

1867

- January* Negroes allowed to vote in the District of Columbia—over Johnson's veto.
- March* First Congressional Reconstruction Acts, designed to protect Negroes politically and economically. Constitutional conventions ordered, with Negroes participating fully in the elections.
- April* Ku Klux Klan is formed in Nashville.

1868

- January* Constitutional conventions begin to meet in southern states, with Negroes fully participating.
- June* Oscar J. Dunn, an ex-slave, becomes Lieutenant-Governor of Louisiana.
- July* Fourteenth Amendment bestowing privileges and immunities of citizenship on everyone who, by birth or naturalization, is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States and the state in which he resides, is added to the Constitution.
- August* Death of Thaddeus Stevens.

1870

- February* Hiram R. Revels of Mississippi becomes first Negro Senator, taking Jefferson Davis' seat.
- March* Fifteenth Amendment, giving equal voters' rights to all citizens regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude, added to the Constitution.
- May* Congress passes first series of Enforcement Acts designed to control the Klan and guarantee civil and political rights to Negroes through the Federal courts.
- December* Joseph H. Rainey of South Carolina becomes the first Negro in the House of Representatives.

1871

- October* President Grant suspends writ of habeas corpus in nine counties in South Carolina in an effort to stem the Klan.

made. From Columbia radiated concentric circles of black expressiveness that was reflected at every level of South Carolina society. On the county level, black men dominated Black Belt boards of supervisors. In cities like Charleston and Columbia, they exerted equal weight on the aldermanic boards and the police force. Black men also served as magistrate, probate judge, justice of the peace, constable and sheriff. On the state level, there were black majorities and black chairmen on the governing boards of the university, the lunatic asylum, and the orphan asylum. Robert Smalls and Prince R. Rivers were major generals in the National Guard. Among the leading black officeholders were:

Alonzo J. Ransier	Lieutenant Governor, 1870-72 U.S. Congress, 1873-75
Richard H. Gleaves	Lieutenant Governor, 1872-77
Francis L. Cardozo	Secretary of State, 1868-72 Treasurer, 1872-77
Robert B. Elliott	U.S. Congress, 1871-74 Speaker, General Assembly, 1874-76 Attorney General, 1876-77
J. J. Wright	Associate Justice, S. C. Supreme Court, 1870-77

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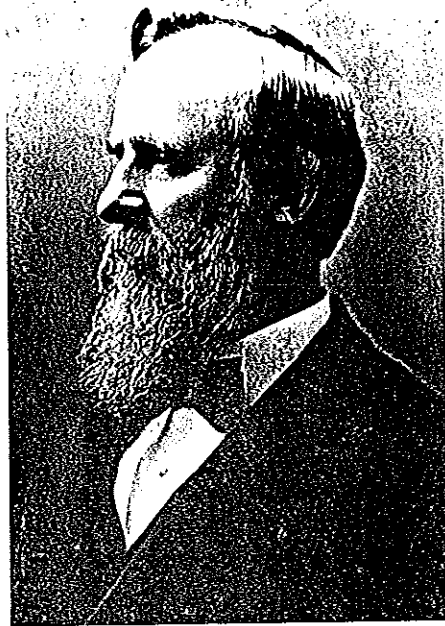
H. E. Hayne	Secretary of State, 1872-77
Robert Purvis	Adjutant General, 1872-76
Joseph H. Rainey	U.S. Congress, 1870-79
R. H. Cain	U.S. Congress, 1873-75, 1877-79
Robert C. DeLarge	U.S. Congress, 1871-73
Robert Smalls	U.S. Congress, 1875-79
Samuel J. Lee	Speaker, S. C. Assembly, 1872-74
Stephen Swails	President Pro Tem, S. C. senate, 1872-77

If, as some people contended, South Carolina was the black man's paradise, it was not, by any stretch of the imagination, a white man's hell. Sir George Campbell, a member of the British Parliament, visited the South at the end of this period and commented: "Before I went South I certainly expected to find that the Southern States had been for a time a sort of pandemonium in which a white man could hardly live. Yet it certainly was not so. . . . When I went to South Carolina I thought there at least I must find great social disturbances; and in South Carolina I went to the county of Beaufort, the blackest part of the State in point of population, and that in which black rule has been most complete and has lasted longest. It has the reputation of being a sort of black paradise, and *per contra*, I rather expected a sort of white hell. . . . To my great surprise I found exactly the contrary. . . . White girls go about freely and pleasantly as if no black man had ever been in power. . . ."

