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**THE NEGRO IN THE POLITICAL CLASSICS OF THE
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT**

BY

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Washington, D. C.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION
The Negro in the Political Classics of the American Government

The Colored men who were and are in the Political classics of the American Politics and Government

The compiler has endeavored to give to the public a graphic and descriptive biographical record of the Colored men who were (and one now) in the Congress of the United States. It is concise, and only deals in the graphic facts, that were the stepping-stones to reach the political CLASSICS of the American Government.

Most of the twenty-four characters' lives have been obscured from the students of to-day, and from the reading public, and they are not now easily found in archives of public libraries, or in histories; therefore the compiler has endeavored to give a short biography of each Negro United States Senator and Representative, elected and seated in the Congresses of the United States, since 1870.

The vicissitudes and experience of these men, may be read with surprise and amazement, to know of the civic and political paths, these representatives had to tread, to reach the heights of the legislative halls of Congress, where the supreme law of the land is made and sustained.

They had to perform herculean tasks, and surmount mountains of Prejudice, with their zeal, ability, virtue and perseverance, to put on the toga, to come to Congress: and they have come Twenty-four strong.

These biographies are printed on cards 4½ by 7 inches for the convenience of the readers.

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1724 7th Street, Northwest Washington, D. C.

HONORABLE HIRAM RHODES REVELS (1827-1901)

Born in Fayetteville, Cumberland County, North Carolina, September 27, 1827. Attended the Quaker Seminary, Union County, Indiana, and Drake County Seminary, Ohio; was graduated from Knox College, Bloomington, Illinois, and was ordained a minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church at Baltimore, Maryland in 1845, after which he followed preaching and lecturing to his people in the States of Indiana, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Missouri. Accepted a pastorate in Baltimore, Md., in 1860. At the early stages of the Civil War he assisted in organizing the first two Colored regiments of soldiers in Maryland to help serve the Union, and served in Vicksburg, Mississippi, as Chaplain of a Colored regiment in 1864. He settled in Natchez, Mississippi, in 1866. Elected Alderman in that city in 1868; elected a member of the State Senate in 1870. Upon the readmission of the State of Mississippi to representation in the Federal Union, he was elected as a Republican to the United States Senate, presented his credentials and was seated, being the first Negro to ever tread the halls of the United States Senate, and the first to sit in that august body of classic legislators.

He served in the Senate from February 23, 1870 to March 3, 1871. After his retirement from the Senate, he returned to his state and was appointed Secretary of State ad-interim in 1873. Elected president of Alcorn Agricultural College, Rodney, Mississippi, in 1876-1882. Appointed District Superintendent of the African Methodist Episcopal Church at Holly Springs, Marshall County, Mississippi, 1873.

Died in Aberdeen, Mississippi, January 16, 1901, while attending a Church Conference. Interment in Crest Cemetery, Holly Springs, Mississippi.

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HONORABLE JOSEPH HAYNE RAINEY (1832-1887)

Born in Georgetown, Georgetown County, South Carolina, June 21, 1832. Received a limited schooling; barber by trade, until 1862, when he traveled to the West Indies, and there remained until the close of the Civil War, when he returned to his native State. He became interested in politics and in 1868 he was elected a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention held in that year; elected as a Republican to the Forty-first Congress to "fill the vacancy caused by the action of the House of Representatives (of U. S.) in declaring the seat of B. Franklin Whittemore (white) vacant."

He was the first colored man elected and seated in the U. S. House of Representatives; he was re-elected to the Forty-second, Forty-third, Forty-fourth and Forty-fifth Congress, and served from December 12, 1870 to March 3, 1879, when he retired. Appointed U. S. Internal Revenue Agent of South Carolina on May 22, 1879 and served until July 15, 1881, when he resigned; engaged in the banking and brokerage business in Washington, D. C., until 1886. Returning to Georgetown, South Carolina, he died there August 2, 1887. Interment in the Baptist Cemetery.

He was active in voting for the Civil Rights Bill, 1875, and the admission of Colorado, to become a State in the Federal Union in 1876.

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HONORABLE JEFFERSON FRANKLIN LONG (1836-1900)

Born near Knoxville, Crawford County, Georgia. ^{3/3/1836} Received a primary education; became a merchant tailor in Macon, Georgia.

Rank: United States Representative.

Elected as a Republican to the forty-first U. S. Congress, to fill the vacancy caused by the House of Representatives declaring Samuel F. Gove (white) not entitled to the seat, and served from December 22, 1870, to March 3, 1871. He was not a candidate for re-election to the Forty-second Congress. Retired and resumed his occupation as tailor. He was the second colored man elected and seated in the U. S. House of Representatives, and the first one from Georgia.

