 14, 1747, *Anne*, widow of *John Maconchie*. CHILDREN. SONS: *Robert* (?-1734); *William* (ca. 1717-1766), who married *Mary*, daughter of *Thomas Stone* (1677-1727); *Samuel* (1705-1749), who married *Mary*, daughter of *John Fendall* (1674-1734); *Benjamin*; and *Robert* (?-1770). STEPSONS: *Thomas Parry* (Perry); *William Maconchie*; and *Alexander Maconchie*. DAUGHTERS: *Dorothy* (1721-1752), who married *Richard Harrison* (?-1780); *Mary*, who married *Daniel Jenifer* (?-1795); *Sarah*, who married *Gerard Fowke*; and *Violetta* (?-1786). STEPDAUGHTERS: *Elizabeth Hoskins* (1721-1773), who married *Walter Hanson* (1711/12-1794); *Mary Hoskins*, who married first, *John Cunningham*, and second, *Mungo Muschett*. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: literate. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: Protestant. OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE: probably a planter. PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE: Lower House, Charles County, 1719-1721/22 (Aggravances 1), 1728-1731 (Elections 1-5), 1732-1734 (Elections 1-Cv), 1734/35-1737 (Elections 1, Cv, 2-4), 1738 (Elections; Arms and Ammunition), 1739-1741 (Elections Cv-3; Arms and Ammunition Cv-3). OTHER PROVINCIAL OFFICE: justice, Provincial Court, commissioned 1741 (quorum, 1741). LOCAL OFFICES: sheriff, Charles County, commissioned 1715; justice, Charles County, at least by 1718-1748 (quorum, at least by 1718-1748); justice, Court of Oyer and Terminer and Gaol Delivery, Charles County, commissioned 1718, 1720, 1731, 1733, 1743, and 1744; clerk, Port Tobacco Parish Vestry, Charles County, in office 1722. JURY SERVICE: jury member, Charles County Court, served in 1712. MILITARY SERVICE: major, 1730; called "colonel," 1738. WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. LAND AT FIRST ELECTION: at least 1,649 acres in Charles County (including at least 100 acres inherited from his father and 609 acres obtained through his second marriage). SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH: purchased an additional 1,254 acres in Charles County, plus 1 lot in Chandlertown, Charles County, 1720-1746; sold 809 acres, 1720-1746;