Instead of crumbling under black power, the state as a whole

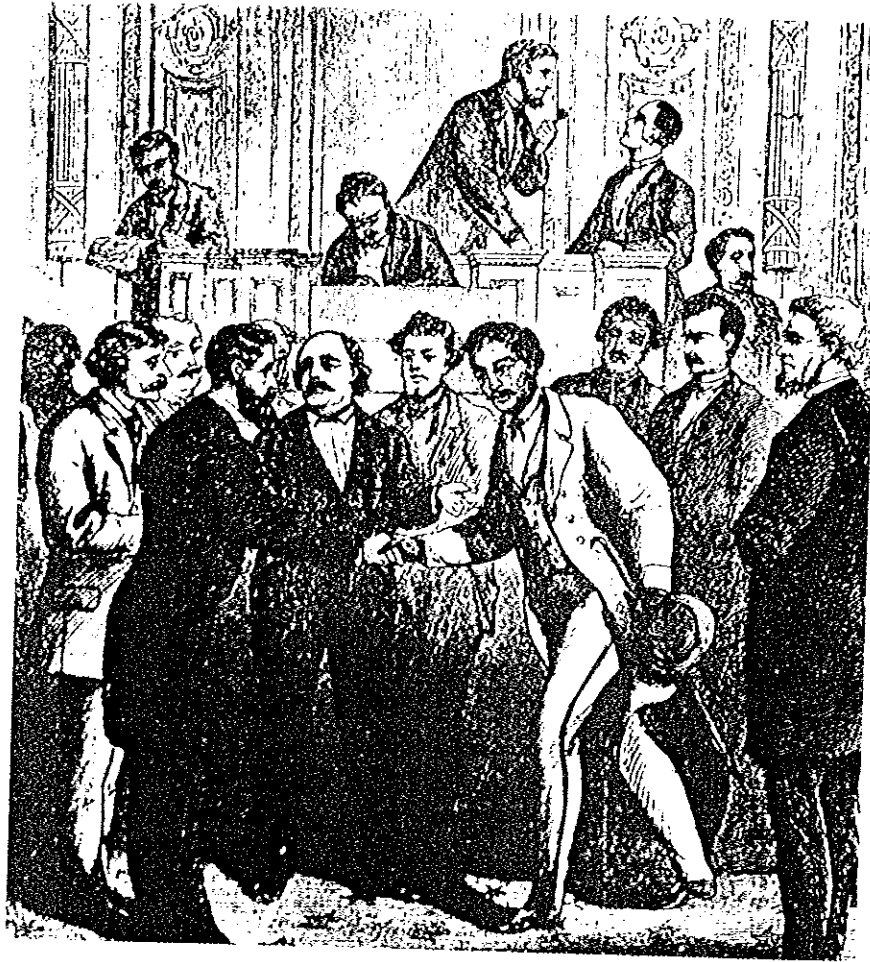


Rutherford B. Hayes,
nineteenth President of
the United States, played a
central role in the
Compromise of 1877 which
paved the way for white
control of the South.



George H. White of North
Carolina was the last black
man to sit in Congress in
post-Reconstruction period.
His Congressional term
ended in 1901.





The first black man elected to the House of Representatives, John W. Menard of Louisiana, was denied a seat. He became the first black man to speak in Congress.



Alonzo Jacob Ransier is sworn in as lieutenant governor of South Carolina at his inauguration in Columbia in 1870.



In the predominantly black South Carolina legislature, a black representative takes the floor in support of a civil rights measure.

Jacob Ransier is
as lieutenant
of South Carolina
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a in 1870.



