

The Connecticut Character

General George Washington learned to recognize “the Connecticut character” in his role as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.

Finding himself with a message for General Washington, General David Wooster selected a neighbor Caleb Tomlinson, to deliver it. When Tomlinson asked to see Washington, he was told no. “I must! I have a dispatch for him from General Wooster!” was the reply. When he was admitted the general read the message and asked “Anything more?”

“Nothing” said Tomlinson, “but an answer from you.” The general asked: “Do you presume to tell me what I must do?”

“No, General, but I’ll be damned if I leave these quarters without something to show that I have discharged my duty.”

Rising from his seat Washington said, “You are from Connecticut, I perceive.”

“I am, sir,” Tomlinson answered.

The general looked at Tomlinson and remarked, “I wish to the God for battles that I had more such soldiers as you.”