He died February 5, 1900. Interment in Lynwood Cemetery.

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HONORABLE ROBERT CARLOS DeLARGE (1842-1874)

Born in Aiken, South Carolina, March 15, 1842; attended the common schools, and Wood High School, in Aiken, from which he graduated; engaged in agricultural pursuits; elected as a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention in 1868; member of the State House of Representatives, 1868-1870; was one of the State Commissioners of the sinking fund. Elected State land commissioner in 1870, and served until elected to Congress; presented his credentials as a Republican member elect to the Forty-second Congress, and served from March 4, 1871 until January 24, 1873, when the seat was declared vacant, election having been contested by Christopher C. Bowen, (white); after his retirement from Congress he was local magistrate in Charleston, South Carolina, until his death, in Charleston, February 14, 1874.

Interment in the Brown Fellowship Graveyard.

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HONORABLE ROBERT BROWN ELLIOTT (1842-1884)

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, August 11, 1842. Attended High Hollow Academy, London, England, in 1853, and was graduated from Eton College, England in 1859; studied law, was admitted to the bar, and practiced in Columbia, South Carolina, his adopted state.

Rank: United States Representative.

He was elected as a Republican to the State House of Representatives July 6, 1868, to October 23, 1870; Assistant Adjutant General of South Carolina, 1869-1871; elected as a Republican, to the Forty-second and Forty-third Congress, and served from March 4, 1871 until his resignation, effective November 1, 1874; again elected a member of the state house of representatives 1874-1876, and served as Speaker; unsuccessful candidate for election as Attorney-General of South Carolina in 1876.

General John Sherman, Secretary of the Treasury, appointed him U. S. Special Agent of the Treasury at Charleston, S. C., 1881 and later at New Orleans, Louisiana, soon thereafter he resigned to open his law office, and practiced law until his death in New Orleans, August 9, 1884. Interment in St. Louis Cemetery No. 2.

One of his outstanding principals was his able defense of the Civil Rights Bill, in Congress January 6, 1874.

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HONORABLE BENJAMIN STERLING TURNER (1825-1894)

Born near Weldon, Halifax County, North Carolina, March 17, 1825; received a primary education.

Adopted State: Alabama.

Rank: United States Representative.

Elected tax collector of Dallas County, Alabama, in 1867 and in 1869 elected Councilman of the City of Selma. Elected as a Republican to the Forty-second Congress, and served from March 4, 1871 to March 3, 1873; unsuccessful candidate for re-election in 1872 for the Forty-third Congress; after his retirement from Congress, he engaged in agriculture pursuits.

Died in Selma, Dallas County, Alabama, March 21, 1894; interment in Live Oak Cemetery. He has the distinction of being the first negro elected to the U. S. House of Representatives from Alabama.

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HONORABLE JOSIAH THOMAS WALLS (1842-1905)

Born in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia, December 30, 1842; received a limited schooling. Adopted State: Florida; occupation: truck farmer.

Rank: United States Representative.

In 1868 he was a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention, and served in the State Senate, 1869-1872; elected to the Forty-second Congress, and served from March 1871, to January 29, 1873, when he was succeeded by Silas L. Niblack (white) who contested Mr. Long's election. He was re-elected to the Forty-third Congress, and served from March 4, 1873 to March 3, 1875; presented his credentials as a member-elect to the Forty-fourth Congress and served from March 4, 1875 to April 19, 1876, when he was succeeded by Jesse J. Finley (white) who contested his election in the House of Representatives.

After his term expired he resumed his occupation as truck farmer.

He was the first and only Negro elected to Congress from Florida.

Died in Tallahassee, Florida, May 5, 1905. Interment in the colored cemetery.

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HONORABLE ALONZO JACOB RANSIER (1834-1882)

Born in Charleston, South Carolina, January 3, 1834; received a limited education; employed as a shipping clerk in 1850. Member of a convention of the "Friends of Equal Rights" at Charleston, S. C., in 1865, and was deputed to present the memorial here framed to the Congress of the United States. Elected a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1868 and 1869; elected Presidential Elector from his state for Ulysses S. Grant, for President and Schuyler Colfax, for Vice President.

He was elected Lieutenant Governor of South Carolina in 1870; President of the Southern States Convention of colored men at Columbus, South Carolina in 1871.

Rank: United States Representative.

In 1872 he was elected as a Republican to the Forty-third Congress, and served from March 4, 1873 to March 3, 1875. After his retirement from Congress he was appointed United States Internal Revenue Collector for the second district of South Carolina, in 1875 and 1876; after which he resigned.

