

THE REAL FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The government under the Articles of Confederation has sunk into obscurity. Perhaps the greatest loser as a result of this neglect has been John Hanson. The Articles of Confederation came into existence on March 1, 1781, and John Hanson was subsequently elected President of the Congress of the Confederacy. This would make John Hanson – not George

Washington – the nation's first President.

Hanson was active in colonial government and a leading advocate of resistance to British tyranny. In his native Maryland he helped raise troops, provided arms and ammunition, and otherwise advanced the cause of the American Revolution. After serving his year-term as President, he retired from public life.



John Hanson.



Peyton Randolph.

Hanson should not feel alone, however. An even more obscure first President of the United States is Peyton Randolph. Randolph was a prominent, highly respected Virginian who was appointed to that state's delegation to the Continental Congress. On September 5, 1774, he was elected the first President of the Continental Congress, but resigned seven weeks later to attend the Virginia state legislature. In 1775, he was again elected President of the Continental Congress, served for two weeks, and then resigned for health reasons.