

HON. JOHN HANSON, GENT.³

(1721 - 1783)

John Hanson, son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Story) Hanson, was born April 3, 1721, "about 2 or 3 in ye afternoon" at Mulberry Grove, Port Tobacco Parish, Charles County. His wife was Jane, born about 1727, the daughter of Alexander and Jane Contee, of Prince Georges County.¹

Children of John and Jane (Contee) Hanson

1. Alexander Contee Hanson married Rebecca Howard.
2. Samuel Hanson, born Aug. 25, 1756, died 1781; surgeon on staff of George Washington.
3. Peter Contee Hanson, born Dec. 9, 1758, died at Fort Washington during Revolution. Original Member of Society of Cincinnati.
4. Grace Hanson, born 1762, died 1763.
5. Catherine Contee Hanson, born Nov. 16, 1744, married Philip Alexander.
6. Jane Contee Hanson, born Feb. 23, 1747, died June 17, 1781, married Feb. 18, 1773, Dr. Philip Thomas. Issue: James; Catherine Hanson, born Oct. 15, 1775; Rebecca Bellicum, born Feb. 8, 1777; John Hanson, born May 16, 1779.
7. Elizabeth Hanson, born 1751, died 1753.
8. John Hanson, born 1753, died 1760.
9. _____.

In 1751 as the Sheriff of Charles County, he was summoned by the Prerogative Court as follows: "Attachment issued and order directed to any one of the coroners of Charles County against John Hanson, Sheriff, for his contempt in not bringing Anne Muncaster widow of William Muncaster into court".²

On April 27, 1731, John Hanson purchased from James Maddock, Innholder, of Charles County, for 1200 pounds of tobacco land lying in Charles County containing 300 acres. The conveyance was witnessed by Robert Hanson and Henry Hawkins.

On February 28, 1744/45, he, styled as "the youngest son of Samuel Hanson, Gent., of Charles County", purchased from John Contee, of Prince Georges County, "Rozer's Refugee". The transfer was made in the presence of Thomas Lee and Peter Contee, while Margaret Contee, wife of John, acknowledged the conveyance.³ On March 12, following, he transferred one-half of the tract to Jane Contee, at which time Jane Hanson, his wife, relinquished her third.⁴ On April 12, 1746, he deeded to Samuel Hanson, Jr., Gent., "Herfordshire", beginning at Major Dent's Quarters on the Mattawoman to the head of Port Tobacco. Jane Hanson, wife, waived dower.⁵

In 1747 John Hanson was one of the bondsmen for his sister Elizabeth Douglas, the administratrix of her deceased husband's estate. He and his brother Samuel Hanson were also bondsmen for their sister Charity Howard, when on May 20, 1749, she filed her bond as the administratrix of John Howard, her deceased husband.

At a young age John Hanson entered public service and for nine terms was a delegate from Charles County to the Lower House of the General Assembly. In 1757 he entered the Council and served in that body until 1773 when he moved to Frederick Town. From that place he was a delegate to the General Convention of Annapolis in 1774, and a member of the Maryland Convention of 1775 which issued its famous declaration known as the "Association of Freemen of Maryland". In 1780 he was elected to the Continental Congress and was elected the president of that body on November 5, 1781, an office which sometimes gives him the distinction of being the First President of the United States. While serving in that capacity he tendered George Washington the thanks of Congress for the victory at Yorktown. He also was one of the signers of the Articles of Confederation.

Ill health forced him to retire from public life and he sought seclusion and rest at the home of his nephew at Oxon Hill, Prince Georges County, where he died on November 27, 1783. He was interred in the ancient burying ground of the Addison family at Oxon Hill.

The following obituary appeared in the Maryland Journal of December 2, 1783: "On Saturday last (15 November 1783) departed this life at Oxon Hill, the seat of Mr. Thomas Hanson, in the 63 year of his age, the Hon. John Hanson, Esq: He had long been a servant to his country in a variety of employments, the last of which was that of President of the Congress".

The will of John Hanson was dated September 20, 1781, and proved in Frederick County on April 13, 1784, by John Nelson, Jeffry Magruder, and Richard Butler. He devised his wife Jane the houses and lots in Frederick Town purchased from Adam Koon during life then to his son Alexander Contee. He named his son-in-law Dr. Philip Thomas and his grandchildren—Catherine Thomas, Rebecca Thomas, and John Hanson Thomas.⁵

The following appeared in the *American* of February 25, 1812: "Died this evening in the 85th year Mrs. Jane Hanson relict of John Hanson, esq., a delegate to the old Revolutionary Congress".

¹ Deeds, Liber A no. 3, folio 87, pt. 1.

² Test. Pro., Liber 34, folio 145.

³ Deeds, Liber Z no. 2, folios 14, 34, 99.

⁴ Wills, Liber G M no. 2, folio 75, Frederick.

CHARLES COUNTY GENTRY

A Genealogical History of Six Emigrants — Thomas Dent, John Dent, Richard Edelen, John Hanson, George Newman, Humphrey Warren. All Scions of Armorial Families of Old England who settled in Charles County, Maryland, and their descendants showing migrations to the South and West

by

HARRY WRIGHT NEWMAN



GENEALOGICAL PUBLISHING CO., INC.
BALTIMORE **1971**