Died in Charleston, South Carolina, August 17, 1882; interment in Unity Friendship Cemetery.

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HONORABLE JAMES THOMAS RAPIER (1837-1883)

Born in Florence, Lauderdale County, Alabama, November 13, 1837; educated in private schools in Alabama, and studied in Canada; studied law and was admitted to the bar; taught school; returned to the South and traveled as a correspondent for a Northern newspaper; located in Florence, Alabama and became a cotton-planter; appointed a Notary Public by the Governor in 1866; member of the first Republican Convention held in Alabama, and was one of the Committee that framed the platform; member of the State Constitutional Convention at Montgomery in 1867. Unsuccessful candidate for Secretary of State of Alabama * * * in 1870.

Appointed Assessor of Internal Revenue in 1871; appointed State Commissioner to the Vienna Exposition in 1873, by the Governor of his State; also Commissioner on the part of the United States to the World's Fair, in Paris, France, 1878.

Rank: United States Representative.

Elected as a Republican in 1872 to the United States House of Representatives in the Forty-third Congress and served from March 4, 1873, to March 3, 1875; unsuccessful candidate for re-election in 1874, to the Forty-fourth Congress. He was appointed U. S. Collector of Internal Revenue, second district of Alabama, August 8, 1878, and served until his death in Montgomery, Alabama, May 31, 1883. Interment in Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis, Missouri.

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HONORABLE RICHARD HARVEY CAIN (1825-1887)

Born in Greenbrier County, Virginia, April 12, 1825; moved with his father to Gallipolis, Ohio, in 1831, and attended school; entered the ministry and was a pastor in Brooklyn, New York, from 1861-1865; moved to South Carolina in 1865, and settled in Charleston, S. C. Elected as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of South Carolina in 1868; member of the State Senate 1868-1872; manager and editor of the "Charleston Leader", a strong racial journal. Elected as a Republican to the Forty-third Congress in 1872 and served from March 4, 1873 to March 3, 1875; unsuccessful in the election to Forty-fourth Congress in 1874; re-elected to the Forty-fifth Congress in 1876, and served from March 4, 1877 to March 3, 1879; was not a candidate for re-election in 1878. Being devoted to the ministry, after retirement from Congress, he was elected Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in 1880, and served until his death in Washington, D. C., January 18, 1887; interment in Graceland Cemetery.

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HONORABLE JOHN ROY LYNCH (1847-)

Born near Vidalia, Concordia Parish, Louisiana, September 10, 1847; when he was a child his parents moved to Natchez, Mississippi, where he attended evening schools and was tutored by private instructors; being hungry for education he read with considerable attention the best works published and available at that time on ancient and modern literature; he engaged in the business of daguerotype, (photography) until 1869, when Governor Adelbert Ames (provisional) appointed him a Justice of the peace, for Adams County (Natchez) Mississippi, he held this position until autumn, when he was elected to the State House of Representatives and served from 1869-1871; re-elected and served from 1872-1873; in the latter term, he served as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Elected as a Republican to the Forty-third and Forty-fourth Congress, and served from March 4, 1873, to March 3, 1877; unsuccessful candidate for re-election in 1876 to the Forty-fifth Congress; successfully contested the election of James R. Chalmers (white) to the Forty-seventh Congress, and served from April 29, 1882 to March 3, 1883; unsuccessful candidate for re-election in 1882, to the Forty-eighth Congress; returned to his plantation in Adams County, Mississippi, and engaged in agricultural

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pursuits; Chairman of the State Republican executive committee, 1881-1889; member of the Republican National Committee, for the State of Mississippi, 1884-1889; elected temporary chairman of the Republican National Convention at Chicago, Illinois, 1884, at which time James Gillespie Blaine, of Maine, was nominated for the Presidency; Fourth Auditor of the Treasury for the Navy Department, under President Harrison, 1889-1893; studied law and was admitted to the Mississippi bar in 1896; returned to Washington, D. C., in 1897, where he practiced his profession until 1898 when he was appointed a Major and additional paymaster of Volunteers during the Spanish American War by President McKinley; appointed by President McKinley a paymaster in the Regular Army with rank of Captain in 1901; promoted to Major in 1906; retired from age by operation of law in 1911, and is a resident of Chicago, Illinois.

During his service in Congress he was present to vote the admission of Colorado into statehood and to become a sister State in the Federal Union in 1876. Also the Civil Rights Bill of 1875.

