



DOCUMENTING RECONSTRUCTION AND  
CIVIL RIGHTS IN GEORGIA'S RECORDS  
1865-1870

## PRESIDENTIAL RECONSTRUCTION 1865-1866

Requirements of President Andrew Johnson for readmission to the Union

- Adopt a new state constitution
- Ratify the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolishing slavery
- Repudiate the state's Confederate debt

Oct. 25 – Nov. 8, 1865: Georgia held a Constitutional Convention; the 1865 Constitution was adopted by the convention

Nov. 5, 1865: Election for a new governor, U.S. congressmen, and state legislators

Dec. 4, 1865: Newly-elected General Assembly began session.

## “RECONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS” TO THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

- 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment: **Abolished slavery** and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime. Passed by Congress Jan. 31, 1865. Ratified by Georgia Dec. 6, 1865
- 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment: **Citizenship**, due process and equal protection. Disqualified from office any official who broke their oath to support the U.S. Constitution who engaged in insurrection or rebellion or gave aid to enemies. Passed by Congress June 13, 1866. Ratified by Georgia July 21, 1868 (after rejection Nov. 9, 1866)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment: **Right to vote**: “The rights of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.” Passed by Congress Feb. 25, 1869. Ratified by Georgia, Feb. 2, 1870

# 1865 GEORGIA CONSTITUTION

- 1865 Constitutional Convention
  - Repealed the Ordinance of Secession
  - Repudiated the state's Confederate debt
- Georgia's 1865 Constitution, passed Nov. 7, 1865. Very similar to 1861 Constitution
  - Abolished Slavery
  - Prohibited interracial marriage
  - Directed Legislature to pass laws "for the government of free persons of color."
  - Directed Legislature to create a County Court
  - Defined Electors (voters) as free white males over 21



334	PT. 2.—TIT. 1.—CHAP. 1.—PERSONS.		
	Article 3.—Persons of Color.		
	ARTICLE III.		
	OF PERSONS OF COLOR.		
	SECTION.	SECTION.	
	1661. Who are.	1669. Marriage ceremony.	
	1662. Rights of persons of color.	1667. Obligation of parent.	
	1663. May testify.	1668. Obligation of children.	
	1664. May file affidavits.	1669. Children—when legitimate.	
	1665. Husband and wife.		
	§ 1661. [All negroes, mulattoes, mestizoes, and their descendants, having one-eighth negro or African blood in their veins, shall be known in this State as persons of color.] (a)		
Who are persons of color.	§ 1662. [Persons of color shall have the right to make and enforce contracts, to sue and be sued, to be parties and give evidence, to inherit, to purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property, and to have full and equal benefit of all laws and proceedings for the security of person and estate, and shall not be subjected to any other or different punishment, pain or penalty for the commission of any act or offense than such as are prescribed for white persons committing like acts or offenses.] (a)		
Their rights, viz.	§ 1663. [Persons of color shall be competent witnesses in all the Courts of this State in civil cases whereto a person of color is a party, and in all criminal cases wherein a person of color is defendant, or wherein the offense charged is a crime or misdemeanor against the person or property of a person of color.] (a)		
When competent witnesses.	§ 1664. [In all cases now pending, or that may be hereafter instituted in any of the Courts of this State, wherein a person of color is a party, plaintiff or defendant, it shall be competent for such person of color to make and file any affidavit now by law allowed a citizen, to advance the remedy or aid the defense, and when so made and filed, in conformity with law, such action shall be had thereon as though the said affidavit had been made and filed by any other litigant.] (a)		
May file affidavits—when.	§ 1665. [Persons of color living together on the 9th day of March, 1866, as husband and wife, are hereby declared to sustain that legal relation to each other, unless a man shall have two or more reputed wives, or a woman two or more reputed husbands. In such event, the man shall immediately select one of his re-		
Husband and wife—when.			
	(a) Acts of 1865-6, p. 239.		
		PT. 2.—TIT. 1.—CHAP. 1.—PERSONS.	335
		Article 3.—Persons of Color.	
		puted wives, with her consent, or the woman one of her reputed husbands, with his consent, and the ceremony of marriage between these two shall be performed. If such man, thus living with more than one woman, or such woman living with more than one man, shall fail or refuse to comply with the provisions of this Section, he or she shall be prosecuted for the offense of fornication, or fornication and adultery, or fornication and adultery, and punished accordingly.] (a)	Adultery, etc.—how constituted.
		§ 1666. [It shall be lawful for ordained colored ministers of the Gospel, or ministers of the Gospel of African descent, to celebrate marriage between freedmen and freedwomen, or persons of African descent, only, under the same terms and regulations as are now required by the laws of the State for marriages between free white citizens of this State.] (b)	Who may perform marriage ceremony.
		§ 1667. [Among persons of color the parent shall be required to maintain his or her children, whether legitimate or illegitimate.] (a)	Parents shall maintain children.
		§ 1668. [Children shall be subjected to the same obligations in relation to their parents as those which exist in relation to white persons, and in all cases when the parents have separated and the children remain with the mother, she shall have control of such children during their minority.] (c)	Obligations of children.
		§ 1669. [Every colored child born before the 9th day of March, 1866, is hereby declared to be the legitimate child of his mother; but such child is the legitimate child of his colored father only when born within what was regarded as a state of wedlock, or when the parents were living together as husband and wife.] (d)	Child legitimate—when.
		ARTICLE IV.	
		OF CORPORATIONS.	
		SECTION 1.—Their Nature and Kinds.	
		SECTION 2.—Their Creation.	
		SECTION 3.—Their Powers and Liabilities.	
		SECTION 4.—Their Dissolution.	
		(a) Acts 1865-6, p. 239. (b) Acts of 1866, p. 158. (c) Acts of 1865-6, p. 240, and Acts of 1866, p. 157. (d) Acts of 1865-6, pp. 239-40, and Acts of 1866, pp. 156-7.	

