

Gadsden's Obituary

CHARLESTON.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 1805

Died, at his house in this city, on Wednesday last, in the 82^d year of his age, the **venerable** and highly respected General *CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN*.

The long and **meritorious** services of this most valuable and **lamented** citizen are too well known to his countrymen to require a lengthy recital of them here – suffice it to say that he was one of the earliest patriots of Carolina and the revolution; that as a soldier in the field, as a statesman in our councils, and in the private walks of the citizen, his whole life was devoted to the service of his country.

As early as the year 1765, he was appointed a delegate to meet delegates from the other parts of the continent, at New York, to consult on measures to ward off the dangers that then threatened America. The **obnoxious** acts of the British parliament then complained of were soon after repealed. A few years after, when oppression again made its appearance, and it was found necessary to oppose it by arms, General Gadsden early appeared by his writings and example to **animate** his countrymen to join in the righteous cause. Throughout the **arduous** conflict he shared in all their dangers and difficulties. When this city was compelled to surrender to the superior arms of the enemy, in the year 1780, he became a prisoner; but so much was his influence dreaded by them, that, instead of permitting him to enjoy the terms of the **capitulation**, he was seized, with several other enterprising and valuable citizens, and sent to St. Augustine, where he underwent a **rigorous** and close **confinement**. --- On the return of peace, he was restored to his country. He was immediately called to her councils, and for a number of years represented this city in the legislature. He was constantly re-elected to this trust, until finding the infirmities of age approaching, and beholding his country happy in the government of her choice, he chose to retire from all public business.

His fellow citizens, to **evince** the sincere regret his departure has occasioned, assembled on Thursday to pay their last and most sincere respects to his remains.

Captain Kalteisen, the venerable commandant of Fort Johnston, as soon as he was informed of the death of the General, had the colours of the fort hung in mourning and fired a gun every ten minutes, from the morning of Thursday until the body was **interred**. The vessels in the harbor had their colours half masted throughout the day.

At eleven o'clock, the regiment of artillery of which he was the founder, by raising the first company in the year 1755, paraded at his late dwelling; they were there joined by the officers of the squadron of horse and of uniform companies of the infantry of this city. His excellency the governor, the judges, the officers of the federal and state governments in this city, the members of the **corporation and its officers**, all the **clergy** of the city, and a very numerous **concourse** of his former friends and fellow-citizens, formed in procession at one o'clock, and were escorted by the the [typing error in original article] military to St. Philip's church; where, after the performance of the funeral services by the Rev. Dr. Jenkins, the body of this great and good man, **bedewed** with the tears of his country, was deposited in its parent earth. --- City Gazette.

State of South-Carolina,

August 30, 1805.

THE GOVERNOR & COMMANDER IN CHIEF, participating most sensibly in the general feeling which has been excited by the Death of the Venerable Sage and Patriot **GENERAL CHRISTOPHER GADSDEN**, invites all Officers of the State, both Civil and Military, to unite with him in a token of respect for the deceased, and of regret for this public **deprivation**.

For this purpose, Civil Officers will please wear **crape** round the left arm, Military will have the goodness to appear in Uniform, with Crape round the left arm, and shrouding the Sword Hilt for four Sundays next succeeding.

By the Governor & Commander in Chief.
JAMES D MITCHELL, Secretary.
MORTON A. WARING, *Aid-de-Camp*

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Glossary (in order of appearance)

venerable - worthy of respect

meritorious - deserving of praise

lamented - mourned

obnoxious - Extremely offensive or annoying

animate - to enliven and inspire

arduous - very difficult

capitulation - surrender

rigorous - harsh or trying circumstance

confinement - imprisonment

evince - demonstrate

interred - buried

corporation and its officers - the city government and its leaders

clergy - pastors

concourse - a large crowd

bedewed - To wet (like dew)

deprivation - loss

crape - a black band often worn on the sleeve

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