SCSL Digital Collections

Delegates to the Continental Congress from South Carolina, 1774-1789: with sketches of the four who signed the Declaration of Independence

Item Type	Text
Publisher	South Carolina State Library
Rights	Copyright status undetermined. For more information contact, South Carolina State Library, 1500 Senate Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201.
Download date	2024-08-31 23:53:22
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/10827/7840

Compliments of A. S. Salley.

Bulletins of the Historical Commission of South Carolina.—No. 9

Robert W. Gibbes, M.D.
Columbia, S.C.

Delegates to the Continental Congress from South Carolina, 1774-1789,

With Sketches of the Four Who Signed the Declaration of Independence.

By A. S. SALLEY, Jr.
Secretary of the Commission

Printed for the Commission by
The State Company
Columbia, S. C.
1927

Bulletins of the Historical Commission of South Carolina.—No. 9

Delegates to the Continental Congress from South Carolina, 1774-1789,

With Sketches of the Four Who Signed the Declaration of Independence.

By A. S. SALLEY, Jr.
Secretary of the Commission

Printed for the Commission by
The State Company
Columbia, S. C.
1927

1774-1775.

When the news of the blockading of the port of Boston reached Charles Town in June, 1774[1], a convention of the people of South Carolina was, on June 13, called[2] to meet in Charles Town on the 6th of July. The convention met on the day appointed and sat through the 8th.

After adopting resolutions condemning the British Parliament for closing the port of Boston, and setting forth the rights of Americans, the convention adopted the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That Henry Middleton, John Rutledge, Thomas Lynch, Christopher Gadsden and Edward Rutledge, Esqrs. be and they are hereby nominated and appointed Deputies, on the Part and Behalf of this Colony, to meet the Deputies of the several Colonies of North-America, in general Congress, the *first Monday* in *September* next, at *Philadelphia*, or at any other Time or Place that may be generally agreed on.[3]

1775-1776.

Before adjourning the convention elected a General Committee, composed of ninety-nine members—twenty-one of whom should constitute a quorum—to do all things necessary to carry out the resolutions of the convention, its powers to continue to the next general meeting.

The general congress, thereafter known as the Continental Congress, met at Philadelphia the first Monday in September and remained in session until October 26th. The Continental Congress recommended that a provincial congress be organized in each of the provinces represented at the Congress. The General Committee at Charles Town issued a call for an election throughout South Carolina, to be held in December, to select delegates to a provincial congress. The election was held and the delegates selected met in Charles Town, January 11, 1775, and sat through the 17th. On the 16th the same delegates that

---

[1]*The South-Carolina Gazette*, June 3, 1774.

[2]*The South-Carolina Gazette*, June 13, 1774.

[3]Proceedings of the Convention for Thursday, July 7, 1774, as published in *The South-Carolina Gazette*, Monday, July 11, 1774.

had represented South Carolina at the first congress were re-elected.[1]

1776-1777.

The second session of the second Provincial Congress of South Carolina was convened in Charles Town, February 1, 1776. The journal for February 16th shows the following proceedings respecting delegates to the Continental Congress:

The Congress then proceeded to ballot for the Delegates to the Continental Congress,

And the ballots being reckoned, it appeared, and Mr. President declared, that THOMAS LYNCH, JOHN RUTLEDGE, EDWARD RUTLEDGE, ARTHUR MIDDLETON, and THOMAS HEYWARD junior, Esqrs. were, by majority of votes, duly elected.[2]

The journal for March 8, 1776, gives the following proceedings:

RESOLVED, That another delegate to represent this colony in the Continental Congress, be forthwith chosen by this Congress, by ballot, in addition to, and with as full powers, in all respects, as the delegates already chosen have and are invested with.

The Congress then proceeded to ballot for the said delegate;

And Thomas Lynch, jun. Esq; appeared to be, and was declared, duly elected.

RESOLVED, Thomas Lynch, jun. Esq; be, and he is hereby appointed a sixth delegate from this colony to represent the same in the Continental Congress.[3]

On March 26, 1776, the Provincial Congress adopted an independent constitution for South Carolina, resolved itself into a general assembly which organized at once and elected a full set of executive and judicial officers for the state and thereby started the independent government on its way. John Rutledge, one of the delegates to the Continental Congress, was chosen as president of South Carolina and immediately entered upon his duties as such, thereby vacating his seat in the Continental Congress.

The journal of the General Assembly for April 9, 1776, shows the following proceedings:

A Motion was made That this House do resolve to choose another Delegate to the Continental Congress

After some Debate

---

[1]"Yesterday the Provincial Congress of this Province made choice of the former Delegates, viz. Henry Middleton, Thomas Lynch, Christopher Gadsden, John Rutledge, and Edward Rutledge, Esquires, to attend the next Continental Congress to be held at Philadelphia on the 10th of May next."—*The South-Carolina Gazette; And Country Journal*, Tuesday, January 17, 1775.

[2]*Extracts from the Journals of the Provincial Congress of South-Carolina. Held at Charles-Town, February 1st*, 1776 (Charles Town, 1776), pp. 39-40. (Reprinted in Peter Force's *American Archives*, 4th Series.)

[3]Ibid., pp. 126-127.

The previous Question was moved for and put whether that Question should be now put

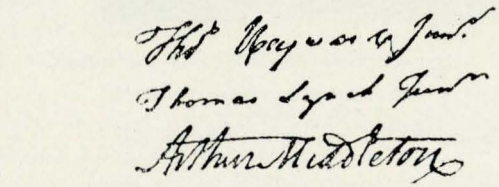
And it was passed in the Negative[1]

Soon after this the elder Lynch became almost totally incapacitated by illness, and was unable to participate in the proceedings of Congress when the Declaration of Independence was adopted and when it was signed. His signature is the first to a letter which all five of the delegation wrote to President Rutledge on the 9th of July, wherein they say:

....Inclosed also are some other occasional Resolutions of Congress and a very important Declaration which the King of Great-Britain has at last reduced us to the necessity of making, all the Colonies were united upon this great Subject except New-York whose Delegates were restrained by an Instruction given several months ago, their Convention is to meet in a few days when it is expected that Instruction will be immediately withdrawn and the Declaration unanimously agreed to by the Thirteen United States of America.[2]

The entire delegation also signed a letter to President Rutledge which was dated at Philadelphia, July 25, 1776, the elder Lynch signing first and his son last.[3] These letters were evidently signed by him on his bed where he lay sick, as he never sufficiently recovered to go to the hall of the Congress and sign the Declaration of Independence. The space left for his signature between those of Rutledge and Heyward is still vacant. *The South-Carolina and American General Gazette* of January 2, 1777, contains the following announcement:

DEATHS. At Annapolis, on his Way Home, THOMAS LYNCH, Esquire, one of our Delegates at the Continental Congress. From the Commencement of the present Struggle in Favour of American Freedom, this Gentleman



THE SOUTH CAROLINIANS' SIGNATURES AS THEY APPEAR ON THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE.

---

[1]*Journal of the General Assembly of South Carolina March* 26, 1776—*April* 11, 1776 (Columbia, S. C., 1906), p. 54.

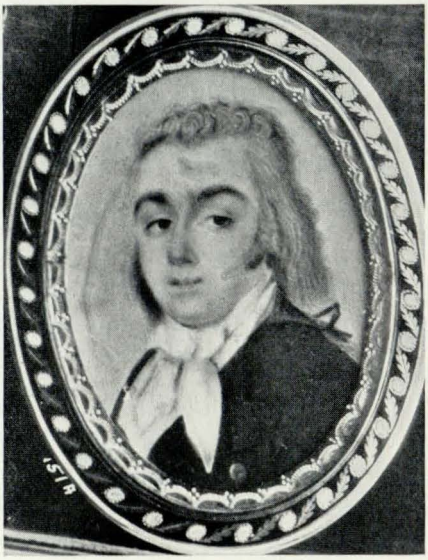
[2]*Journal of the General Assembly of South Carolina September* 17, 1776—*October* 20, 1776, pp. 16-17. (Columbia, S. C., 1909.)

[3]Ibid., 29-31.

acted a distinguished Part, and proved himself the firm, intrepid Patriot. In private Life he was not less conspicuous; a warm and steady Friend, hospitable, generous, benevolent. He died in the 50th Year of his Age, greatly regretted by his Relations and countrymen.

EDWARD RUTLEDGE.

Edward Rutledge was the youngest child and the fifth son of Dr. John Rutledge and Sarah Hext, his wife, and was born in Christ Church Parish, November 23, 1749. After preparatory training in schools of South Carolina he was admitted to the Middle Temple, January 12, 1767, and was called to the British bar, July 3, 1772, being the fourth of the four future signers



EDWARD RUTLEDGE.

From a miniature (artist unknown) painted in early manhood.

