

# The First Black American President

## A Local Historian Uncovers A Government Secret

By JOY RAMOS

THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Based on shocking evidence, there were eight presidents before George Washington. Of that group, John Hanson was black!

Very little is known about this African American who ran our country for one year. L.C. Oddie, a local authority on the subject, will present his findings in a book called "The Missing President," which will be available at the end of the year. Oddie's research began in 1992 after hearing about this hidden truth on television from Dick Gregory, a famous civil rights activist and nutritionist. Nearly ten years later, after digging through government documents, obtaining copies of portraits, uncovering a letter and even obtaining currency which features the past president, does Oddie have the evidence needed to back his historical claims. Throughout the interview with the historian, he kept mostly confidential about the information contained in his book because of a legal agreement with his publishing company, Pine Orchard.

Based on research by Oddie, the

Continental Congress in 1781 voted John Hanson to lead the country as President of the United States in Congress Assembled. He was a mix of Swedish and black descent. After his one year stint as president, seven others followed Hanson in the office: Richard Henry Lee, Elias Boudinot, Thomas Mifflin, John Hancock, Nathaniel Gorham, Arthur St. Clair, and Cyrus Griffin. As president, he was granted governing powers as defined by the Articles of Confederation. He had the authority to correspond and negotiate with foreign governments. Hanson gave orders to the military forces toward the end of the American Revolution. Under him, the U.S. Treasury Department and the Foreign Affairs Department was formed. Hanson has been credited for approving the Great Seal of the United States and leading the fight to guarantee the statehood of the western territories beyond the Appalachian Mountains that had been controlled by some of the original thirteen colonies. Of the documents found by Oddie, one was signed by the black president to create the 13 colonies and another was to



John Hanson is claimed to be America's first black president. According to the author of "Dirty Little Secrets," there have been several presidents of black ancestry after George Washington's presidency.

boycott British ships importing their goods. A portrait of John Hanson shows him with Washington and Jefferson. He collaborated with Jefferson and a group of other writers to pen the famous Declaration of Independence. Hanson's great contributions were recognized in 1981 when the United State Postal Service issued a stamp commemorating the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appointment of Hanson as President of the United States Assembled.

**ONE**

1615 N.E.  
Killingsworth  
Portland,  
Oregon  
97211

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