

U.S. Congress Biographical Directory Updates John Hart Biography

Revised: August 15, 2026

The *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress* has removed Stonington, Connecticut, as the birthplace of Declaration signer John Hart following a review of new historical research.

The change followed the submission by Gregory Munro, a direct descendant of John Hart and a member of the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence (DSDI), of a ten-page research paper presenting evidence that challenged the long-standing claim that Hart was born in Stonington. Following its review of the submitted research and other historical materials, the editors revised John Hart's congressional biography, removing Stonington as his birthplace and rewording the early-life section.

The research submitted by Munro supports the conclusion that the most probable birthplace of John Hart was on the farm of his father, Edward Hart, in Hopewell Township, New Jersey. This conclusion is also consistent with other historical sources, including USHistory.org, operated by the Independence Hall Association, which identifies Hopewell, New Jersey, as John Hart's birthplace.

The revised congressional biography can be viewed here:

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress — John Hart

<https://bioguide.congress.gov/search/bio/H000288>

USHistory.org's biography of John Hart is available here:

USHistory.org — John Hart

<https://www.ushistory.org/Declaration/signers/hart.html>

The revision by the *Biographical Directory of the United States Congress* is expected to have broader implications beyond the Congressional biography itself. Because the Directory is one of the federal government's principal historical reference sources, its correction is likely to influence the wording of other government historical websites, publications, and educational materials that have long repeated the claim that John Hart was born in Stonington, Connecticut. As these resources are reviewed and updated, they will more accurately reflect the current historical evidence supporting Hopewell Township, New Jersey, as the probable birthplace of John Hart.

To commemorate this important development in the historical record, the John Hart Fund will place a bronze plaque at the probable birthplace of John Hart in Pennington, New Jersey, on the former Edward Hart farm. The plaque will recognize the site as the probable birthplace of John Hart, signer of the Declaration of Independence, and will serve as a permanent marker acknowledging both the historical significance of the location and the successful effort to correct the official historical record.