[Courtesy of Mrs. Edmund A. Felder and the Frick Art Reference Library.]

of the Declaration of Independence for South Carolina, to attend the Inns of Court in London. In January, 1773, he was admitted to the bar of South Carolina and in that very year enshrined his name in the legal annals of South Carolina by instituting habeas corpus proceedings in behalf of Thomas Powell, publisher of *The South-Carolina Gazette*, when he was imprisoned for printing his gazette on unstamped paper. This

so popularized Rutledge that, notwithstanding his youth, he was, on Thursday, July 7, 1774, elected one of the five delegates from South Carolina to the first Continental Congress. He was, in January, 1775, elected a delegate to the first Provincial Congress from Charles Town, and on Monday, January 16, 1775, by that body was reëlected to the Continental Congress. At an election held the 7th and 8th of August, 1775, he was elected to the second Provincial Congress and participated in the session of that body held in November, 1775. When the Provincial Congress, on March 26, 1776, resolved itself into a General Assembly he automatically became a member thereof, although at that time he was in Philadelphia in attendance on the Continental Congress. On February 16, 1776, he was again elected by the Provincial Congress delegate to the Continental Congress for another year. He was present and was one of the supporters of the Declaration of Independence, to which he later affixed his signature.

He was not reëlected to the Continental Congress by the General Assembly at the elections held in January, 1777, February, 1778, and February, 1779, probably because he declined on each occasion as he certainly did on the last occasion.

At the election held in the autumn of 1778 for a General Assembly under the new Constitution he was elected to the House of Representatives from Charles Town.

In common with all other citizens between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, he was a member of the militia. He belonged to the Charles Town Battalion of Artillery, in which he very soon rose to the rank of captain. With his company he participated in General Moultrie's defeat of Major Gardiner on Port Royal Island, February 4, 1779.

On September 3, 1779, he was returned to the Continental Congress to fill a vacancy, as shown by the following extract from the journal of the House of Representatives for Friday, September 3, 1779:

The Hon. House of the Senate came into this House the members of both Houses then proceeded, Jointly to ballot for a Delegate, to represent this State in the congress of the united States. After which the members of the Senate withdrew And the ballot being reckoned It appeared that the Hon. Edward Rutledge Esqr was duly elected, Whereupon, Resolved, that the Hon. Edward Rutledge, is duly Elected as Delegate to represent this State in the congress of the United States for the current Year. Mr. Rutledge being present in his place thereupon rose from his chair thanked the House for the Honor they had repeatedly conferred upon him and assured them that as he was always Ready to render his country his utmost services so he Should proceed on his Delegation

without delay but hoped the House would indulge him with one condition, which was that if his country should be again invaded or become the seat of war he might be permitted to return to its Defence. To which Proposition the House acquiesced. On motion Resolved that this House will make provisions for Paying the Expenses which the Delegates appointed to represent this State in the Continental Congress may be at in going there during their attendance on Congress and returning Home. Ordered that Mr Neyle and Mr Guerrard do carry the above Resolutions to the Hon the Senate for their concurrence.

Early in 1780 a third invasion of South Carolina was commenced by the enemy and Captain Rutledge was soon at his post. He participated in the siege of Charles Town and when the place fell into the hands of the enemy, May 12, he was paroled a prisoner of war. A short time later his parole was recalled and he was sent a prisoner to St. Augustine, where he remained until July, 1781, when he was exchanged. Returning to South Carolina, he was elected to the House of Representatives in the autumn of 1781 and participated in the deliberations of that body in the Masonic Hall at Jacksonborough in January and February, 1782.

He was reëlected to the House of Representatives from St. Philip's and St. Michael's parishes (Charleston) in 1782, 1786, 1788, and 1792.

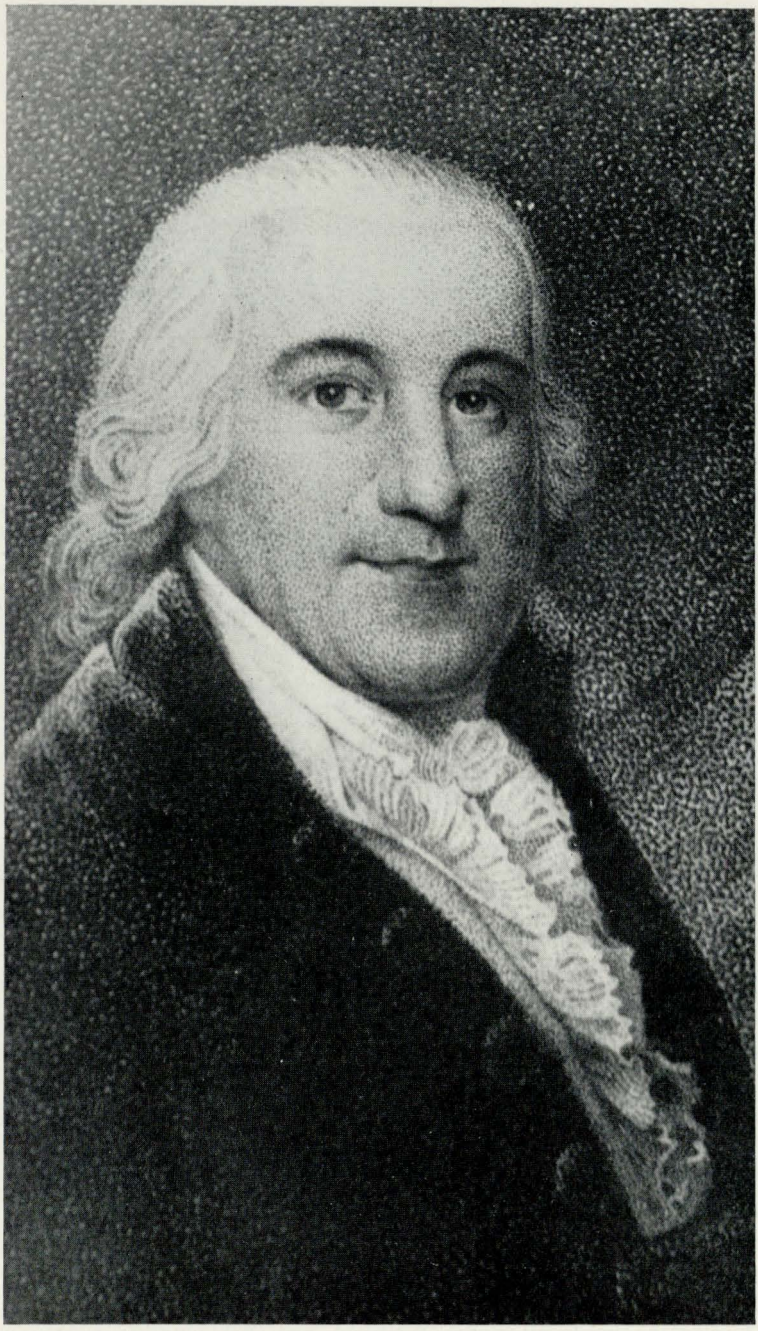
On December 3, 1792, he was elected by the General Assembly one of the eight electors of president and vice-president for South Carolina, and on December 6, 1796, was again named by the General Assembly as one of the eight electors for the presidential election of that year.

On December 6, ~~1800~~ 1798, he was elected governor by the General Assembly and on December 18, following, was inaugurated before the joint session of the Senate and House in the hall of the House. He then went over to the Senate chamber and called for the House to come thereto, and, upon the arrival of the members of the House, the sheriff (John Hart) of Charleston District proclaimed him governor and commander-in-chief in and over the state of South Carolina.

Governor Rutledge died January 23, 1800, nearly a year before the expiration of his term of office.

In 1790 President Washington offered him the position of judge of the United States court for the District of South Carolina, but he declined it.

He married, March 1, 1774, Henrietta Middleton, daughter of Hon. Henry Middleton and sister of Arthur Middleton, who died April 22, 1792. He next married Mrs. Mary (Shubrick)



EDWARD RUTLEDGE.

From an engraving in Sanderson's *Lives* from a portrait by James Earle.

Eveleigh, who survived him many years. He had several children by the first wife.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON.

Arthur Middleton, son of Henry Middleton, president of the first Continental Congress,[1] was born at Middleton Place, St. Andrew's Parish, June 26, 1742. In 1754 he was sent to Hackney Academy, England. From there he went to Westminster School in 1756, and finally to St. John's College, Cambridge University. He was admitted to the Inner Temple, London, April 4, 1757. He returned to South Carolina on the ship *Nancy*, arriving at Charles Town, December 24, 1763.

