

*The Writings  
of  
Christopher Gadsden*

1746-1805

Edited

by RICHARD WALSH

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AS A YOUNG MAN  
*Shua Reynolds*



CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN AS A YOUNG MAN  
*Attributed to Sir Joshua Reynolds*

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## Illustrations

Notes on the illustrations are on pages 315-17.

Page dated August 23, 1764, in the Journal of the South Carolina Commons House of Assembly. *Courtesy of the South Carolina Archives Department.* endpapers

Christopher Gadsden as a young man, attributed to Sir Joshua Reynolds. *Courtesy of Mr. George D. Shore, Jr., of Sumter, South Carolina.* frontispiece

Advertisement for Gadsden's Wharf at Charles Town, from *The South-Carolina Gazette*, March 6, 1773. *Courtesy of the South Carolina Historical Society.* facing page 4

Gadsden's "Notice" for business as a factor, from *The South-Carolina Gazette*, October 11, 1773. *Courtesy of the South Carolina Historical Society.* facing page 36

Drawing of Gadsden's Wharf, by Vernon Bailey Howe in 1906, from Mrs. St. Julien Ravenel's *Charleston: The Place and the People*. Copyright 1906 The Macmillan Company. Renewed 1934 by Frances G. Buist. *Reprinted by permission.* page 90

Drawing of Gadsden's flag. *Courtesy of the William and Mary Quarterly.* page 110

Title page of Gadsden's copy of the *Journal* of the Continental Congress. *Courtesy of the College of Charleston.* facing page 132

Page of Gadsden's shorthand interleaved in his *Journal* of the Continental Congress. *Courtesy of the College of Charleston.* facing page 164

Plat of "Middlesex," Gadsden's property at Charles Town. *Courtesy of the South Caroliniana Library, University of South Carolina.* facing page 228

Christopher Gadsden in late life, by Rembrandt Peale about 1795-97. *Courtesy of Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia.* facing page 260

Christopher Gadsden thoroughly sincere; of integrity. . . . He possessed integrity, but that persisted in the face of danger, but that persisted in the face of the threat of death at the same time inquisitive; he was not a fortune for public ends, but a low, and knew not how

In these words, Christopher Gadsden, as recorded by George Bancroft.

Bancroft said further that Gadsden, through the vast expansion of the territory it remembered that the business of South Carolina. when we count up those years, we are to name the result, we are to name the magnanimous, unwavering Gadsden."<sup>1</sup>

Gadsden was born February 17, 1724 (Captain) Thomas Gadsden, collector of Charles Town, Robert and Thomas, and Thomas dying before Christopher

A year after Christopher Gadsden's father was born. Thomas died, and in 1731 occurred. Gadsden then married at least two children, James

<sup>1</sup> George Bancroft, *History of the United States* (New York: Brown & Co., 1857), V, 293

<sup>2</sup> Biographical Sketches of Christopher Gadsden, *DAB*, XII, 82-83, Albany: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1906; *Biographical Sketches of the Southern Historical Society* (Ramsay, *History of South Carolina*, author], 1809), II, 457-66;

to forget the faithful serv-  
Elsy, Nanny's Offspring to  
ing never parted with one,  
unt and deserves regard, so  
n in Law Thomas Morris,  
n Drayton and my Grand  
l lawful Executors to this  
Grand Sons Christopher  
en Morris when they shall  
tness to this my last Will  
l seal this 5th day of June  
: hundred and four, and in  
: of the United States.

R GADSDEN (L.S.)

*Christopher Gadsden the  
st Will and Testament in  
in his presence, and in the  
our Names as Witnesses*

— *Joseph Pritchard  
T.D. September 18, 1805.  
Philip Gadsden and William  
ed Christopher Gadsden*

## Appendix

### Notes on the Illustrations

PAGE DATED AUGUST 23, 1764, IN THE JOURNAL OF THE SOUTH  
CAROLINA COMMONS HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY (*endpapers*).

Judging from the aggressive and provocative nature of the committee's reply, the Answer to Council appears to have been written by Christopher Gadsden who was named among those to act in rebuttal. Others were the Messrs. Thomas Bee, Gabriel Manigault, John Rutledge and William Henry Drayton.

The Answer refutes the right of Council to amend the Tax Bill to add £7,000 currency, or two years' salary, for the unpopular chief executive, Thomas Boone, whom the Commons had petitioned for removal. Boone had returned home May 14, 1764, virtually driven from office in South Carolina; and Lieutenant Governor William Bull had summoned the Assembly to meet as the summer was nearing its end.

Council's attempt to amend the Money Bill was responsible for the message issuing from the Committee which stated: "The Sum Annually inserted in the Schedule for the Governor, is not a Salary—but a Gratuity from the People; which it would be stupid in them to bestow upon a Governor, who has endeavoured to deprive them, of what ought to be valued by every Englishman [their rights], more than even life itself."

#### CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN AS A YOUNG MAN (*frontispiece*).

Controversy over this portrait has arisen. From the collection of George D. Shore, Sumter, South Carolina, the painting of Gadsden is attributed to Sir Joshua Reynolds, and in the opinion of art experts in the South, it can be none other than a Reynolds' portrait. The Frick Art Reference Library of New York lists the portrait among the works of Jeremiah Theus, colonial artist of Charles Town;<sup>1</sup> Margaret Middleton, author of *Jeremiah Theus, Colonial Artist of Charles Town*, disputes the attribution.

<sup>1</sup> Letter to editor, July 27, 1966, from Mrs. Henry W. Howell, Jr., who stated: "Mr. Lawrence Park and Mr. William Sawitzky, both authorities in the field of colonial portraiture, considered the portrait [Gadsden] to be the work of Jeremiah Theus." But Mrs. Middleton, author of *Jeremiah Theus*, (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1953), p. 132, states: "The compiler has seen only a photograph of this portrait of the Revolutionary patriot and regrets that she has been unable to locate the original. The photograph is used as one of several photographs making up the frontispiece of John J. Dargan's *History of South Carolina [School History of South Carolina]*. Columbia: The State Company], published in 1906. Efforts to locate this portrait have not been successful. It is possible that it is a miniature."