

imports and exports of merchandise, particularly to Great Britain.

Now John's loyalty to Great Britain was never in question. This idea must have made sense, perhaps to the majority of the new Congress, because it was actually implemented, but it proved to be one of the most foolish courses of events for the US in the entire War. Britain yawned, but America, as a new country, almost divided on the issue, and took at least 20 years to recover.

Commission of Delegates for New Jersey to Continental Congress at Philadelphia, September 5, 1774.

To James Kinney, William Livingston, John De Hart, Stephen Crane and Richard Smith, Esquires, each and every of you:

The Committees appointed by the several Counties of the Colony of New Jersey, to nominate Deputies to represent the same in the General Congress of Deputies from the other Colonies in America, convened at the City of New Brunswick, have nominated and appointed, and do hereby

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hereby nominate and appoint you, and each of you, Deputies to represent the Colony of New Jersey, in the said General Congress.

In testimony whereof the Chairman of the said several Committees here met, have hereunto set their hands, this twenty-third day of July, in the fourteenth year of the reign of our sovereign Lord George the Third, and in the year of our Lord, 1774.

Signed,

WILLIAM P. SMITH,
JOHN MOORES,
ROBERT FIELD,
PETER ZABRISKIE,
EDWARD TAYLOR,
ARCHIBALD STEWART,
ABIA BROWN,

JACOB FORD,
ROBERT JOHNSON,
ROBERT FRIEND PRICE,
SAMUEL TUCKER,
HENDRICK FISHER,
THOMAS ANDERSON,
MARK THOMPSON.

Eleven deputies for the County of Middlesex had been chosen. John, of course, as Chairperson, was one of them. Two months later, in September, 14 delegates were selected for the