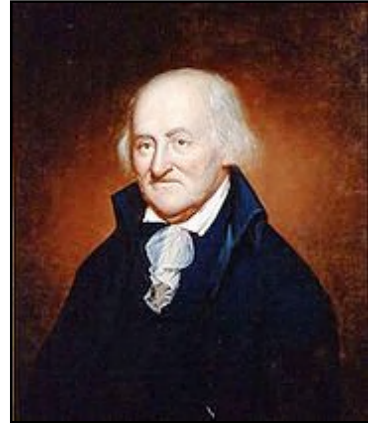


## Christopher Gadsden

Christopher Gadsden was a patriot from Charleston, South Carolina. As described in the body of the Web page, he was responsible for the creation of the flag bearing the coiled snake and the slogan that read, “Don't Tread on Me”.

Starting as a merchant, he eventually was elected to public office and to noted attention as an opponent to the Stamp Act, while advocating the Declaration of Rights. This attention soon traveled north to such recognized patriots as Samuel Adams (of Massachusetts) and other advocates for liberty. From this position, Gadsden formed Charleston's Sons of Liberty.



Having already served in the local militia as a captain, he was promoted to Lt. Colonel in the militia and then Colonel of the 1st South Carolina regiment of militia. In conjunction with this military post, he was elected to the Continental Congress.

Passing over some further details of this time period, a significant event occurred in 1780 when the British laid siege to Charleston. For those of you familiar with the movie, *The Patriot*, this event is the backdrop of the movie's story of the fictitious character, Benjamin Martin. As far as the real character of Christopher Gadsden, his role was to surrender the city to the British while being held in parole presumably as a revolutionary.

Subsequent to the siege, Lord Cornwallis had twenty of the civil officers – to include Gadsden – taken to St. Augustine Florida; and though given the option of parole, Gadsden refused the offer and spend 42 weeks lock away in Castillo de San Marcos. Continuing from the Web-based source:

When they were finally released in 1781, they were sent by merchant ship to Philadelphia. Once there, Gadsden learned of the defeat of Cornwallis at Cowpens (South Carolina) and withdrawal to Yorktown. He hurried home, to help the restoration of South Carolina's civil government.

This was certainly not the end of Gadsden's public life – but as often suggested – read more on your own...

Liberty!