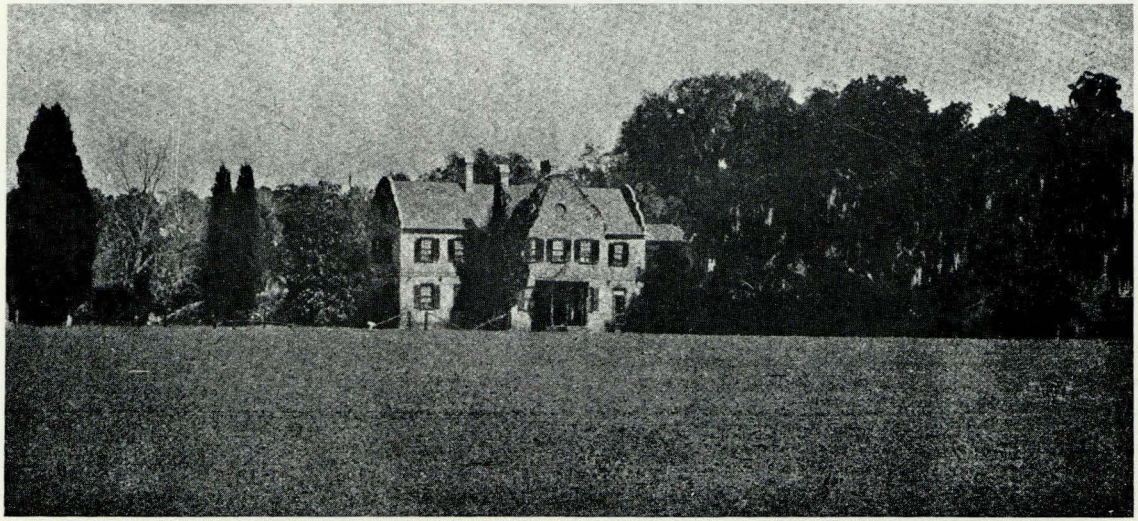
On August 19, 1764, he was married to Mary Izard, daughter of Walter Izard, of Cedar Grove, St. George's Parish, Dorchester. At an election held Tuesday and Wednesday, October 8 and 9, 1765, he was elected to the Commons House of Assembly from St. James's Parish, Goose Creek, and from St. Helena's Parish. He made his election from St. Helena's, serving to 1768. He and his wife, with several relatives and friends, made a party which sailed for London, May 25, 1768, in the *Nancy*, the same ship that had brought him home four and a half years before. He and Mrs. Middleton spent three years in travel in England and southern Europe, where he studied the fine arts in Rome and perfected his taste in literature, music and painting. They also had a group portrait of themselves and their son Henry, who was born in London, September 28, 1770, painted by Benjamin West. Returning, he and his family arrived in Charles Town on the *Mermaid*, September 8, 1771, and took up their residence at Middleton Place.

At an election held Tuesday and Wednesday, September 22 and 23, 1772, he was returned to the Commons House of Assembly from Prince William's Parish and at once became a leader of the American party therein. Governor Montagu had called the session to meet at Beaufort, hoping to dampen the ardor of the tax resisters, but failing therein he dissolved the house and issued writs for a new election to be held Tuesday and Wednesday, December 15 and 16, 1772.

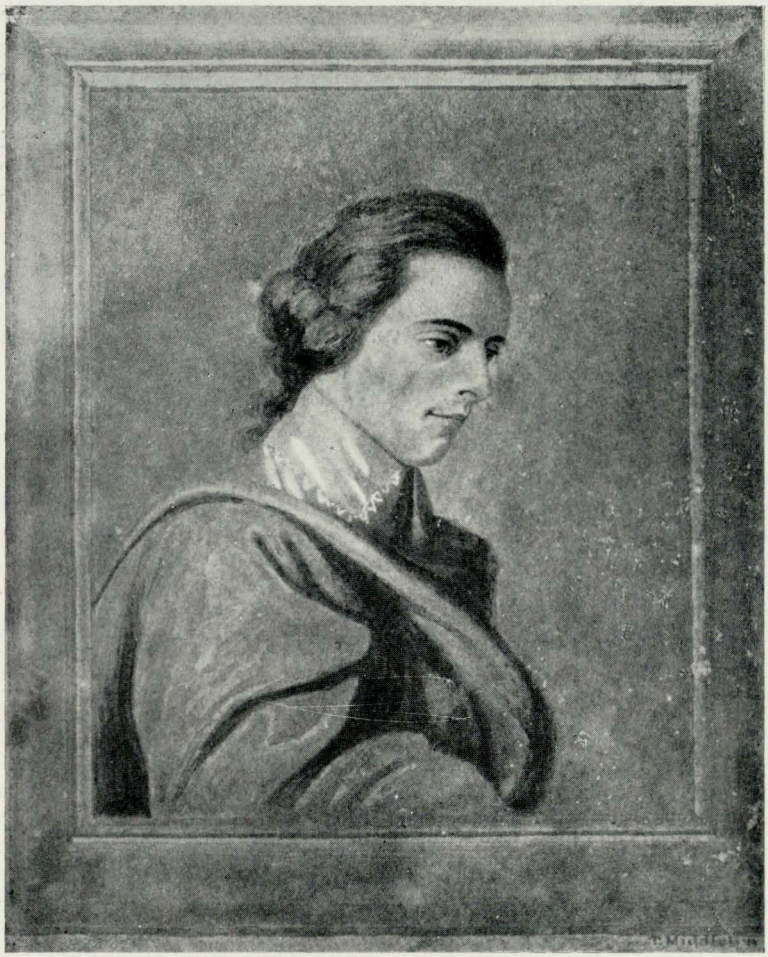
---

[1]He served as such but five days. Peyton Randolph, the first president elected, being ill and unable longer to serve, the congress, on October 22, 1774, elected Henry Middleton president and the congress adjourned October 26, 1774.

ARTHUR MIDDLETON, MRS. ARTHUR MIDDLETON AND THEIR SON HENRY (1770-1846).
From a portrait by Benjamin West.
[Courtesy of Dr. H. M. Fisher, Jenkintown, Pa., and the Frick Art Reference Library, New York.]



A surviving wing of the former mansion (which was partially burned by Federal troops in 1865) of Arthur Middleton, at Middleton Place.



ARTHUR MIDDLETON.

From an engraving by his nephew Thomas Middleton after the portrait by Benjamin West.

[Courtesy of Langdon Cheves, Esq.]

In January, 1775, Middleton was elected to the first Provincial Congress from Charles Town and participated in the first session thereof, January 11-17, 1775, and in the second session, June 1-30, 1775. At the second session it was decided to place the province in a position to resist oppression, and so three regiments of regular troops were provided for and a council of safety, consisting of thirteen members, was selected to direct the affairs of the province. Middleton was chosen as one of this Council of Safety, which became practically the executive of South Carolina until an independent government was established, March 26, 1776. Middleton contributed many political essays on the questions of the hour, signing them "Andrew Marvel."

In August, 1775, he was elected to the second Provincial Congress from Charles Town and participated in the deliberations of both sessions thereof, held November 1-29, 1775, and February 1-March 26, 1776, respectively.

On February 11, 1776, he was appointed one of a committee of eleven to prepare a constitution for South Carolina. On February 16, 1776, he was elected by the congress one of the five delegates from South Carolina to the Continental Congress, the other four being John Rutledge, Thomas Lynch, Edward Rutledge and Thomas Heyward, Jr.

Upon the adoption of the constitution which the committee of eleven had prepared, March 26, 1776, the congress declared itself a general assembly and entered upon its first session. Upon the adjournment of the General Assembly, April 11, 1776, Middleton repaired to the meeting of the Continental Congress and, July 4, 1776, supported the Declaration of Independence, and a short time after, with three others of the five delegates from South Carolina, affixed his signature thereto.

On January 10, 1777, he was again elected as a delegate to the Continental Congress by the General Assembly, Thomas Heyward, Jr., and Henry Laurens being elected at the same time, and on January 21 the delegation was filled by the election of Col. Charles Pinckney (1732-1782) and Paul Trapier, Jr., as the other two delegates.

He was not reëlected to the Continental Congress at the election held by the General Assembly, February 5, 1778, but when, in March, 1778, President Rutledge resigned the presidency of the state, he was elected by the General Assembly, on March 12, to succeed him, but he declined.

THE FAMILY VAULT AT MIDDLETON PLACE WHEREIN LIES THE BODY OF ARTHUR MIDDLETON.

At the general election held in November, 1778, he was elected a member of the House of Representatives from Charles Town, and when the General Assembly met in January, 1779, he was, at the election held February 20, again sent as one of South Carolina's five delegates to the Continental Congress.

At the election by the General Assembly, January 25, 1780, he was again elected a delegate to the Continental Congress.