*AN ACT TO DEFINE “PERSONS OF COLOR”, AND TO  
DECLARE THE RIGHTS OF SUCH PERSONS  
MARCH 17, 1866*

- Defined persons of color as those with one-eighth African blood
- Right to:
  - Make and enforce contracts
  - Sue and be sued
  - Be parties, and give evidence (in courts)
  - Inherit
  - Purchase, lease, sell, hold, and convey real and personal property
  - Benefit from all laws and proceedings for the security of person and estate
  - Are not subjected to any other or different punishment for any offense than those prescribed for white persons committing the same acts or offenses (Georgia Laws 1865, p. 239)

## LAWS PASSED, 1865 - 1866

### Persons of color:

- Living together as husband and wife as of March 9, 1866, are declared **married** (sustain that legal relation to each other)(Georgia Laws 1865 p. 240)
- Are required to maintain their children, and children born as of March 9, 1866, declared legitimate child of the mother and of the father if the father acknowledges the child (Georgia Laws 1865 p. 240)
  - Children of color have the same legal obligations to their parents as white persons
- Mother controls children if parents separate (Georgia Laws 1866 p. 156, clarifies Act of March 9, 1866)
- Colored ministers can marry freedmen and freedwomen (Georgia Laws 1866, p.156)



# 1865 HOUSE JOURNAL

Index lists bills filed regarding freedmen. Most did not pass, some were covered by other laws.

Examples:

- Prohibit white persons from purchasing certain articles from negroes
- Compel Railroad companies to furnish separate cars for persons of color
- Establish the given names and surnames of colored freedmen
- To prevent vagrancy

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## OTHER LAWS AFFECTING PERSONS OF COLOR

- **Apprentices** law revised (Georgia Laws 1865 p. 8)
- Creation of **County Court** to deal with minor criminal offenses and civil cases under \$100 for damages or money due (Georgia Laws 1865 p. 64)
  - All cases arising out of the relations of master and servant
  - All applications to enforce performance “or other purposes”
  - All applications for eviction of trespassers, intruders, and tenants “holding over”
  - Partition of personal property
  - Trial for possessory warrants, or proceedings of distress warrants, *Habeas Corpus* cases
- Written agreements for a term of service not more than a year (**labor contract**) filed in County Court and known as Court Contracts (Georgia Laws 1865 p. 74)
  - All agreements must be read aloud before both parties sign by X unless there is plain evidence both parties can read
  - Signed agreement has the effect of a judgment and decree
  - All issues arising by either party tried by jury
- **Tax** Act for 1866 taxed all males over 21 (Georgia Laws 1865 p. 253)

County Court Records: Chatham County Court Minutes, September Term 1866 (p. 56)

56.

In the County Court  
September Term 1866

The State

Robert Chapel, (Colored)

Malicious Mischief

Plea guilty and throws himself upon the mercy of the Court.

In the above case it is considered and ordered that the defendant Robert Chapel do pay a fine of One hundred and twenty five Dollars and be thereafter discharged on payment of costs. And in case default shall be made in the payment of said fine and costs then it is considered and ordered that the said Robert Chapel be put to work on the public works under the direction of the Corporate authorities of the City of Savannah for the space of ninety days and be thereafter discharged.

Levi S. Russell  
County Judge

The State

William Clark (Colored)

Affray

Plea guilty and throws himself upon the mercy of the Court.

In the above case it is considered and ordered that the defendant William Clark do pay a fine of thirty Dollars and be thereafter discharged on payment of costs, and in case default shall be made in the payment of said fine and costs then it is considered and ordered that the said William Clark be imprisoned in the Jail of Chatham County for the space of fifteen days and be thereafter discharged.

Savannah September 11<sup>th</sup> 1866.

Levi S. Russell  
County Judge

In the County Court  
September Term 1866

The State

John Middleton (Colored)

Simple Larceny

Plea guilty and throws himself upon the mercy of the Court.

In the above case it is considered and ordered that the defendant John Middleton do pay a fine of two hundred Dollars and be thereafter discharged on payment of costs. And in case default shall be made in the payment of said fine and costs then it is considered and ordered that the said John Middleton be put to work on the public works under the direction of the Corporate authorities of the City of Savannah for the space of five months and be thereafter discharged.

Savannah September 11<sup>th</sup> 1866.

Levi S. Russell  
County Judge

State v. Robert Chapel: Malicious Mischief.

Plea: Guilty, mercy of the Court.

Sentence: \$25 fine and costs, or work on the City of Savannah public works for 90 days.

State v. William Clark: Affray.

Plea: Guilty, mercy of the Court.

Sentence: \$30 fine and costs, or 15 days in Chatham County Jail.

State v. John Middleton: Simple Larceny.

Plea: Guilty, mercy of the Court.

Sentence: \$200 fine and costs, or work on the City of Savannah public works for 5 months



State v. Gus Williams: Simple Larceny

Plea: Guilty, mercy of the Court

Sentence: \$200 fine and costs, or work on the City of Savannah public works for 5 months

4 civil suits for debt, judgement for Plaintiff

57.

In the County Court  
September Term 1866.

The State  
v.  
Gus Williams colored

Simple Larceny  
Plea Guilty and throws himself upon the mercy  
of the Court.

In the above case it is considered and ordered  
that the defendant Gus Williams do pay a fine of two hundred dollars and  
be thereafter discharged on payment of costs And in case default shall  
be made in the payment of said fine and costs then it is considered and  
ordered that the said Gus Williams be put to work on the public works  
under the direction of the Corporate authorities of the City of Savannah  
for the space of five months and be thereafter discharged.  
Savannah September 11<sup>th</sup> 1866.

Lori S. Russell  
County Judge

Isaac Rosenblatt v. As on account Judgment for Plaintiff

Amos L. Bradley v. As on Note Judgment for Plaintiff

Joseph Siebel v. As on Note Judgment for Plaintiff

John H. Mehstew v. As on account Judgment for Plaintiff

Hugh Monahan v. As on account Judgment for Plaintiff

Richard Scanlon v. As on account Judgment for Plaintiff

Emil Schachtel v. As on account Judgment for Plaintiff

L. & M. Brown v. As on account Judgment for Plaintiff

The Court adjourned until tomorrow morning ten o'clock

Court  
W. L. P. Judge.

## Other Laws: Apprentices

Apprentice system developed in Europe in the Middle Ages. Tradesmen taught young persons their trade in exchange for food, clothing and shelter. A Legal Contract or *Indenture* between the master, the apprentice, and sometimes the apprentice's parents was signed. Georgia county courts used apprentices to provide care for orphans with no means of support. There was no foster care system in Georgia.