HONORABLE BLANCHE KELSO BRUCE (1841-1898)

Born near Farmville, Prince Edward County, Virginia, March 1, 1841; received his primary education through private instructions; taught school for a short while in Hannibal Missouri, and later attended Oberlin College, Ohio, where he pursued an elective course; after the Civil War he went to Mississippi, in 1868, and entered public life in that State and became a planter; in 1870 he was appointed sergeant-at-arms of the State Senate, later he was elected Sheriff and Tax Collector (both were consolidated) of Bolivar County in 1872-1875; also a member of the Mississippi Levee Board. In 1874 he was elected as a Republican to the United States Senate, and served his full term, beginning March 4, 1875 to March 3, 1881, when he retired, having the honor and distinction of being the first colored man to ever serve one full term in the highest council of the nation, the American Political Classics. He served in the Forty-fourth, Forty-fifth and Forty-sixth Congresses inclusive.

He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention held in Chicago, Ill., June 2-8, 1880, at which time he was nominated for Vice President (on the ticket with James A. Garfield) and received eight votes for Vice President; he was also a delegate to the Republican National Convention that met in Chicago June 19-24, 1888, and was

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nominated for Vice President (on the ticket with Benjamin Harrison) and received eleven votes for the Vice Presidency.

President James A. Garfield, appointed him Register of the United States Treasury May 19, 1881, and he served until 1885; President Benjamin Harrison appointed him Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia in 1891, and he served until 1893.

President William McKinley appointed him his second term as Register of the Treasury in 1897 and he held the office until his death in Washington, D. C., March 1, 1898. Interment in Woodlawn Cemetery.

During his term as U. S. Senator, he was present to vote the admission of the State of Colorado into the Federal Union in 1876.

HONORABLE JEREMIAH HARALSON (1846-1916)

Born on a plantation, near Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia, April 1, 1846, self educated; moved to Alabama, and engaged in agricultural pursuits; became a minister of the gospel.

Elected as a member of the State House of Representatives in 1870; elected to the State Senate in 1872; unsuccessful candidate for election in 1868 to the Forty-first Congress; elected as a Republican to the Forty-fourth Congress and served from March 4, 1875, to March 3, 1877; afterwards he resigned. Appointed U. S. Custom Inspector in Baltimore, Maryland, 1878, and served until 1882, when he resigned, and was appointed as a clerk in the Interior Department, Washington, and later to the Pension Bureau, Washington, until his resignation August 21, 1884; moved to Louisiana, thence to Arkansas, in 1904; moved to Alabama again and settled in Selma in 1912; moved to Texas and later to Oklahoma and Colorado, and engaged in coal-mining in the latter State; killed by wild beasts near Denver, Colorado, about 1916.

While serving his term in Congress, he was present to vote the admission of Colorado into statehood and to become a sister state in the Federal Union in 1876.

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HONORABLE JOHN ADAMS HYMAN (1840-1891)

Born near Warrenton, Warren County, North Carolina, July 23, 1840; when a youth, was sent to Alabama against his will; returned to his native State after the Civil War; pursued elementary studies; entered the politics of his State, and was elected as a delegate to the State Equal Rights Convention in 1865; and a delegate to the Constitutional Convention in 1868; elected as a member of the State Senate, 1868-1874; elected as a Republican to the Forty-fourth Congress and served from March 4, 1875 to March 3, 1877; unsuccessful candidate for renomination to the Forty-fifth Congress in 1876; retired and engaged in agricultural pursuits; appointed U. S. Special Deputy Collector of Customs for the Fourth district of North Carolina from July 1, 1877 to June 30, 1878; resided in Washington, D. C., until his death September 14, 1891; interment in Harmony Cemetery. He had the distinction of being the first negro elected to the U. S. House of Representative from North Carolina.

While serving his term in Congress he was present to vote the admission of Colorado into statehood and to become a sister state in the Federal Union.

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HONORABLE CHARLES EDMUND NASH (1848-1913)

Born in Opelousas, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, May 23, 1844; educated in the common schools; during the Civil War he entered the U. S. Army as a private, in the Eighty-second regiment, United States Volunteers, "Classeur's d' Afrique", and for gallant and heroic acts at Fort Blakely, Alabama, in which he lost a leg; he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant-Major and was honorably discharged. In 1865 he was appointed U. S. Inspector of Customs in Louisiana.

Elected as a Republican to the Forty-fourth Congress, and served from March 4, 1875, to March 3, 1877, unsuccessful candidate for re-election in 1876 to the Forty-fifth Congress; after his term expired, he retired. In 1882 he was appointed Postmaster at Washington, St. Landry Parish, Louisiana, which position he held for some time, when he resigned and moved to New Orleans, where he resided until his death June 21, 1913; interment in St. Louis Cemetery No. 3.

