

ANTIFEDERALIST

John Haring

Orange County

Born: September 28, 1739, Tappan

You are John Haring of Tappan, Orange County, New York. You were born September 28, 1739, to Colonel Abraham Haring and Martytje Bogart Haring, the fourth of their eight children. You attended school in New York City, read law, and were admitted to the bar, practicing both in the city and in Orange. You were a successful lawyer and soon advanced to a county judgeship.

The approach of war turned your attention toward politics. You served on the Orange County committee of correspondence and, with your brother, drafted the Orangetown Resolutions, which imposed a local nonimportation agreement on the purchase of British goods. Afterward you represented New York at the First Continental Congress, which imposed similar boycotts, but for all the colonies. British authority collapsed in 1775, and a series of interim governments supplanted the defunct colonial assembly and the absent royal governor (away in England). Four of these provincial congresses were convened; you served in all four and as president pro tempore in two. Once the state constitution was ratified (1777), you were twice a member of the governor's council of appointment (1781–82), and you were elected to seven consecutive terms as a state senator. Starting in 1785, you began a three-year term in the Continental Congress. Your political experience, therefore, is at all three levels of government—county, state, and national—and in all three branches of government—executive, legislative, and judicial. Plus, you were an original member of the board of regents of the newly renamed Columbia College, formerly King's College (1784–87).

This past spring your Orange County constituents favored you with reelection to the senate and election to the state ratifying convention meeting in Poughkeepsie to accept or reject the Constitution. Orange County is an Antifederalist stronghold, you ran on the Antifederalist ticket, and you are firm in defense of Antifederalist principles. You thus will give hearty support to Governor George Clinton, the Antifederalist party leader, and Melancton Smith, the party lieutenant, as they, and others of your party, endeavor to defeat the Constitution or secure amendments thereto.

HIST 101 · NY Ratifying Convention · Poughkeepsie, 1788