- Apprentices: Jurisdiction assigned to County Court
  - All minors may be bound out as apprentices by whichever parent has legal control of minor
  - All minor children whose parents are too old, infirm or poor to support them, or who reside out of the county, or orphans whose parents' estates are insufficient to support them, to be bound as apprentices by County Judge
    - Master to teach apprentice husbandry (farming), house service, or some other useful trade or occupation, habits of industry, honesty and morality
    - furnish them with wholesome food, suitable clothing, and necessary medical attention
    - See that they're taught to read English
    - Govern with humanity, "using the same degree of force to compel his obedience as a father may use with his minor child."
  - Judge can dissolve the relationship if both master and apprentice agree; for gross misconduct of the apprentice; or for cruelty of the master and failure to fulfill contract.



## TERRELL COUNTY COURT OF ORDINARY APPRENTICESHIPS, 1866-1920, p. 32

Jack Waller, 13; Mary Waller, 11; Presly Waller, 9, a “freed orphan minor” bound to Mary L. Waller “to be taught to labor, and to live with, continue and serve...during their minority.” Dec. 22, 1866

- Obey her commands
- Deport and behave as faithful laborers
- Neither revealing her secrets, nor neglecting her business

Mary L. Waller to:

- Instruct as laborers
- Teach to read English
- Provide with meat, drink & clothing and all other necessities “in sickness and in health”
- At end of apprenticeship, allow them \$100 and two suits of clothes (at discretion of Ordinary)

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Georgia, } This Indenture, made this the 22<sup>d</sup> day of Decem-  
ber, 1866, between E. M. Jones as Ordinary of said  
county, of the one part, and Mary L. Waller of the same county,  
of the second part, witnesseth that the said E. M. Jones, as such  
Ordinary, binds to the said Mary L. Waller, Jack Waller thirteen  
years of age, Mary Waller eleven years of age, and Presly Waller  
a freed orphan minor, of the age of nine years, as laborers on  
the plantation of the said Mary Waller, to be taught to labor,  
and to live with, continue and serve the said Mary Waller  
as laborers from the date hereof for and during their mi-  
nority. During all of which time the said E. M. Jones, as such  
Ordinary, doth covenant with the said Mary L. Waller that the  
said laborers shall well and faithfully demean themselves  
as such laborers observing and obeying the commands of the  
said Mary Waller and in all things deporting and behaving  
themselves as faithful laborers to her the said Mary Waller,  
neither revealing her secrets, nor at any time having or ne-  
glecting the business of the said Mary Waller. And for and  
in consideration of the persons well and faithfully rendered  
by said laborers, said Mary L. Waller, of the second part, doth  
covenant, promise and agree to instruct said laborers or  
otherwise cause to be well and faithfully instructed as labor-  
ers, and also to read the English language, and shall also  
allow, furnish and provide said laborers with meat, drink &  
clothing, during the said term, and all other necessaries  
meet and proper, in sickness and in health, and shall also  
at the end of such term, allow to her laborers, one hundred  
dollars and two suits of clothes, more or less at the discretion  
of the Ordinary, according to length and fidelity of service  
to be by him paid and given to said laborers by said  
Mary Waller of the second part.

Witness our hand and seal, the day and year above written.  
For presence of } Mary L. Waller.  
J. W. Ragan. } E. M. Jones.  
J. B. May. J. B. } Recorded Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 1867. } Ordinary.



Georgia, This Indenture, made this the 22<sup>d</sup> day of Decem-  
ber 1866, between T. M. Jones as Ordinary of said  
county, of the one part, and Mary L. Waller of the same county,  
of the second part, witnesseth that the said T. M. Jones, as such  
Ordinary, binds to the said Mary L. Waller, Jack Waller thirteen  
years of age, Mary Waller eleven years of age, and Presly Waller  
a freed orphan minor, of the age of nine years, as laborers on  
the plantation of the said Mary Waller, to be taught to labor  
and to live with, continue and serve the said Mary Waller  
as laborers from the date hereof for and during their mi-  
nority. During all of which time the said T. M. Jones, as such

## WHERE CAN I FIND APPRENTICESHIP AND COUNTY COURT RECORDS?

- Check County Microfilm Card Catalog (in Virtual Vault) for Apprenticeships from 1866, and County Court Minutes, 1866-1868
- Check Ordinary Court Minutes beginning in 1866 for County Court Minutes
  - FamilySearch.org, search catalog Georgia [name of county], limit to online records. Choose Court Records from list of subjects.
- Apprentice contracts in Ordinary Minutes are seldom indexed, check next census to see with whom child is living

## COUNTY PROPERTY TAX DIGESTS

- Pre-1865, there was a poll tax for white males and a separate higher tax for free male persons of color
- 1866 Tax Act: Required “A tax of one dollar upon each and every male inhabitant of this State on the first day of April; between the ages of twenty-one and sixty years.”
  - When tax is not paid by person who owns **no** property and is employed as a laborer, the employer is garnished for the tax.
- Freedmen/Colored listed separately from white taxpayers from 1867
- Freedmen’s employers were listed beginning in 1867, in some counties continued until 1890s



# 1866 LAURENS COUNTY TAX DIGEST

No. 897 District,		GEORGIA MILITIA.		RANKS.		Total Number of Acres of Land		County where the Land lies.		Value	
Rank	Name	Rank	Name	Rank	Name	Rank	Name	Rank	Name	Rank	Name

LAURENS CO.  
TAX DIGEST  
1866

1. Polls of whites
2. Polls of colored persons
3. No. of hands employed by you between 12 and 65 years of age

1. 2.

3

Dawson District

No. 341 District,

GEORGIA MILITIA.

NAMES.

County where the Land lies.	Section.	District.	Number.	Total Number of Acres of Land.	No. of hands employed by you between 12 and 65 years of age.	No. of Dogs on your premises.	No. of your Sheep killed by Dogs within 12 months.	No. of Sheep you now have.	Lottery and Gift Emporium.	Public Race Tracks.	Ten Pin Alley, Bagatelle Table or other stand or table for public play.	Amusements.	Billiard Tables.	Daguerens, Photographers, Ambrypists and other similar artists.	Professions.	Polls of Colored persons.	Polls of Whites.	
Lanier.				212 <sup>12</sup> 201 391		2 2												
Lanier.				212 <sup>12</sup> 289 391		2 2												
Lanier.				3 236 472 391		1 4												
						1 2	24											
						3 1	12											
Lanier.				806														
Lanier.				7 330 391		1												
Lanier.				11 1184 113 112 11														



Sandtown 1<sup>st</sup> Dis

No. 731<sup>st</sup> DISTRICT, GEORGIA MILITIA.

