

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF THE DELEGATES
FROM GEORGIA TO THE
CONTINENTAL CONGRESS**

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Biographical sketches of the delegates from Georgia to the Continental Congress by Jr. Jones

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JR. JONES

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CONGRESS

BY

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To
THOMAS ADDIS EMMET, M. D., LL. D.,
OF NEW YORK CITY,
WHOSE INTELLIGENT, GENEROUS, AND INDEFATIGABLE
RESEARCHES AND ACQUISITIONS
HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH IN RESCUING FROM OBLIVION
NAMES AND EVENTS
MEMORABLE IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICA,
These Sketches
ARE CORDIALLY INSCRIBED.

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PREFACE.

IN the retaliatory acts passed by the Royalist Assembly which convened in Savannah in 1780, the following members from Georgia of the Continental Congress were attainted of high treason; their property, real and personal, was vested in the Crown; and they were declared incapable of holding or exercising any office of trust, honor, or profit:—

- “JOHN HOUSTOUN, Rebel Governor.
- LACHLAN McINTOSH, Rebel General.
- GEORGE WALTON, Member of Rebel Congress.
- JOSEPH CLAY, Rebel Paymaster-General.
- N. WYMBERLEY JONES, Speaker of Rebel Assembly.
- EDWARD TELFAIR, Member of Rebel Congress.
- RICHARD HOWLEY, Rebel Governor.
- WILLIAM FEW, Rebel Counselor.
- EDWARD LANGWORTHY, Rebel Delegate.
- JOSEPH WOOD, Member of the Rebel Congress.
- BENJAMIN ANDREW, President of the Rebel Council.
- NATHAN BROWNSON, Member of Rebel Congress.
- LYMAN HALL, Member of the Rebel Congress.
- JOSEPH HABERSHAM, Rebel Colonel.
- JOHN HABERSHAM, Rebel Major.
- WILLIAM GIBBONS, the elder, Rebel Counselor.
- SAMUEL STIRK, Rebel Secretary.”

resolves, just in the exercise of his powers, loyal in his opinions, courteous in his intercourse, thrifty in the conduct of his private affairs, and exhibiting the operations of a vigorous and well-balanced judgment, he secured the respect and the affection of his people. Although differing from many of the inhabitants upon the political questions which were then dividing the public mind, he never suffered himself to be betrayed into acts of violence or of revenge. He preferred to counsel, to enlighten, and to exhort. It excites no surprise, therefore, that his influence — vigorously exerted in encouraging loyalty to his royal master and submission to the acts of Parliament — should have had great weight in retarding the progress of rebel thought, and in restraining Georgia, at the outset, from casting her lot with her sister American Colonies, and commissioning delegates through whom she might participate in the adoption of measures which precipitated the war of the Revolution. The apparent tardiness and hesitancy on the part of the Province in joining the Confederation at the inception of those movements which culminated in a declaration of independence may be further excused or accounted for when we remember that she was, of all the original Thirteen Colonies, the youngest and least prepared for the struggle, and when we recall the fact that Schovillites, leagued with Indians, were scourging her borders, and awakening, in the breasts even of the

most patriotic and daring, gravest apprehensions for the safety of their wives and children. In the language of Captain McCall, "The charge of inactivity vanishes when the sword and hatchet are held over the heads of the actors to compel them to lie still."

While the record of the services of the members from Georgia in the Continental Congress may not be as brilliant or as valuable as that of some of the Delegates from other Colonies (with the exception of the Reverend Doctor Zubly, and possibly of General Gunn, who never took his seat), they were all good and true men, capable and most earnest in the support of the common cause. Many of them were gentlemen of high culture, superior education, and attractive social and political virtues. Fourteen of them, in one capacity or another, bore arms in the struggle for independence; ten were members of the legal profession; six were merchants; three were physicians; one was a clergyman; and not less than ten were interested in agricultural operations. Engraved portraits have been made of Abraham Baldwin, Archibald Bulloch, Joseph Clay, William Few, Button Gwinnett, John Habersham, Joseph Habersham, Lyman Hall, Noble Wymberley Jones, Lachlan McIntosh, and George Walton. Of the others, so far as we can discover, no likenesses exist.

After the lapse of so many years, and in the absence

of recorded memories, it is difficult, nay impossible, to present as full and accurate sketches as we would wish. Having, however, utilized all the materials at command, we commit this manuscript to the printer in the hope that what we have attempted for Georgia may be better accomplished by others in behalf of the remaining commonwealths associated in the brave and patriotic Confederation of "The Original Thirteen."

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, 1891.