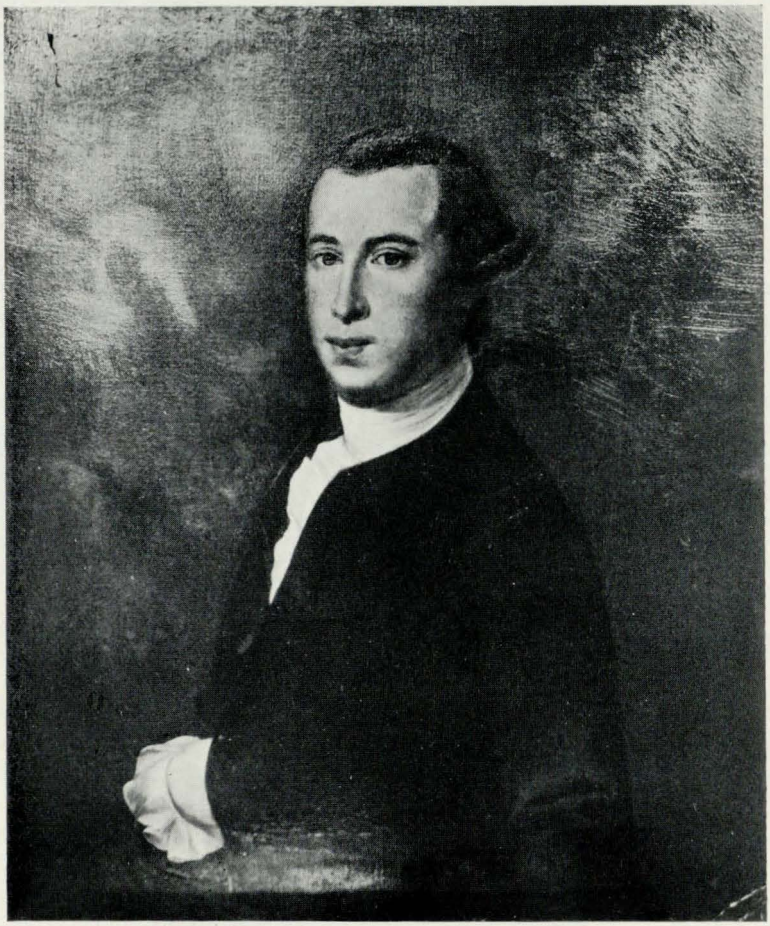
When Charles Town was besieged by the British in the spring of 1780 he served in the state militia to which he, in common with all others of militiary age, belonged. When the city fell May 12 he was paroled as a prisoner of war, but his parole, with those of many other civil and militia officers, was soon revoked by Sir Henry Clinton and he was sent to prison in St. Augustine, Fla. He was exchanged in the general exchange of July, 1781, and soon resumed his duties in the congress. South Carolina being then in the hands of the British and the General Assembly being unable to meet there was no election of delegates in 1781, but when the General Assembly convened in 1782 at Jacksonborough, he was, on January 31, 1782, again elected one of the five delegates from South Carolina to the Continental Congress, John Rutledge, David Ramsay, Ralph Izard and John Lewis Gervais being the other four.

Upon the adoption of the Constitution of 1776 and the national Declaration of Independence he and William Henry Drayton were put upon a committee to prepare a seal for the state. The reverse of the seal adopted, which is still official, was prepared by him, giving evidence of the seriousness of the study which he had given to art during his stay in Rome between 1768 and 1772.

Arthur Middleton died January 1, 1787, and was buried in the vault at his beautiful country estate, Middleton Place, St. Andrew's Parish.

THOMAS HEYWARD, JR.

Thomas Heyward, Jr., was the eldest son of Col. Daniel Heyward, one of the wealthiest planters of his day in South Carolina, and was born on his father's plantation on ~~James Island~~ that part of St. Helena's Parish which later became in St. ~~Andrew's~~ Lyons Parish, July 28, 1746. He received his preparatory education in South Carolina, and was admitted to the Middle Temple, London, January 10, 1765, and was called to the bar by that Inn of Court, May 25, 1770. He returned to



THOMAS HEYWARD, JR.

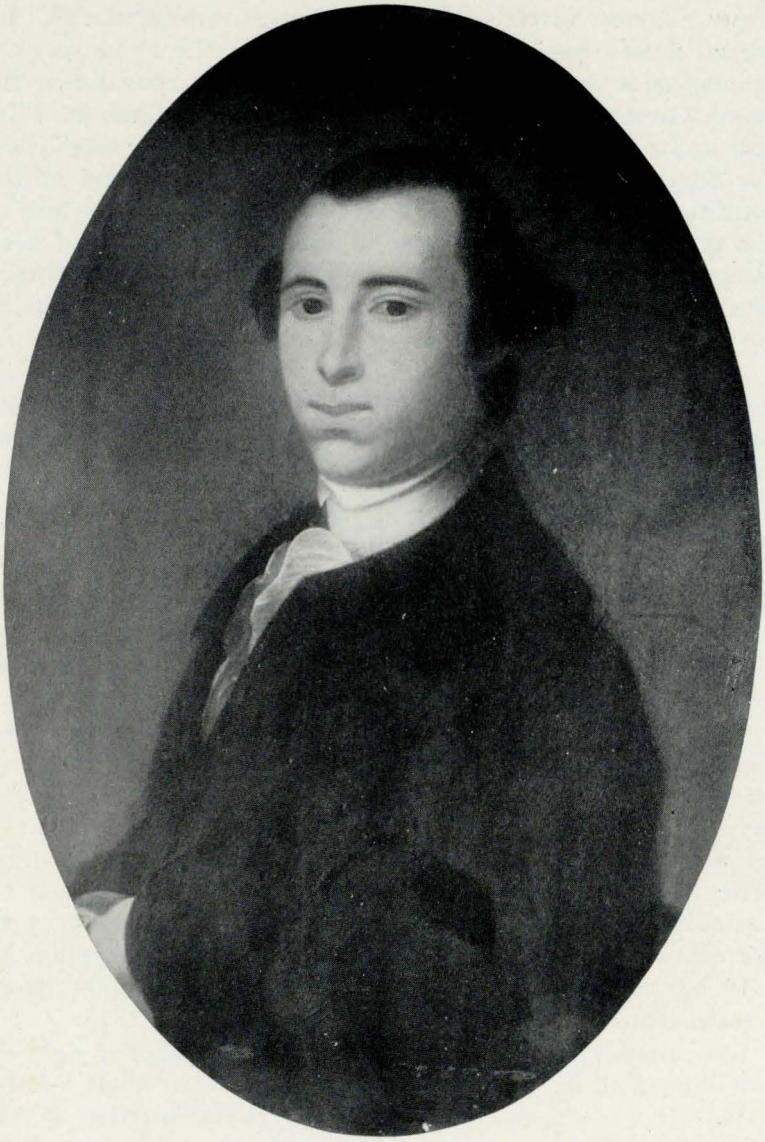
From an original portrait by Jeremiah Theus, now owned by Dr. John Howkins, Savannah, Ga.

[Courtesy of Mr. Charles F. Jenkins, Philadelphia.]

South Carolina and was admitted to the bar of the province, January 22, 1771.

At an election held on Tuesday and Wednesday, September 22 and 23, 1772, he was returned as one of the three members of the Commons House of Assembly from St. Helena's Parish, John Barnwell, Jr., and William Elliott being the other two. At that time there was a bitter controversy on between the Commons House and Governor Montagu as a result of the taxation measures of the British parliament affecting America. Perhaps it was to punish the Commons House for its obstinacy that Governor Montagu's writs of election provided for the meeting of the session at Beaufort, October 8, following. If so, his measure was not effective. The Commons House took none of his advice and the session was prorogued to October 22, to meet at Charles Town. After eight days in Charles Town the governor again prorogued the session to November 9 and on that day dissolved the assembly, and soon after writs were issued for an election to be held on December 15 and 16 following. At this election Thomas Heyward, Jr., was again elected one of the three members from St. Helena's Parish, Jacob Motte and William Sanders being the other two. Through various prorogations and recesses this house struggled on with the Royal governors until September 15, 1775, when Lord William Campbell, the last Royal governor, dissolved the assembly and fled the province.

In the meantime the revolutionary party had come into control in South Carolina. When the news of the blockading of the port of Boston reached Charles Town a convention of the people of the province was called to meet in Charles Town, July 6, 1774. Heyward was a delegate thereto. The General Committee ordered an election to be held in December for delegates to a provincial congress to meet in Charles Town, January 11, 1775. Heyward was elected to this congress from Charles Town, at the election, held early in January, and participated in the proceedings thereof from the 11 to the 17 of January. The second session of this congress met June 1, 1775. At this session a council of safety was elected as the executive of the revolutionary party. This council practically supplanted the Royal governor and His Majesty's Council in the government of South Carolina. Heyward was elected as one of its thirteen members. In August, 1775, an election was held for a second provincial congress. Heyward was returned to this from Charles



THOMAS HEYWARD, JR.