# Campbell County Tax Digest 1867

[illegible]

# RICHMOND COUNTY TAX DIGEST, 1867, FREEDMEN

Self-employed  
freedmen



No.	DISTRICT, GEORGIA MILITIA.	Real Estate.			Personal Estate.		Aggregate Value of Property.	Value after deducting \$200.00.	Tax on Polls.	Tax on Property.
		Acres of Land.	Value.	Value.	Value.	Value.				
NAMES OF EMPLOYER.	NAMES OF FREEDMEN.									
Henry, Edward	Thos Thomas	/	/	/						
	Edward Thomas	/	/	/						
Haralson B. F.	Edward, Banks	/	/	/						
	John Linn	/	/	/						
	William Barfield	/	/	/						
	Lewis Black	/	/	/						
Hewitt H. C. & Son	Elbert Jennings	/	/	/						
	Henry Gibbs	/	/	/						
	Robert Moore	/	/	/						
	Jack Rice	/	/	/						
	James Rogers	/	/	/						
	Edward Wiley	/	/	/						
	George Washington	/	/	/						
	Callman Walker	/	/	/						
	Andrew Scott	/	/	/						
Harris Robt. J.	Henry Matthews	/	/	/						
	Robert Johnston	/	/	/						
	Ralph Marshall	/	/	/						
Harris Robt. J.	Henry Costello	/	/	/						
	Harris Geo. H.	/	No Va	/	3000	2000	1800			
	Walter Williams	/		/	800	200	1000	800		
	Harper R. A.	/		/	3000		3000	2800		
	Harper D. L.	/		/	2000		2000	1800		
	Trustin Jenkins	/		/	5000		5000	4800		
	Agnes Moses	/		/						
	Hyden Jacob	/	No Va	/	300		300	100		
	Harris Arthur	/		/						
	Harsh Samuel	/		/						
	Harris Solomon	/	No Va	/	500		500	100		
	Harris Ed	/	" "	/	1000	200	1200	1000		



# WHERE CAN I FIND TAX DIGESTS?

Find your family.  
Discover yourself.

Bring to life your family's history by  
exploring the lives of those that came  
before you.

Get Started



Pre-1872, holdings are incomplete

Post-1872, counties required to submit a copy of the tax digest to the state

- Ancestry.com, *Georgia, U.S., Property Tax Digests, 1793-1892*
  - Digests from 1874-1890 for most counties
  - Scans of original copies of tax digests in Georgia Archives holdings
  - Searchable by name, date, county
- FamilySearch.org, with county records, under Taxation
  - Scans of microfilm copies of original tax digests held by county governments
  - Mostly pre-1874
  - Not searchable by name, same access as to microfilm

## PROPERTY OWNERSHIP: DEED BOOKS

Indenture, Thomas Brady to Robert Lumpkin  
 "(a person of Color)"  
 Macon County Deed Book B, pp. 266-267  
 Lots 9 and 10, Block 1, Town of Oglethorpe  
 \$50.00  
 May 13, 1867

FamilySearch.org, Georgia, Macon County Land and  
 Property. Deeds and Mortgages, 1857-1902

Georgia  
 Macon County } This indenture made the thirteenth day  
 of May in the year of our Lord one thousand  
 eight hundred and sixty seven  
 between Thomas Brady of the one part, of the County of  
 Macon and Robert Lumpkin (a person of Color) also  
 of the County of Macon of the other part: It is hereby  
 acknowledged that the said Thomas Brady for and in consideration of the sum  
 of fifty dollars in hand paid, at and before the making  
 into delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby  
 acknowledged, hath granted, bargained, sold, aliened and  
 conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents doth grant  
 bargain sell, alien convey and confirm unto the said  
 Robert Lumpkin his heirs and assigns all that tract  
 or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the town of  
 Oglethorpe in said County, and known and distinguished  
 in the plan of said town by the numbers, nine and ten  
 (No. 9 & 10) in Block number one (No. 1), it being seventy  
 five (75) feet on the back part of each of said lots,  
 to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land  
 with all and singular the rights, members and appur-  
 tenances thereto in anywise appertaining, to the only proper use, benefit  
 and behoof of him the said Robert Lumpkin, his  
 heirs, executors, administrators and assigns in fee sim-  
 ple; And the said Thomas Brady the said bargained  
 premises unto the said Robert Lumpkin his heirs exe-  
 cutors, administrators and assigns against the said  
 Thomas Brady his heirs executors and administrators

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and against all and every other person or persons shall and  
 will warrant and forever defend by virtue of these presents  
 In witness whereof the said Thomas Brady hath hereunto  
 set his hand, affixed his seal and delivered these presents  
 the day and year first above written,  
 Signed Sealed and delivered in the presence of us,  
 Phil Cook  
 Jno M Green clk Supr Court

Phil Cook  
 Jno M Green clk Supr Court  
 Jno M Green  
 Jno M Green  
 Jno M Green

Thomas Brady

Recorded June 22<sup>d</sup> 1867  
 Jno M Green clk

## CONGRESSIONAL RECONSTRUCTION IN GEORGIA 1867-1872

Terms for Readmittance to the Union passed by Congress, March 1867:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Reconstruction Act: former Confederate states divided into five military districts (Georgia in Third Military District with Alabama and Florida under Gen. John Pope)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Reconstruction Act: All males *excluding* former Confederate leaders permitted to participate in constitutional conventions to form new state governments (new constitution). Voters for delegates must swear Oath of Allegiance to United States.
  - Gen. Pope directed registration of Georgia's eligible Black and white voters to vote for delegates to Constitutional Convention: Election Oct. 29-Nov. 2, 1867
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Reconstruction Act: New state constitutions required to provide for universal manhood suffrage.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Reconstruction Act: Ratify the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment (Citizenship) to be readmitted to the Union

# RETURN OF

REGISTERED in Precinct No. 681, County of Coweta, State of GEORGIA, by the Board of Registration, for the Election District, in pursuance