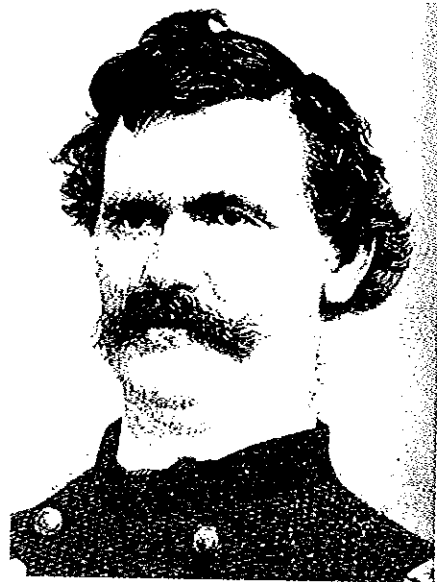
Joseph H. Rainey became the first black
member of the House of Representatives
on December 12, 1870.



Franklin J. Moses Jr., a native of South Carolina, served as governor from 1872 to 1874.



Richard H. Cain served in the South Carolina legislature and U.S. Congress.



Robert K. Scott, a Union general, was the first Republican governor of South Carolina.

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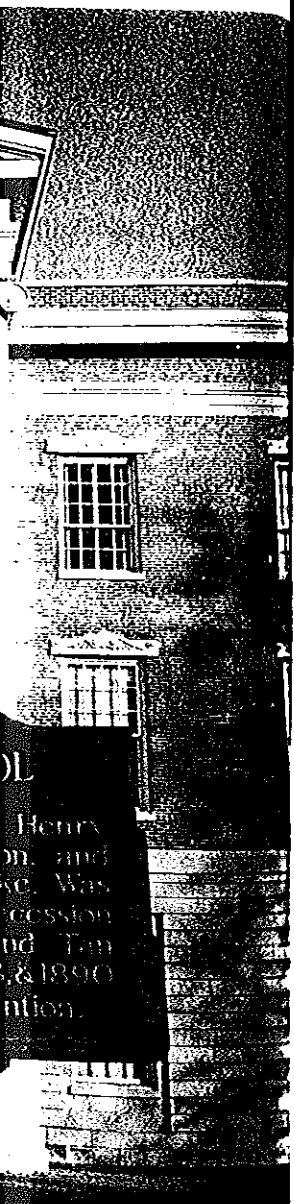
Francis L. Cardozo, a native of Charleston, served as secretary of state and treasurer.



Robert B. Elliott was probably the most powerful black politician in South Carolina.



Jonathan Jasper Wright was elected to the state supreme court in February, 1870.



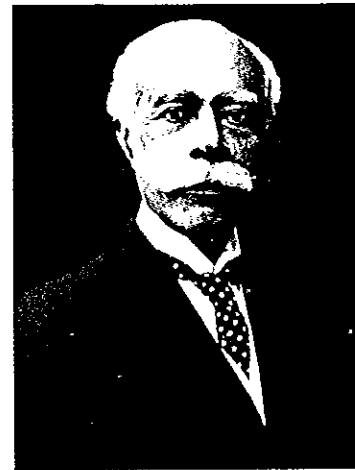
James L. Alcorn, a wealthy planter, was the first Republican governor of Mississippi.