From a copy of the portrait by Theus, made by Charles Fraser under direction of the will of Nathaniel Heyward (1766-1851) and presented to Independence Hall, Philadelphia in 1870.

[Courtesy of Mr. Charles F. Jenkins, Philadelphia.]

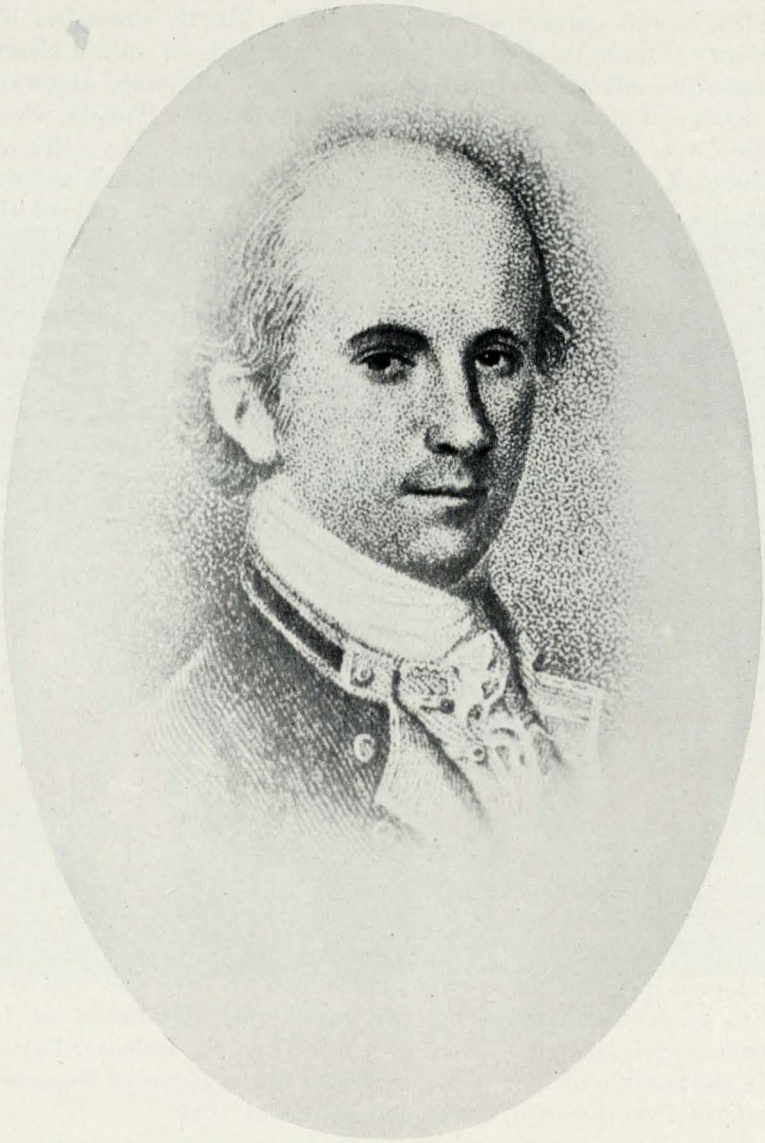
Town. It met November 1 and deliberated through the 29. Its second session began February 1, 1776. On the 11 he was appointed on a committee of eleven to prepare a constitution for South Carolina. This constitution was adopted March 26, 1776, and under its terms an independent government was established for South Carolina. The congress, after the adoption of the constitution, resolved itself into a general assembly—the first of the state. Previously to this, on February 16, he had been elected by the Provincial Congress, with John Rutledge, Edward Rutledge, Thomas Lynch and Arthur Middleton, as delegate to the Contintental Congress for one year.

After the adjournment of the General Assembly, April 11, he repaired to Philadelphia and assumed his duties as a delegate to the Continental Congress, and was so acting when the Declaration was adopted, July 4, 1776. Soon after he, with three others of the five delegates from South Carolina, affixed his signature to the document.

On January 10, 1777, he was, by the General Assembly, elected for another year, together with Arthur Middleton and Henry Laurens and on January 21 the delegation was completed by the election of Charles Pinckney (1732-1782) and Paul Trapier, Jr.

In February, 1778, he, with Henry Laurens, John Mathews, William Henry Drayton and Richard Hutson, was elected as one of South Carolina's delegates for the next year. At the same session of the General Assembly (January-February, 1778) he was elected one of the circuit judges of South Carolina. When he returned from the congress at the end of the year he assumed his duties on the bench and did not again return to the congress. At the general election held in the autumn of 1778 he was elected to the House of Representatives from Charles Town.

In common with all other citizens between the ages of eighteen and forty-five, he was a member of the militia forces of the state. He was a member of the Charles Town Battalion of Artillery, wherein he soon attained the rank of captain. On February 4, 1779, he participated, with the battalion, in General Moultrie's defeat of a British force under Major Gardiner on Port Royal Island. Captain Heyward was among those wounded in that action. He also participated with his battalion in the siege of Charles Town, and, upon the fall of the city, May 12,



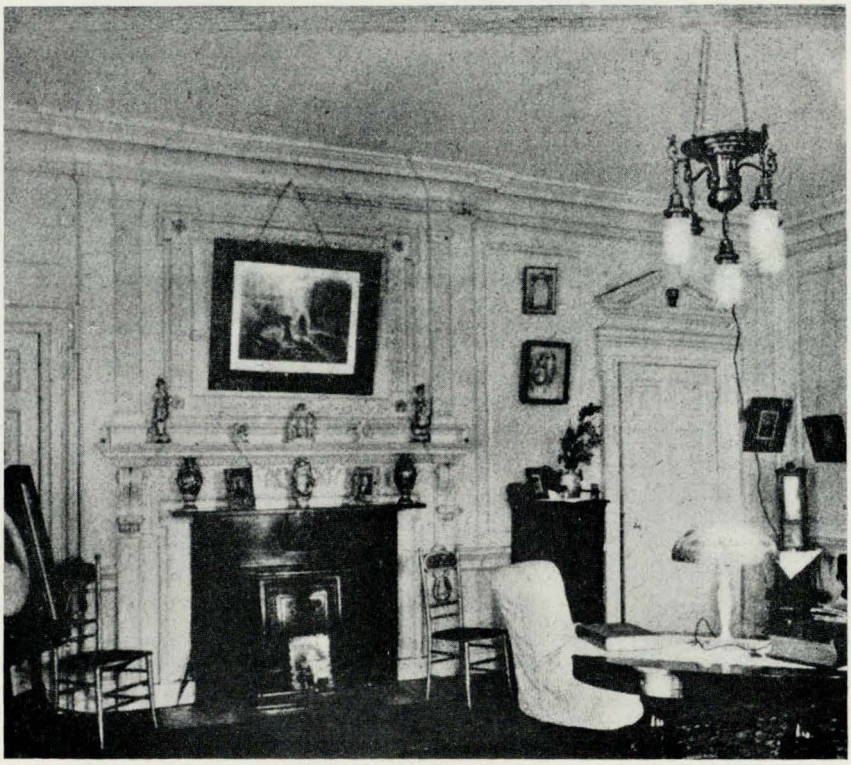
THOMAS HEYWARD, JR.

This portrait is given in Sanderson's *Lives* as one of Thomas Heyward, Jr., from a miniature in possession of Mrs. Heyward. It is so different from the other portraits of Heyward as to lead one to suspect that there had been a mistake made by the author or the printer.

1780, he was paroled a prisoner of war. Shortly thereafter Sir Henry Clinton recalled the paroles of many of the militia officers and state officials and sent them to prison. Captain Heyward was one of many that were sent to St. Augustine, Florida, where they were held prisoners until July, 1781, when they were exchanged. He resumed his duties on the circuit bench as soon as the British were cleared from the state at the end of the year 1782, and served until 1789, when he resigned.

In September, 1781, Governor Rutledge ordered an election for a new general assembly, as there had been no election the year before because of the British occupation of the state. At this election, held December 24 and 25, 1781, Thomas Heyward was returned as one of the six representatives from St. Helena's Parish. January 29, 1782, he appeared before the House, where it was sitting in the Masonic Hall at Jacksonborough, where the session of the General Assembly was being held, and declined to serve. Gen. John Barnwell presented a petition pointing out that he had the next highest vote to Mr. Heyward, that there was evidence that the votes had been intended for Thomas Heyward, Jr., who had also been elected from Charles Town, and had been sworn in as a representative therefrom, and claiming the seat as the sixth man on the delegation. The committee on privileges and elections admitted that the evidence showed that through carelessness the Junior had been left off their tickets by the voters but recommended that the seat by declared vacant and another election be ordered. At that time it was constitutional for a circuit judge or any other state official to be elected to the General Assembly while holding such office, and that is how it happened that Judge Heyward was elected to the House of Representatives from Charles Town and likewise received, under a different name from that which he bore and which he had made world famed by placing to the Declaration of Independence, enough votes to elect him from St. Helena's Parish. In the autumn of 1782 he was reëlected to the House of Representatives from Charles Town, and served to 1784.