Rank	DATE OF REGISTRY	NAMES OF VOTERS	OATH		COLOR	TIME OF REFERENCE		
			Book	Page		In Book	In County	In Precinct
1	1867	Ben. Allen	A 101		Colored	12 20	12 20	12 20
2	"	Bundy Johnson	A 101		"	12 6	6	6
3	"	Ben. Johnson	A 102		"	12	12	12
4	"	Wm. By	A 102		"	12	12	12
5	"	Ben. Davis	A 103		"	12	12	12
6	"	Ben. Davis	A 103		"	12	6	6
7	"	Wm. Davis	A 104		"	12	12	12
8	"	Ben. Davis	A 104		"	12	12	12
9	"	Ben. Davis	A 105		"	12	12	12
10	"	Ben. Davis	A 105		"	12	12	12
11	"	Ben. Davis	A 106		"	12	12	12
12	"	Ben. Davis	A 106		"	12	12	12
13	"	Ben. Davis	A 107		"	12	12	12
14	"	Ben. Davis	A 107		"	12	12	12
15	"	Ben. Davis	A 108		"	12	12	12
16	"	Ben. Davis	A 108		"	12	12	12
17	"	Ben. Davis	A 109		"	12	12	12
18	"	Ben. Davis	A 109		"	12	12	12
19	"	Ben. Davis	A 110		"	12	12	12
20	"	Ben. Davis	A 110		"	12	12	12
21	"	Ben. Davis	A 111		"	12	12	12
22	"	Ben. Davis	A 111		"	12	12	12
23	"	Ben. Davis	A 112		"	12	12	12
24	"	Ben. Davis	A 112		"	12	12	12
25	"	Ben. Davis	A 113		"	12	12	12
26	"	Ben. Davis	A 113		"	12	12	12
27	"	Ben. Davis	A 114		"	12	6	6
28	"	Ben. Davis	A 114		"	12	12	12
29	"	Ben. Davis	A 115		"	12	6	6
30	"	Ben. Davis	A 115		"	12	12	12
31	"	Ben. Davis	A 116		"	12	12	12
32	"	Ben. Davis	A 116		"	12	12	12
33	"	Ben. Davis	A 117		"	12	12	12
34	"	Ben. Davis	A 117		"	12	12	12
35	"	Ben. Davis	A 118		"	12	12	12
36	"	Ben. Davis	A 118		"	12	12	12
37	"	Ben. Davis	A 119		"	12	12	12
38	"	Ben. Davis	A 119		"	12	12	12
39	"	Ben. Davis	A 120		"	12	12	12
40	"	Ben. Davis	A 120		"	12	12	12

WE CERTIFY to the correctness of the above Return

J. B. Smith  
J. B. Smith  
J. B. Smith  
Board of  
Registration.

Sanford Page, Line 3,  
Coweta County  
Returns of Qualified  
Voters

1867: First record to record freedmen over 21  
with last names throughout the State of Georgia:  
93,437 Black male voters registered

RETURNS OF QUALIFIED  
VOTERS  
AND  
RECONSTRUCTION  
REGISTRATION OATH  
BOOKS

# Voter Registration: Delegates to 1867 Constitutional Convention

6  
(First)

RETURN OF

REGISTERED in Precinct No. 691, County of Coweta, State of GEORGIA, by the Board of Registration, for the 36 Election District, in pursuance

Number.	DATE OF REGISTRY.	Check when Voting.	NAMES OF VOTERS.	OATH.		COLOR.	TIME OF RESIDENCE.			
				Book.	Page.		In State.	In County.	In Precinct.	
1	1867 July 13 <sup>th</sup>		Page Abner	A	101	Columbia	✓	12 M.	12 M.	12 M.
2	"		Brandy Richard	A	101	"	✓	12 M.	6 "	6 "
3	"		Page Sanford	A	102	"	✓	12	12 "	12

Sanford Page, Line 3,  
Coweta County Returns of  
Qualified Voters:  
Registered July 13, 1867  
Oath Recorded Coweta  
County Book A, p. 102



Voter Registration: Sanford Page

Sanford Page, Coweta County  
Registration Oath Books



102

STATE OF GEORGIA,

COUNTY OF Coweta

PERSONALLY APPEARED before me this 15 day

of July 1867, Sanford Page

who states that he resides in the 691 Election Precinct of Coweta COUNTY,

Georgia, and who makes oath as follows:

Sanford Page do solemnly swear

In the presence of Almighty God, that I am a citizen of the State of Georgia; that I have resided in said State for 12 months

next preceding this day, and now reside in the County of Coweta in said State; that I

am 21 years old; that I have not been disfranchised for participation in any rebellion or civil war against the United States, nor for felony com-

mitted against the laws of any State or the United States; that I have never been a member of any State Legislature, nor held any executive or

judicial office in any State, and afterwards engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or given aid or comfort

to the enemies thereof; that I have never taken an oath as a member of Congress of the United States, or as an officer of the United States,

or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States,

and afterwards engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof; that I will

faithfully support the Constitution and obey the laws of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, encourage others so to do.

So help me, God.

The said Sanford Page further swears that

that he has not been previously registered under the provisions of "An act supplementary to 'an act to provide for

the more efficient government of the rebel States'—passed March 2, 1867—and to facilitate restoration," under this

or any other name, in this or any other Election District; and further, that he was born in the county of Coweta

and naturalized by the court of the county of Coweta on the 18 day

of July 1867 in the 15 Registration District.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me Sanford Page

Register of the 36 Registration District.

204

STATE OF GEORGIA,

COUNTY OF Coweta

PERSONALLY APPEARED before me this 15 day

of July 1867, Sanford Page

who states that he resides in the 691 Election Precinct of Coweta COUNTY,

Georgia, and who makes oath as follows:

Sanford Page do solemnly swear

In the presence of Almighty God, that I am a citizen of the State of Georgia; that I have resided in said State for 12 months

next preceding this day, and now reside in the County of Coweta in said State; that I

am 21 years old; that I have not been disfranchised for participation in any rebellion or civil war against the United States, nor for felony com-

mitted against the laws of any State or the United States; that I have never been a member of any State Legislature, nor held any executive or

judicial office in any State, and afterwards engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or given aid or comfort

to the enemies thereof; that I have never taken an oath as a member of Congress of the United States, or as an officer of the United States,

or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States,

and afterwards engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof; that I will

faithfully support the Constitution and obey the laws of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, encourage others so to do.

So help me, God.