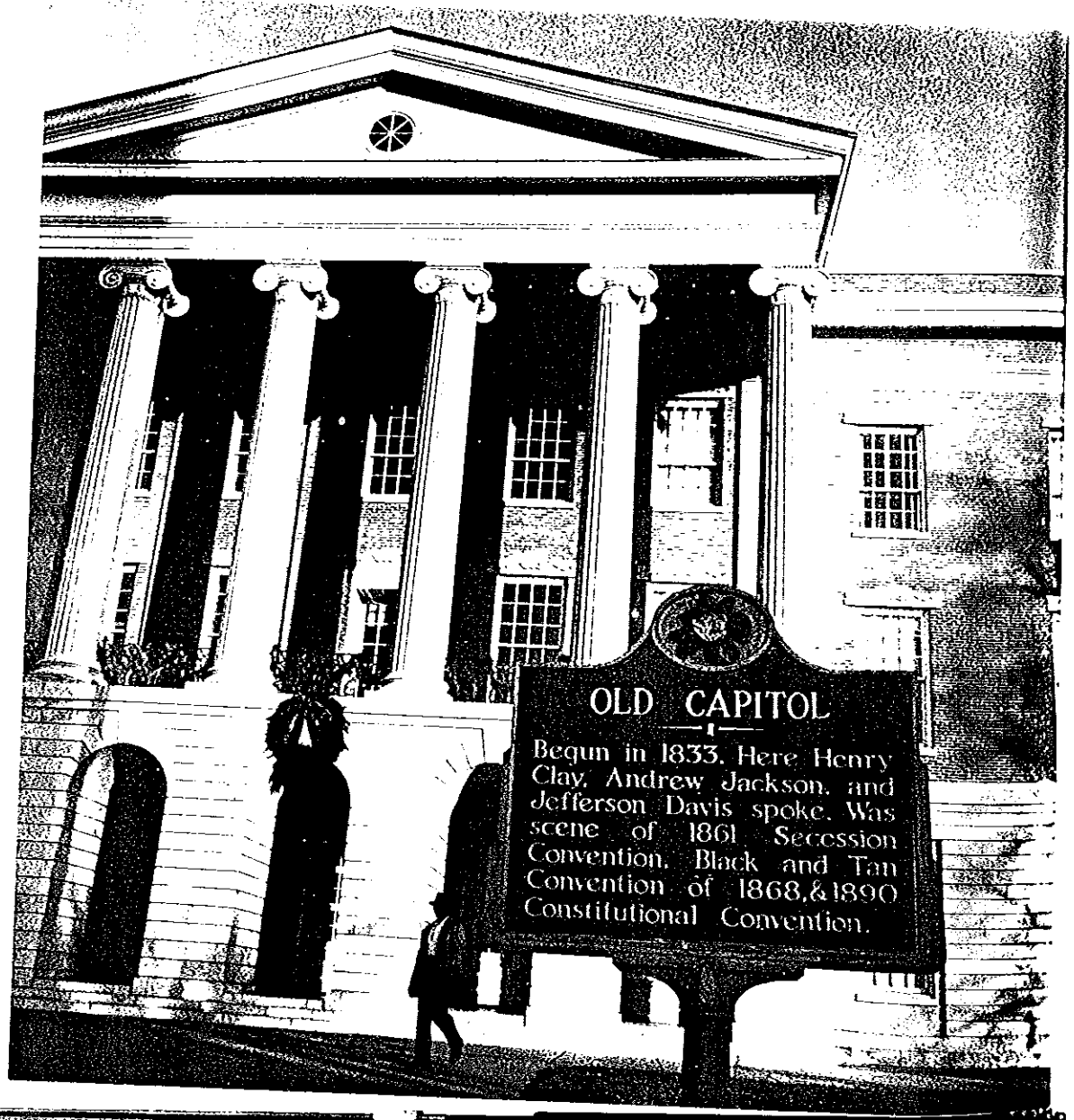
Hiram R. Revels became the first black U.S. senator in 1870.



John R. Lynch, speaker of the Mississippi house and a U.S. congressman.

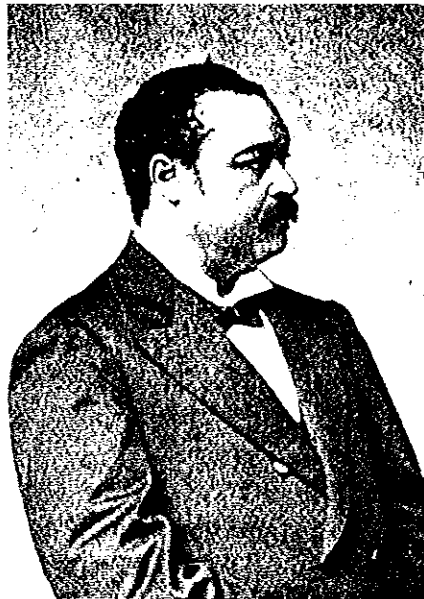


Nerve center of Radical Reconstruction regime in Mississippi was the slave-built Capitol in Jackson. So-called Black and Tan Reconstruction convention met in the building in 1868.