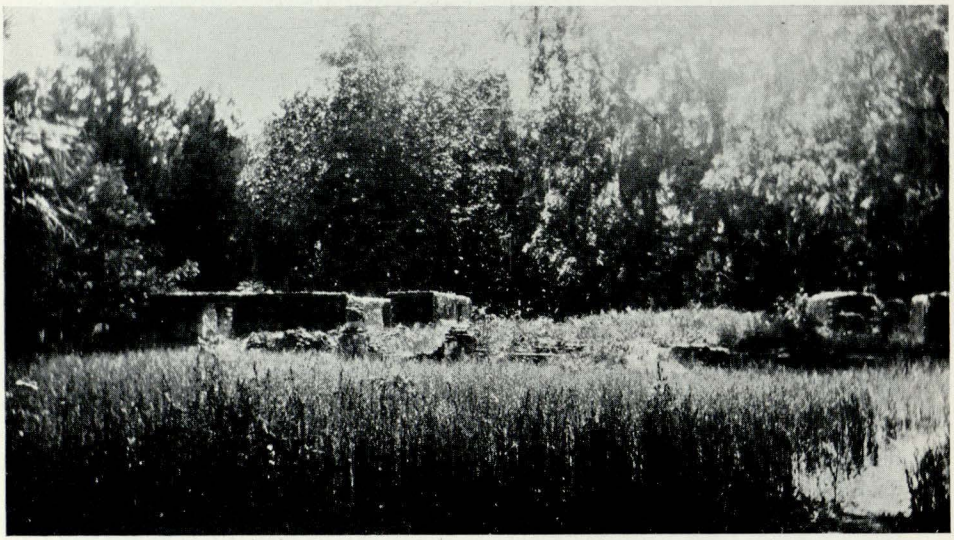
He was one of the founders of the Agricultural Society of South Carolina in 1785 and was its first president. This society induced F. A. Michaux, the famous French botanist, to come to South Carolina to aid in introducing new agricultural products. Judge Heyward's plantation, known as White Hall, was on waters of Hazzard's Creek, St. Luke's Parish, Beaufort Dis-



A room in the former home of Thomas Heyward, Jr., Church Street, Charleston.

trict. It was a part of his father's extensive holdings, to which he doubtless added other lands. The records of Beaufort District were destroyed during the Confederate War and we cannot be sure of our ground in the history of many lands there.

Judge Heyward's town house stood on the west side of Church Street, Charleston, between Tradd and Broad streets, and when President Washington visited Charleston in May, 1791, the city rented it from the Judge and placed it at the disposal of the President during his visit. After leaving the bench Judge Heyward engaged extensively in planting and spent only a part of



RUINS OF WHITE HALL.
The plantation home of Thomas Heyward, Jr., St. Luke's Parish.

his time at his town house. It is still standing and has been marked with a bronze tablet by an enthusiastic Daughter of the American Revolution, the late Mrs. Edward Willis.

Judge Heyward was twice married. His first wife was Elizabeth Mathewes, daughter of John Mathewes and sister of Governor John Mathews (who dropped the e from his name), to whom he was married, Tuesday, April 20, 1773. She died some years later and he next married, May 4, 1786, Elizabeth Savage, daughter of Thomas Savage. He has many descendants by both marriages.

MONUMENT TO THOMAS HEYWARD, JR.

In the family burying ground on ~~White Hall~~ Old House Plantation, Jasper County.
Erected by the State of South Carolina, 1920.
[Courtesy of Mr. James B. Heyward, Warwick, Ga.]

Judge Heyward died March 6, 1809. His family erected a substantial tombstone over his grave in his family burial ground on his father's plantation (Old House) in St. Luke's Parish. Some years ago this stone was ruined by fallen trees and in 1920, through the efforts of Doctor W. A. Preacher, representative from Jasper County, in which the graveyard is located, the General Assembly passed a Joint Resolution carrying an appropriation of $2500.00 and creating a commission, composed of two members, one appointed by the president of the Senate and one by the Speaker of the House, to have a monument erected over the grave. Dr. Preacher was appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve on the Commission and Senator Purdy, of Jasper, was appointed by the President of the Senate, and they had a handsome monument erected.

THOMAS LYNCH, JR.

Thomas Lynch, Jr., was the only son of Thomas Lynch (1726-1776) and Elizabeth Allston, his first wife. He was born in Prince George's Parish, Winyah, August 5, 1749. In 1764 he was sent to Eton College, England, where he remained two years. On March 6, 1767, he was admitted to the Middle Temple as a law student, and on May 18, 1767, he was entered as a fellow commoner at Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge University. In 1772 he returned to South Carolina, but, instead of practicing his profession of law, he engaged in planting on his plantation, called Peach Tree, on Santee River, in St. James's Parish, Santee. He was elected to the first Provincial Congress from his parish in December, 1774, and participated in the deliberations of the congress during its first session, January 11-17, 1775. He also attended upon the second session of the congress held June 1-30, 1775. On June 12 he was elected by the congress one of the captains in the regular forces being raised by the revolutionists in South Carolina and was commissioned by the Council of Safety on the 17 and was assigned to the First Regiment, which in September, 1776, after it had participated in the defeat of the British fleet in Charles Town Harbour, was taken upon the Continental Establishment.

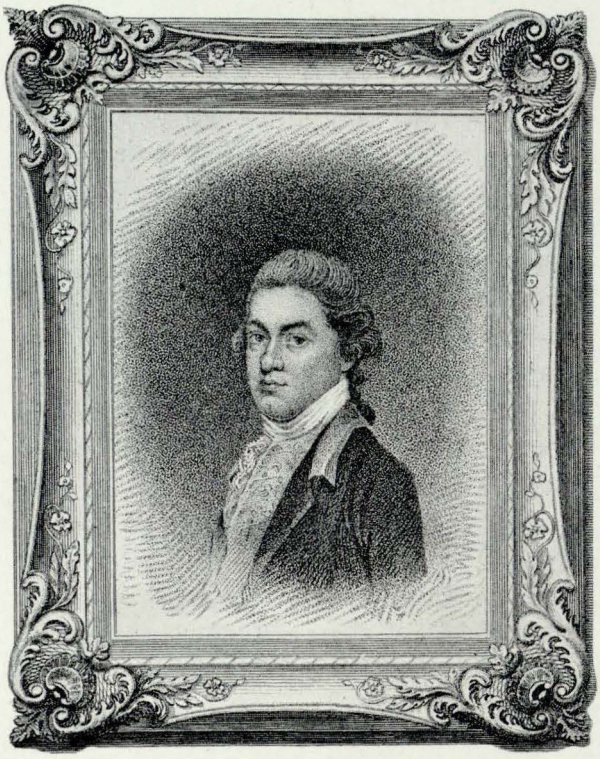
In August, 1775, young Lynch was elected to the second Provincial Congress from St. James's Parish, Santee, and attended the first session of that body, November 1-29, 1775. He also attended the second session of the congress from February 1 to March 26, 1776, and on the 11 of February was named on the

THOMAS LYNCH, JR.

From a portrait (artist unknown) painted in England while he was a student there. This portrait, through efforts of the writer, was purchased from Oppenheim & Co., Fulham Road, London, in 1906, by Mr. Charles F. Jenkins, of Philadelphia.

[Courtesy of the South Carolina Historical Society.]

committee of eleven to prepare a constitution for South Carolina. In March, 1776, he was elected a delegate to the Continental Congress after the Provincial Congress had adopted a resolution to go into the election of a sixth delegate to the Continental Congress. The Provincial Congress, on March 26, 1776, after adopting the independent constitution which the com-



THOMAS LYNCH, JR.

From an engraving by J. B. Longacre from an enamel painting in possession of Miss Elizabeth Lynch at the time (1824) of the publication of Sanderson's *Biography of the Signers to the Declaration of Independence.*

mittee of which Lynch was a member had reported, declared itself a general assembly—the first of the state—and elected a full set of executive and judicial officers under the new government. Upon the adjournment of the General Assembly on the 11 of April, Lynch proceeded to Philadelphia and assumed his duties as a member of the Continental Congress, presenting

the unique instance of father and son serving in the congress at the same time. About this time he resigned his commission in the army. In the meantime, John Rutledge, who had been one of the five delegates in the congress at the time that young Lynch was elected as sixth delegate, had, on the 26 of March, been elected president of South Carolina under the independent government and had been inducted into office. Shortly thereafter the question was raised whether the General Assembly should elect a successor to Rutledge, and it was decided not to elect a successor, so that it appears that the resolution respecting the sixth delegate was adopted merely to make a place for young Lynch in the Continental Congress. He was present and voting when the Declaration was adopted on the 4 of July, 1776, and shortly after, with the others, attached his signature thereto.