The said Sanford Page further swears that

that he has not been previously registered under the provisions of "An act supplementary to 'an act to provide for

the more efficient government of the rebel States'—passed March 2, 1867—and to facilitate restoration," under this

or any other name, in this or any other Election District; and further, that he was born in the county of Coweta

and naturalized by the court of the county of Coweta on the 18 day

of July 1867 in the 15 Registration District.

SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me Sanford Page

Register of the 36 Registration District.

RETURNS OF QUALIFIED  
VOTERS  
AND  
RECONSTRUCTION  
REGISTRATION OATH  
BOOKS

Sanford Page, Coweta County, Registration Oath Books

102 STATE OF GEORGIA, }  
COUNTY OF Coweta } PERSONALLY APPEARED before me this 15 day  
of July 1867, Sanford Page  
who states that he resides in the 691<sup>st</sup> Election Precinct of Coweta COUNTY,  
GEORGIA, and who makes oath as follows:  
"I, Sanford Page do solemnly swear  
in the presence of Almighty God, that I am a citizen of the STATE OF GEORGIA; that I have resided in said State for 12 months  
in said State; that I  
next preceeding this day, and now reside in the County of Coweta  
am 21 years old, that I have not been disfranchised for participation in any rebellion or civil war against the United States, nor for felony  
committed against the laws of any State or the United States; that I have never been a member of any State Legislature, nor held any  
executive or judicial office in any State, and afterwards engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or given aid or comfort  
to the enemies thereof; that I have never taken an oath as a member of Congress of the United States, or as an officer of the United States,  
or as a member of any State Legislature, or as an executive or judicial officer of any State, to support the Constitution of the United States,  
and afterwards engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or given aid and comfort to the enemies thereof; that I will  
faithfully support the Constitution and obey the laws of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, encourage others so to do.  
So help me, God."

The said Sanford Page further swears  
that he has not been previously registered under the provisions of "An act supplementary to 'an act to provide for  
the more efficient government of the rebel States'—passed March 2, 1867—and to facilitate restoration," under this  
or any other name, in this or any other Election District; and further, that he was born in \_\_\_\_\_  
and naturalized by \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, 18\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_  
Sanford Page  
SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED before me date page not county as for said  
H. J. Preston  
Register of the 36 Registration District.

Where can I find these?

Ancestry: Georgia, U.S., Returns  
of Qualified Voters and  
Reconstruction Registration Oath  
Books, 1867-1869 (1867)

Searchable by name and  
county.

## PRISONERS' RECORDS

- Laws dealing with specific crimes in the Georgia Code usually stated with the minimum and maximum sentence, and whether time is served in the Penitentiary : Penal code
  - Sentences specified “hard labor” or “solitary confinement” depending on the crime (Penal Code of 1817, Georgia Laws 1817 p. 92)
  - Most sentences with less than 12 months’ time were served in the County Jail
  - Because the County Court dealt with lesser offenses drawing sentences of less than a year, those convicted served time in county. Serious felonies were tried in Superior Court
- Chain gangs (“hard labor”) employed by both the Penitentiary and County Jails to work on “public works”: road maintenance, public buildings; railroad maintenance
- Prisoners should not be idle. If you break the law, punishment includes hard labor



# STATE PENITENTIARY

- Opened 1817.
- Burned November 23, 1864 (Federal troops or remaining prisoners?)
- Prisoners documented in Central Register of Convicts
- Very few registrations for 1865-May 1867. Provisional Governor Thomas Ruger began leasing prisoners in May 1868
  - Penitentiary too costly to repair and maintain
- Convicts divided into 3 sections, assigned to 3 groups of lessees
  - Penitentiary No. 1 = Dade coal mines
  - Penitentiary No. 2 = Group of lessees headed by Gen. John B. Gordon
  - Penitentiary No. 3 = Alexander, Murphy and Grant (Alexander Grant)
- Other companies and individuals leased convicts




Central Register of Convicts, 1817-1976

Central Register of Convicts, 1866-1879  
Recorded by date of arrival

African Americans marked “col” after name.  
Complexion (column 3): Dark, DK, Blk  
Begins line 2029, admitted June 12, 1867

Where can I find these?  
Ancestry.com, Georgia, U.S., Central Register of Convicts,  
1817-1976  
Searchable by name, Received Date, County of  
Residence, date, and county of conviction (Any  
Event)



										Crime		Age		Admitted	
No.	Name	Age	Complexion	Height	Weight	Build	Color	Mark	Stature	Crime		Age		Admitted	
2029	Franklin, George	21	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2030	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2031	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2032	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2033	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2034	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2035	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2036	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2037	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2038	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2039	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2040	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2041	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2042	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2043	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2044	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2045	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2046	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2047	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2048	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2049	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2050	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2051	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2052	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2053	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2054	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2055	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2056	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2057	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2058	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2059	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2060	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2061	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2062	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2063	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2064	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	
2065	John, William	47	Dark	5.9	140	Blk	DK		Slender	Simple Larceny		12		June 12, 1867	



Central Register of Convicts, 1817-1976

No	Names	Age	Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Occupation	Industry	Crime	Adm	Received
2023	Frank Scarlett.	21	5.9	Dark	Dark	Blk	Pike	Naval	Illinois	Robbery	May	15 1867
2024	Henry A Clark & John B. Scarlett	27.	5.8	Fair	It	Yellow	"	"	Ya	"	"	"
2025	John Hemington Sr.	47	5.8	"	"	Blue	Blk	"	Go	Simple Larceny	"	"
2026	John Hancock.	22	5.9	DK	DK	Hazel	"	"	"	"	"	"
2027	Charles Hancock	19.	5.8	Fir	It	Blk	"	"	"	"	12	" +
2028	George Stanton and C.	30	5.5 1/2	DK	Blk	DK	"	"	"	Misdemeanor	"	24
2029	Moses Poob	42	5.10	Fair	DK	Blk	Magnus	"	So Ca	Simple Larceny	"	28
2030	James Barfield	21	5.7	"	And	Har	Magnus	"	Go	"	"	"
2031	John Drans.	54.	5.7	"	"	Blk	Confused	"	St L	Voluntary Manslaughter	"	"
2032	Mitchell Clitt C.	52	5.9	DK	Grey	Blk	Amused	"	Go	Simple Larceny	"	"
2033	Harrison Clitt C.	23	5.5 1/2	Cypre	DK	DK	"	"	"	do	"	"
2034	William H. Boyles	32	5.4	Fair	And	Blk	Milton	"	"	Simple Larceny	July	17