Adelbert Ames, a former Union general, was elected governor of Mississippi in 1873.



Blanche K. Bruce was first black man to serve full term in the U.S. Senate.



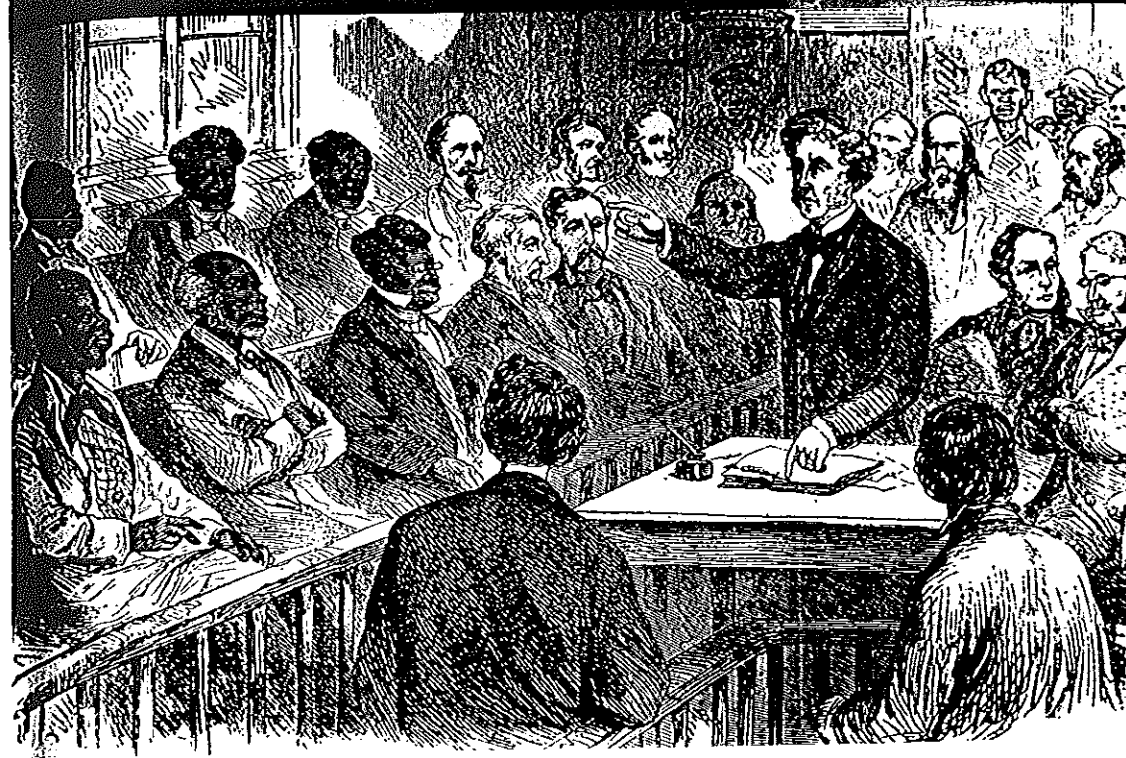
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Henry McNeal Turner
was a leader of radical
forces in the
Georgia legislature.



Josiah T. Walls of Florida
was the only black man
to represent an entire state
as congressman-at-large.





White lawyer appeals to an integrated jury in reconstructed Southern state. Black men also participated in government as constables, sheriffs, magistrates, mayors.



J. W. Hood was a leading figure in Reconstruction politics in North Carolina.



Alabama Congressman James T. Rapier was a militant advocate of equal rights.



Mifflin Gibbs was elected to the post of municipal judge in Little Rock, Arkansas.



Jonathan Gibbs, who was brother of Mifflin Gibbs, held two state cabinet posts in Florida.