In January, 1777, when a new delegation was being chosen for the Continental Congress, he did not offer for reëlection. His health began to fail and in 1779, accompanied by his wife, he sought relief in an ocean voyage to the south of France, but the vessel upon which they sailed was never heard of again.

He was married, May 14, 1772, to Elizabeth Shubrick. He left no children, and with him passed the last of the male line of this family.

1777-1778.

In a letter from Henry Laurens to his son, John Laurens, dated February 3, 1777,[1] he stated that the General Assembly of South Carolina had on January 10 elected Henry Laurens, Arthur Middleton and Thomas Heyward, Jr., as delegates to the Continental Congress and that on January 21 the delegation had been completed by the election of Col. Charles Pinckney (1732-1782) and Paul Trapier, Jr. Henry Laurens was at the time vice-president of South Carolina, and in *The Gazette of the State of South-Carolina* for Monday, June 30, 1777, we find the following announcement:

> On Friday last, the Hon. the Privy Council of this State, agreeable to the XIVth Article of the Constitution, proceeded to the Choice of a Vice-President, in the Room of the Hon. Henry Laurens, Esq; (absent, as a Delegate to the Hon. the Continental Congress) when the Honourable JAMES PARSONS, Esq; was unanimously chosen.

---

[1]D. D. Wallace: *Life of Henry Laurens*, p. 226; *Journal of Congress*, VII, 127-130.

In *The South-Carolina and American General Gazette* for Thursday, November 27, 1777, the following news item appeared:

The Hon. HENRY LAURENS, Esq; was elected on the 1st of this month, President of the Hon. Congress, in the room of the Hon. John Hancock, Esq; who had resigned.

1778-1779.

The following notice of the election of delegates to the Continental Congress for the year 1778-1779 was published in *The South-Carolina and American General Gazette* for Thursday, February 5, 1778:

The Hon. Henry Laurens, Esq; Thomas Heyward, Esq; Hon. John Mathewes,[1] Esq; Hon. William-Henry Drayton, Esq; and Richard Hutson, Esq; are elected to represent this State in Congress.

1779-1780.

The following announcement was published in *The Gazette of the State of South-Carolina* for Wednesday, February 24, 1779:

The General Assembly of this State, elected on the 30th of November and 1st of December last, agreeable to the new Constitution, and now composed of a Senate and House of Representatives, met on the 4th of January, and on Saturday last adjourned to Monday the 10th of May next; after having elected the following civil and military Officers (to wit)

. . . . . .

The Hon. Henry Laurens, Arthur Middleton, John Mathews, Rawlins Downdes,[2] William-Henry Drayton,[3] *Delegates to represent this State in Congress.*

A vacancy having occurred Edward Rutledge was elected by the General Assembly, September 3, 1779. By a singular coincidence William Henry Drayton died in Philadelphia that same day, the following notice of his death appearing in *The Gazette of the State of South-Carolina* for Wednesday, October 13, 1779:

American Intelligence.
PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 11.

On the fourth of September instant, Congress being informed that Mr. WILLIAM HENRY DRAYTON, one of the Delegates for the State of South-

---

[1]While this was the spelling of their name followed by this family this particular member, for some reason best known to himself, spelled it Mathews. His grandfather, father, uncles, brothers, cousins and all of their descendants followed the first spelling. There are no Mathews descendants of this gentleman.

[2]A misprint for Lowndes.

[3]"Mr. Bee being elected Lieutenant-Governor, and E. Rutledge refusing to go to Congress, Mr. Lowndes and William Henry Drayton (who carried it against Daniel Huger by one vote) were elected in their room."—Postscript to letter of Charles Pinckney, Jr. (1757-1824), to his mother, dated February 24, 1779, published in Gibbes's *Documentary History of the American Revolution*, 1776-1782, page 108.

Carolina, had died the preceding night, and the circumstances required that his remains should be intered that evening. They
Resolved, "That Congress would in a body attend the funeral that evening, at six o'clock, as mourners, with a crape round the left arm, and would continue in mourning for the space of one month." They further Resolved, That Mr. Laurens, Mr. Mathews, and Mr. Harnet be a Committee to superintend the funeral; and that the Rev. Mr. White, the attending Chaplain, should be notified to officiate on the occasion. They also directed the Committee to invite the General Assembly, the President and Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, the Minister Plenipotentiary of France, and other persons of distinction in town, to attend the funeral.

Accordingly at six o'clock that evening, the corse was carried in procession to Christ Church: The President, two Members of the Executive Council, the Judge of the Admiralty, and the Attorney-General of Pennsylvania, and Brigadier-General Hogan supported the pall. Besides the President and Members of Congress as mourners, the Minister and Consul of France, several civil and military officers of the United States, and a number of inhabitants and strangers of distinction, attended the funeral. After divine service had been performed by the Rev. Mr. White, Rector of the Episcopal Churches in this city, and one of the Chaplains of Congress, the course was intered in the adjoining cymetry.

Mr. Drayton's age did not exceed thirty-eight years: he died of a putrid fever.—His health had been almost insensibly impaired by a sedentary life, and incessant attention to business for near two years attendance on Congress, which his constitution, tho' naturally strong was unable longer to sustain. His family was always among the number of the most respectable and opulent in South Carolina. He had taken an early and decided part in the present contest, and been honoured from time to time by his country, with the most important and confidential offices. At the time of his death he was Chief Justice of that State, and one of its Delegates to Congress. His literary attainments, acquired by good talents, and an excellent education, are well known here and in Europe, where several of his political papers have been admired and read in different languages.

To speak particularly of his character, would perhaps be improper, in a news paper, which, like the grave, generally places the dead on a level, without respect to the wiseman or the fool, the saint or the sinner. Let this subject therefore be reserved for the pen of some impartial historian, who when he shall inform posterity, that William Henry Drayton was an honest, independent patriot, and an upright candid gentleman, will at the same time communicate facts more sufficient to establish and support his title to that character.

Elsewhere in *The Gazette of the State of South-Carolina* for the same date the following tribute was published:

The death of the Hon. William-Henry Drayton, late Chief Justice of this State, and one of its Delegates to Congress, at so early a period of life as 38 years, is very much regretted by all his countrymen, but exceedingly so, by those that knew him well. He had a head to contrive, a temper to persuade, and a hand to execute, plans of the most extensive utility to his country; few men possessed an equal knowledge of the human heart, or a superior vigor of soul: His enterprising great mind, encouraged him to attempt, what, to the cold and phlegmatic, appeared impossible; and his attempts were generally crowned with success. By his death, the American States have lost one of their principal supports, and posterity may regret, that his early fate prevented him, from exerting his great Talents, towards organizing this new world into a great, happy, and flourishing empire.

1780-1782.[1]

In *The Gazette of the State of South-Carolina* for Wednesday, February 9, 1780, the following news item was published:

The legislature on Tuesday se'nnight, agreeable to the directions of the Constitution, proceeded to the choice of five Delegates, to represent this state in the Continental Congress, When the Hon. Henry Laurens and John Matthews,[2] Esqrs, were re-elected, and the Hon. Thomas Bee, Francis Kinloch, and Arthur Middleton, Esqrs, elected. At the same time, the Hon. Henry Laurens, Esq; lately returned from Congress, received the well-merited thanks of his country, for his past faithful services there.

1782-1783.

The journal of the House of Representatives of South Carolina for Thursday, January 31, 1782, contains the following entry:

A message was sent to the senate requesting their attendance in this House to elect Five Delegates to represent this State in Congress,—

The Senate accordingly attended and Voted with this House, for five Delegates to represent this State in Congress,

Upon casting up the Ballots, it appeared that the following Gentlemen had a Majority of the Votes of the Members present vizt.—John Rutledge, David Ramsay, Ralph Izard, John Lewis Gervais and Arthur Middleton Esquires,—Mr. Speaker thereupon declared the Several Gentlemen above named duly elected as Delegates to Represent this State in Congress.

1783-1784.

The journal of the House of Representatives for Tuesday, February 11, 1783, shows the following proceedings:

A Motion was made and seconded that this House do come to the following Resolution vizt.

Resolved

That the Delegates who are now in congress shall retain their seats and continue to Represent this state, untill a sufficient number of the Delegates to be Elected to represent this state in congress, shall arrive in Philadelphia.

This resolution was adopted and sent to the Senate. It was then:

Ordered

That a Message be prepared to be sent to the senate acquainting them, That this House have resolved to Elect Five Delegates, to represent this State in Congress for the Present year, that the first Ballot be for three to repair to Congress immediately &c^{a}.—accordingly the following message was prepared.