Name		Age	Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Complexion	Occupation	Nativity	Crime
2023	Frank Scarlett	21	5.9	Dark	Dark	Blk	Pk	Hand	Illinois	Robbery
2024	Henry A. Clark & John B. Buckett	27	5.8	Fair	Lt	Yellow	"	"	Ya	"
2025	John Hemington Sr.	47	5.8	"	"	Blk	Blk	"	Go	Simple Larceny
2026	John Hancock	22	5.9	DK	DK	Hazel	"	"	"	"
2027	Charles Hancock	19	5.8	Fair	Lt	Blk	"	"	"	"
2028	George Troutman	30	5.5 1/2	DK	Blk	DK	"	"	"	Misdemeanor

George Troutman, Bibb  
County, Misdemeanor,  
June 12 1867 to June 12  
1869

When Received			Expiring			Remarks
May	15	1867	May	15	1872	
"	"	"	"	"	"	
"	"	"	"	"	1868	Discharged May 15, 1868
"	"	"	"	"	1886	
"	"	"	"	"	1868	Discharged May 15, 1868
"	12	" + June	12	1869		Discharged at the expiration of sentence



## SUPERIOR COURT MINUTES

The State  
'78,  
George Troutman (a Freedman) } Misdemeanor. Bibb Supl. Court, Nov. adj. Terms 1865.

Whereupon it is adjudged and ordered by the Court that the Defendant George Troutman a Freedman, be remanded to the City Jail of the City of Macon, until demanded by the proper Officer of the State Penitentiary, that he be taken thence to the Penitentiary of this State, or such other place or places as the Governor of this State may direct, and there confined at hard labor for and during the term of Two (2) years, and that the State recover of any property belonging to said Defendant the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars as costs in this case.

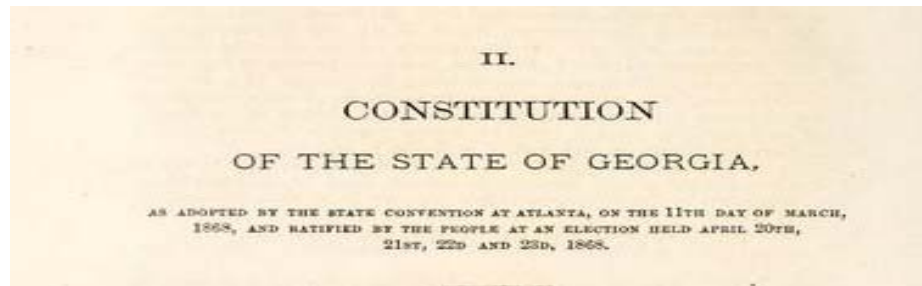
G. P. Cole.  
Judge S. C. M. C.

George Troutman, remanded February 7, 1866 to Macon City Jail until transfer to State Penitentiary, confined to hard labor for 2 years. Bibb County Superior Court Minutes, v. 11, p. 73

Served entire 2 year of sentence when he was transferred to the Penitentiary in June 1867.

# CONGRESSIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

- Oct. 29 – Nov. 2, 1867: Election for delegates to Constitutional Convention
  - 37 Black delegates elected
- December 9, 1867 – March 11, 1868: Constitutional Convention held in Atlanta
- January 13, 1868 – July 4, 1868: Gen. Thomas Ruger appointed provisional governor by Gen. George Meade (replaced Gen. Pope as commander, 3<sup>rd</sup> Military District)
- April 20 – 23, 1868: Election to ratify state constitution, elect state officers, state representatives, and U.S. Congressmen
  - 29 Black Representatives elected, Republicans fell 3 short of a majority in the House
  - 3 Black Senators elected, Republicans controlled the Senate
  - Rufus Bullock elected governor
- July 30, 1868: Newly elected General Assembly investigates qualifications of members, including ex-Confederate leaders and African Americans



## 1868 CONSTITUTION

- Fulfilled the requirements of the Federal Reconstruction Acts
  - All persons born or naturalized in the United States and resident in the State declared **citizens** of the State [Georgia] (Article I, Section II; 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to U.S. Constitution)
  - Provided for universal manhood suffrage (Article II, Section II)
  - General Assembly instructed to provide a free public school system (Article VI, Section I)
  - Provided for debt relief (homestead exemption?)
  - All property of the wife to remain her separate property, not liable for her husband's debts (Article VII, Section II)
  - County Courts abolished (Article V, Section XVI)
  - Moved state capital to from Milledgeville to Atlanta (Article X, Section I)

## BLACK LEGISLATORS

- House and Senate Committees on Privileges and Elections investigated qualifications of members, including Black legislators.
  - Challenged on legal qualifications for holding office, i.e. residency
  - Challenged on basis of race
- House voted that 25 of 29 Black House members not qualified to hold office, Sept. 3, 1868. 2 others later disqualified.
- Sen. Aaron Alpeoria Bradley's eligibility questioned based on his having served time in New York
- Bradley sent resignation to Gov. Bulluck on Aug. 9, 1868
- Senators George Wallace and Tunis G. Campbell, Sr., ruled ineligible and expelled on Sept. 12

a privileged question, the minority report would be allowed. Mr. Bryant appealed from the decision. The House sustained the decision of the Speaker.

Mr. Duncan, of Houston, offered the following resolution as a substitute for the minority report :

WHEREAS, The Hon. T. M. Allen, of Jasper, E. Barnes, of Hancock, T. P. Beard, of Richmond, Edwin Belcher, of Wilkes, T. G. Campbell, of McIntosh, M. Claiborne, of Burke, G. H. Clower, of Monroe, Abraham Colby, of Greene, J. T. Costin, of Talbot, Madison Davis, of Clark, Monday Floyd, of Morgan, T. H. Fyall, of Macon, G. Gardner, of Warren, W. A. Golden, of Liberty, W. H. Harrison, of Hancock, N. S. Houston, of Bryan, Phillip Joiner, of Dougherty, George Linder, of Laurens, R. Lumpkin, of Macon, Romulus Moore, of Columbia, Peter O'Neal, of Baldwin, James Porter, of Chatham, Alfred Richardson, of Clark, J. M. Sims, of Chatham, Abraham Smith, of Muscoge, A. Stone, of Jefferson, H. M. Turner, of Bibb, John Warren, of Burke, S. Williams, of Harris, holding seats on this floor, are not eligible thereto under the Constitution of Georgia, said members being free persons of color ; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That said members be no longer regarded or recognized as members of this House, and that the Clerk shall hereafter cease calling the names of said persons ; which was received by Mr. Scott as a substitute for his report.

