

An Assembly of Demigods

William Houstoun

Thomas Jefferson: Diary, September 15 & 24, 1775

Houstoun is a young Gentleman, by Profession a Lawyer, educated under a gentleman of Eminence in South Carolina, He seems to be sensible and spirited, but rather inexperienced. . . .

In the Evening Mr. Bullock and Mr. Houstoun, two Gentlemen from Georgia, came into our Room and smoked and chatted, the whole Evening. Houstoun and [Samuel] Adams disputed the whole Time in good Humor. They are both Dabbs at Disputation I think. H. a Lawyer by Trade is one of Course, and Adams is not a Whit less addicted to it than the Lawyers.

James Monroe to Thomas Jefferson, Trenton, November 1, 1784

Georgia has a Houston and Gibbons here, the former has been to Europe to leave behind him what little wit he had; and the latter I believe never had any, or very little.

William Pierce: Sketches of Members of the Constitutional Convention

Mr. Houstoun is an Attorney at Law, and has been Member of Congress for the State of Georgia. He is a Gentleman of Family, and was educated in England. As to his legal or political knowledge he has very little to boast of.—Nature seems to have done more for his corporeal than mental powers.—His Person is striking, but his mind very little improved with useful or elegant knowledge.—He has none of the talents requisite for the Orator, but in public debate is confused and irregular.—Mr. Houstoun is about 30 years of age of an amiable and sweet temper, and of good and honorable principles.