Ordered—That M^{r}. Speaker do sign the same,—

In the House of Representative Febry 11th: 1783

Honorable Gentlemen

This House have resolved to Elect Five Delegates to represent this State in congress for the present year, that the first Ballot be for three

---

[1]The delegates elected in 1780 were elected to serve for one year, but, as the British had possession of the state, there was no election of a General Assembly in the autumn of 1780, and no election of delegates in 1781, those elected in 1780 holding over to 1782.

[2]Mathews. See Note 1 page 30.

to repair to congress immediately, and the second for Two more to take the place of such as may be disabled from serving by accident or unavoidable necessity to which this House desire your Concurrence.

To this proposal the Senate agreed and from the House on Wednesday, February 12:

A Message was sent to the senate requesting their attendance in this House to Elect three Delegates to represent this state in Congress,—

The Senate accordingly attended and voted with this House, for three Delegates, to represent this State in Congress upon casting up the Balots, it appeared that the following Gentlemen had a majority of votes of the members present. vizt.

Mr Ralph Izard & Jacob Read Esquire. m^{r} speaker thereupon declared Ralph Izard & Jacob Read Esquires duly Elected as Delegates to represent this state in congress

A Message was sent to the Senate, requesting their attendance in this House, to Elect one more Delegate to represent this state in Congress, two having been elected.

The Senate accordingly attended and voted with this House for one more Delegate to represent this State in Congress, upon Casting up the Balots it appeared that Thomas Sumter Esquire had a majority of the votes of the Members present,—M^{r}. Speaker thereupon declared him duly elected to represent this State in Congress

The journal of the House of Representatives for Thursday, February 13, 1783, shows further proceedings as follows:

A Message was sent to the senate requesting their attendance in this House to Elect two Delegates to represent this State in Congress,—The senate accordingly attended and voted with this House for Two Delegates to represent this State in congress, upon casting up the Ballots, it appeared that the following Gentlemen had a Majority of votes of the Members present vizt. Henry Laurence and John Rutledge Esquires,—Mr Speaker thereupon declared H^{y}. Laurence and John Rutledge Esquires duly elected as Delegates to represent this state in congress,—

A Motion was made and seconded that the following Resolution be entered into, which was agreed to,—

Resolved, That the Two Delegates last chosen have session and vote in congress, notwithstanding the attendance in Congress of the three Gentlemen first elected.—

The following news item was published in *The South-Carolina Weekly Gazette* for Saturday, February 15, 1783:

The Hon. Henry Laurens, John Rutledge, Ralph Izard, Jacob Read, and Thomas Sumpter, Esquires, are elected Delegates from this State to Congress.

The *Carolina & Georgia Almanac* for 1783 lists these five as the delegates from South Carolina, but the journal of the House of Representatives for Saturday, March 15, 1783, reports:

General Sumpter who was Elected a Delegate to Congress having this day declined that Honor,—

A Motion was made and seconded that a Message be sent to the Honorable the senate acquainting them therewith, and requesting that House will be pleased to attend in this House, this afternoon for the purpose of electing another Delegate to congress in the room of General Sumpter, accordingly the following Message was prepared which being read to the House, was agreed to & sign'd by m^{r}. speaker. (vizt)

Honble Gentlemen

This House inform your Honors that Thomas Sumpter Esquire who was Elected a Delegate to congress, declined accepting that Honor—This House therefore request your Honors will be pleased to attend in this House this afternoon for the purpose of Electing another Delegate to Congress in the room of General Sumpter—

. . . . . .

A message from the Senate by their Clerk (viz.)

Mr: Speaker and Gentlemen

This House agreeable to your request are ready to attend your House to elect a Delegate to Congress in the room of General Sumter

By Order of the Senate
John Lloyd President

The Senate attended this House and voted for a Delegate to Congress and on casting up the Votes it appeared that the Honorable Richard Beresford Esquire was duly elected.

1784-1785

The journal of the House of Representatives for Tuesday, February 10, 1784, shows that on that day the Senate attended in the hall of the House for the election of delegates to the Continental Congress and that Henry Laurens, Major General William Moultrie, Pierce Butler, Jacob Read and Alexander Gillon were elected.

The journal of the House of Representatives for Saturday, February 14, 1784, records that Pierce Butler had declined and that the Senate had attended in the hall of the House and that John Barnwell had been elected in his place.

The journal for Tuesday, March 9, 1784, shows that the Senate had joined the House that day to elect two delegates to the Continental Congress in the places of Gen. William Moultrie, who had been elected Lieutenant Governor, and John Barnwell, who had declined, and that John Bull was elected as one of the delegates, but that no one of the other candidates had received a majority of the votes cast, and that further balloting was postponed.

The journal of the House of Representatives for Tuesday, March 23, 1784, shows that on that day the Senate joined the House and Charles Pinckney was elected as the fifth delegate to the Continental Congress.

The following notice appears in *The South-Carolina Gazette, and Public Advertiser* for Saturday, March 27, 1784:

The Honorable Henry Laurens, Jacob Read, John Bull, Alexander Gillon, and Charles Pinckney, jun. Esquires, are elected Delegates to Congress.

1785-1786.

The journal of the House of Representatives for Friday, February 11, 1785, shows that the Senate that day joined the House and elected Charles Pinckney, Jacob Read, John Bull, David Ramsay and John Kean delegates to the Continental Congress, and *The South-Carolina Gazette, and Public Advertiser* for Saturday, February 12, 1785, published the following:

Honorable Charles Pinckney, Jacob Read, John Bull, David Ramsay, and John Kean, Esquires, are elected Delegates to represent this State in the Congress of the United States.

1786-1787.

The journal of the House of Representatives for Thursday, February 16, 1786, shows that on that day the Senate attended in the House for the purpose of electing five delegates to the Continental Congress, and that John Kean, Charles Pinckney, John Bull and Thomas Bee were elected on the first ballot. The Senate retired and the House sent a message "requesting their attendance in this House to proceed to the Election of One Delegate to Represent this State in the Congress of the United States, there being but four Elected on the first balloting". At the meeting which followed Daniel Huger was elected.

On Saturday, February 18, 1786, the House informed the Senate that Thomas Bee had declined to accept the position of delegate to the Continental Congress, and on Thursday, February 23, 1786, the Senate attended in the House and an election was held for a successor to Thomas Bee, and John Parker was elected.

1787-1788.

At the session of the General Assembly for 1787 a committee was appointed to bring in a bill to regulate future elections of delegates to the Continental Congress, and on Thursday March 8, this committee reported its bill. On Saturday, March 10, the bill was given its second reading and on Tuesday, March 13, it received its third reading and was sent to the Senate. On Wednesday, March 14, the Senate gave the bill its third reading and returned it to the House. The bill provided for the election of delegates two days apart; those elected on the first day to serve until the first Monday in November, 1787, and those elected two days later to serve from the first Monday in November, 1787 to the first Monday in November, 1788, and

thereafter delegates were to be elected annually to serve between the same dates of succeeding years.

On Tuesday, March 6, 1787, the Senate attended in the House and an election was held for three delegates to represent South Carolina in the Continental Congress to the first Monday in November, 1787. Daniel Huger, Pierce Butler and John Kean were elected. A message was sent to the governor requesting him to have commissions made out and sent to Messrs. Huger and Kean who were then in attendance on the Congress.

On Thursday, March 8, 1787, the Senate attended in the House and an election was held for three delegates to the Continental Congress from the first Monday in November, 1787, to the first Monday in November, 1788. Daniel Huger, John Parker and Robert Barnwell were elected. The next day the Senate sent a message to the House requesting an investigation of "the Mistake respecting the Election of Robert Barnwell Esquire as a Delegate to Congress". On Friday, March 23, it was:

> Resolved That upon the Scrutiny of the Election of Members of Congress it appears that Robert Barnwell Esquire who was by mistake declared duly Elected had not a Majority of the Votes of the Members present

On Friday, March 23, 1787, an election was held to fill the vacancy created by this resolution and Thomas Tudor Tucker was elected.

1788-1789.

On Thursday, January 31, 1788, as shown by the journal of the House of Representatives, the Senate joined the House for the purpose of electing three delegates to represent South Carolina in the Continental Congress from the first Monday in November, 1788, to the first Monday in November, 1789. Thomas Tudor Tucker, Nicholas Eveleigh and Robert Barnwell were elected. *The State Gazette of South-Carolina* for Monday, February 4, 1788, announced:

> Thursday the following elections were made by the legislature, viz.
>
> . . . . . .
>
> *Members to Congress.*
> Hon. Dr. Thomas T. Tucker,
> Robert Barnwell, Esq;
> Nicholas Eveleigh, Esq.