Mr. Bryant raised the point of order, that the same question having been once before the House, could not legitimately be brought up before it again.

The Speaker decided the point not well taken.



## Black House Members

*The Atlanta Constitution*, Sept. 4, 1868, p. 1,  
extract from House debate and vote  
regarding expulsion of Black members

Lee, Linder, Lindsay, Lumpkin, McCormick, Maxwell, Meadows, Moore, Neal, O'Neal, of Lowndes, O'Neil, of Baldwin, Page, Penland (rose and voted blank,) Perkins, of Dawson, Porter, Powell, Prudden, Read, Richardson, Seave, Shackelford, Simms, Smith, of Muscogee, Stone Strickland (paired off with Caldwell,) Turner, Waltham, Warren, of Burke, Watkins, Williams, of Harris, Williams, of Haralson, Williams, of Morgan—64.

After the announcement of the vote, a protest was read, signed by all the ousted members, to which objection was made because of its misstatement of facts, and language therein reflecting upon the action of the House. It was allowed to be withdrawn for correction, and will be offered tomorrow in a different shape.

**TURNER** then asked if the members would be paid up to date.

Cries from the Democrats, "yes, yes!"

A motion was then made to adjourn, when Turner said that he would like to walk out before the House adjourned, which request was granted, and he approached the Speaker's desk, raised his foot and brushed the dust therefrom [in derision] and retired. Everything went off peaceably and quietly.

## BLACK SENATORS

- Sen. Aaron Alpeoria Bradley's eligibility questioned based on his having served time in New York
- Bradley sent resignation to Gov. Bullock on Aug. 9, 1868
- Senators George Wallace and Tunis G. Campbell, Sr., ruled ineligible and expelled on Sept. 12



## NEWSPAPERS

- Newspapers published in state capital report daily on the General Assembly when it is in session
- Letters to the editor (opinions), articles published in other newspapers, both Georgia and out-of-state
- Other newspapers available online in Georgia Historic Newspapers. Holdings for 1865-1867 are scattered.
- *Atlanta Constitution* began publication June 17, 1868. General Assembly session began July 4, 1868
  - Coverage of the General Assembly includes extracts of speeches and debate by members

## CONGRESSIONAL RECONSTRUCTION

- June 1869: *White v. Clemens*, Georgia Supreme Court rules that African Americans have a right to hold office in Georgia as they are citizens under U.S. and Georgia law, in absence of any specific law barring them from holding office.
- January 1870: Gen. Alfred H. Terry removes ex-Confederates from the General Assembly, replaced them with the Republican candidates for their districts, and **reinstated expelled Black legislators**.
- February 1870: Republican legislature ratifies the 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment and chooses new U.S. Senators
- July 1870: Georgia again readmitted to the Union
- December 1870: Election for next General Assembly to convene November 1871. Democrats win commanding majorities in both houses.
- December 1871: Special election for governor after Gov. Rufus Bullock flees state to escape impeachment. Ex-Confederate Col. James M. Smith elected to complete Bullock's term.



## PUBLISHED RESOURCES AVAILABLE ONLINE

Georgia Legislative Documents (transcriptions of laws passed by the General Assembly, 1799-1999), searchable by keyword, date, year and page	<a href="http://neptune3.galib.uga.edu/ssp/cgi-bin/ftaccess.cgi?id=7f000001&amp;db=zlg">http://neptune3.galib.uga.edu/ssp/cgi-bin/ftaccess.cgi?id=7f000001&amp;db=zlg</a>
Georgia Historic Newspapers (Digital Library of Georgia), searchable by keyword, date, location and title; navigate to specific issues	<a href="https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/">https://gahistoricnewspapers.galileo.usg.edu/</a>
Code of the State of Georgia, revised and corrected by David Irwin (Irwin's Code), 1867 (Courtesy of Alexander Campbell King Law Library, University of Georgia)	<a href="https://archive.org/details/codeofstateofgeo1867clar/page/866/mode/2up">https://archive.org/details/codeofstateofgeo1867clar/page/866/mode/2up</a>
Code of the State of Georgia, 2 <sup>nd</sup> ed., rev., corr., and notated by David Irwin et al. (Irwin's Code), 1873 (Courtesy of Alexander Campbell King Law Library, University of Georgia)	<a href="https://archive.org/details/codeofstateofgeo00prep/page/904/mode/2up">https://archive.org/details/codeofstateofgeo00prep/page/904/mode/2up</a>
Journal of the Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of the People of Georgia, ... (1865 Constitutional Convention), Milledgeville, Ga., R.M. Orme and Son, 1865 (Courtesy Google Books)	<a href="https://books.google.com/books?id=xidKAQAAIAAJ&amp;printsec=frontcover&amp;source=gbv_ViewAPI#v=onepage&amp;q&amp;f=false">https://books.google.com/books?id=xidKAQAAIAAJ&amp;printsec=frontcover&amp;source=gbv_ViewAPI#v=onepage&amp;q&amp;f=false</a>
Journal of the Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of the People of Georgia, ... (1868 Constitutional Convention) Augusta, Ga: E.H. Pughe Book and Job Printer, 1868 (Courtesy Digital Library of Georgia)	<a href="https://dlg.usg.edu/record/dlg_zlgb_gb0086">https://dlg.usg.edu/record/dlg_zlgb_gb0086</a>
Georgia House Journals in the collections of Emory University. Journals from 1865, 1866, 1868, 1870 and 1871 are available in this collection (the Georgia General Assembly did not meet in 1867) (Courtesy Emory University)	<a href="https://readux.ecds.emory.edu/collections/emory-control:LSDI-GeorgiaStateHouseJournals/?page=1">https://readux.ecds.emory.edu/collections/emory-control:LSDI-GeorgiaStateHouseJournals/?page=1</a>
Georgia Senate Journals in the collections of Emory University. Journals from 1865, 1866, 1868 and 1869 are available in this collection. (Courtesy Emory University)	<a href="https://readux.ecds.emory.edu/collections/emory-control:LSDI-GeorgiaStateSenateJournals/">https://readux.ecds.emory.edu/collections/emory-control:LSDI-GeorgiaStateSenateJournals/</a>