

Silas Deane of Connecticut on Christopher Gadsden

The following is an excerpt of a letter written by Silas Deane to Elizabeth Deane on September 7, 1774 concerning South Carolina's delegates to the First Continental Congress. Silas Deane was a delegate from Connecticut who served in the Continental Congress from September 5 to October 26, 1774 and May 10 to August 2, 1775.

[Begins on p. 34]

. . . I will now give You the Character of the Delegates beginning at South Carolina, as they are **Souther** most. Mr. Lynch is a Gentleman about Sixty, and could You see him, I need say nothing more. He has much the appearance of Mr. Jas. Mumford deceased, dresses as plain, or plainer, is of immense fortune & has his Family with him. He wears the **Manufacture** of this Country, is plain, Sensible, above **Ceremony**, and carries with more Force in his very appearance, than most **powdered** Folks, in their Conversation. He wears his hair strait, his **Cloaths** in the plainest order, and is highly esteemed. With him Are Two Brother Mr. Rutledge **senr.**, & **junr.** of independent

[Beginning of p. 35]

Fortune, **ingenious**, but **impetuous** in the Cause they are engaged in; the eldest I judge, of my Age, his Lady, & a Son of Jesse's age is with him. They **lodge** at the Next Door. The Younger Brother, is a **tolerable** speaker, equally zealous. He married *Mr. Gadsdens* Daughter, who as I told you lodges with Us. Mr. Gadsden, leaves all N England Sons of Liberty, farr behind, for he is for taking up his **Firelock**, & marching direct to Boston, **nay** he affirmed this Morning, that were his Wife, and all his Children, in Boston, & they were there to perish, by the sword, it would not alter his **Sentiment** or **proceeding**, for American Liberty, by which You may judge of the Man, when I add that he is one of the most regularly, religious Men I ever met with. Col. Middleton is the only remaining Member for that province whom I have not Characterized. He appears very modest, has said but little hitherto, is I judge Fifty Years of Age, and of a very slender Thin habit, but is in high esteem with his Acquaintance. . . .

From Smith, Paul H., ed. *Letters of Delegates to Congress: August 1774 – August 1775*. Vol. 1. Washington, D.C.: Library of Congress, 1976: 34-35. Available at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Glossary (in order of appearance)

Souther - Southern

Manufacture - clothes made in the colonies (the colonists were boycotting British goods)

Ceremony - formality such as powdered wigs and high society etiquette

powdered - wigs were covered in powder to color them

Cloaths - clothes

senr. - senior (the older brother)

junr. -junior (the younger brother)

ingenious - clever

impetuous - impulsive and passionate

lodge - stay overnight or live

tolerable - okay or bearable

Firelock - also known as a flintlock; a type of gun

nay - usually means "no" but in this case means "and moreover"

Sentiment - feeling

proceeding - carrying out an action; in this case, going to Boston

Definitions quoted or based on *The American Heritage Dictionary*. Third College Edition. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1997.