During his term in Congress he was present to vote the admission of the State of Colorado into statehood and to sisterhood in the Federal Union in 1876.

He has the distinction of being the only Negro elected and seated in the House of Representatives from Louisiana.

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HONORABLE ROBERT SMALLS (1839-1915)

Born in Beaufort, South Carolina, April 5, 1839; self educated; in 1851 he moved to Charleston, S. C., where he worked as a "rigger" and thus became familiar with ships and the life of a sailor, he first became connected with the "Planter" a steamer lying in the harbor of Charleston as a transport in 1861.

On May 13, 1862, he took the Confederate steamboat "Planter" (the special dispatch boat of General Ripley, the Confederate post-commander at Charleston, S. C.) from the wharf at which she was lying and piloted the vessel safely out of Charleston Harbor, with his crew of eight colored men, and delivered his vessel to one of the vessels of the Federal fleet, which was then blockading the port of Charleston; he ran the gauntlet by heroic skill and passed his vessel before the guns of the Confederates at Fort Sumpter, before he was detected; he was given the rank of Captain in the U. S. Navy, and acted as Pilot on the "Planter", and the "Crusader", he was also pilot of the U. S. Monitor "Keokuk" in the memorable attack on Fort Sumpter, by the Federal fleet April 7, 1863; he was later put in charge of "Light House Inlet", as pilot; in December, 1863, he was "ordered to act as captain of the Planter." In September, 1866, he carried the vessel to Baltimore, where she was put out of commission and sold. In 1864, his salary was \$150.00 per month, the highest salaried Negro in the

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United States. For gallant and meritorious conduct he was "promoted to the rank of Captain in the Navy, December 1, 1863." * * *

After the Civil War ended he entered politics and was elected a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1868, and served in the State House of Representatives in 1868; elected a member of the State Senate 1870-1872. Elected in 1874 to the Forty-fourth Congress and served from March 4, 1875 to March 3, 1877; in 1876 was re-elected to the Forty-fifth Congress and served from March 4, 1877 to March 3, 1879; unsuccessful candidate for re-election to the Forty-sixth Congress, in 1879 successfully contested the election of George D. Tillman (white, brother of the late U. S. Senator Benjamin Ryan Tillman), to the Forty-seventh Congress; again elected to the Forty-eighth Congress to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Edmund W. Mackey (white); re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress and served from March 3, 1884, to March 3, 1887; unsuccessful candidate for re-election in 1886 to the Fiftieth Congress. In 1897 President McKinley appointed him Collector of the Port of Beaufort, South Carolina, which position he held continuously until the Democratic Administration under President Wilson in 1913.

He died in Beaufort, S. C., February 22, 1915; interment in the Tabernacle Baptist Church Cemetery.

During his term in Congress he was present to vote for the admission of Colorado into statehood and to join the Federal Union in 1876; and he was the first Negro to serve as a Republican in a Democratic Administration—Grover Cleveland's first term.

HONORABLE JAMES EDWARD O'HARA (1844-1905)

Born in New York City, February 26, 1844; pursued an academic course; studied law in North Carolina, and at Howard University, Washington, D. C., 1872; engrossing clerk in the State Constitutional Convention of North Carolina in 1868; also in the State House of Representatives, 1868-1869; chairman of the Board of Commissioners for Halifax County, in 1872-1876; was admitted to the State bar in 1873, and practiced his profession; elected a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1875; was nominated as a Republican for the Forty-sixth Congress, but he was unsuccessful in the contest before the House of Representatives; elected as a Republican to the Forty-eighth and Forty-ninth Congresses, and served from March 4, 1883 to March 3, 1887; unsuccessful candidate for re-election in 1886 to the Fiftieth Congress; he resumed the practice of his profession in New Berne, North Carolina, and died there September 15, 1905; interment in Greenwood Cemetery.

He was one of the few colored men that served in the first Democratic administration under President Grover Cleveland.

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HONORABLE HENRY PLUMMER CHEATHAM (1857-1935)

Born near Henderson, Granville (now Vance) County, North Carolina, December 27, 1857. Attended the public schools, and was graduated from Shaw University, Raleigh, N. C., in 1883; principal of the State Normal School for colored students at Plymouth, N. C., 1883-1884; Register of Deeds of Vance County, 1884-1888; studied law, but did not practice.

Rank: United States Representative.

Elected as a Republican to the Fifty-first and Fifty-second Congress, and served from March 4, 1889 to March 3, 1893; unsuccessful candidate for re-election in 1892 to the Fifty-third Congress. In 1897 President McKinley appointed him Recorder of Deeds, for the District of Columbia, and served from 1897-1901, when he resigned. Moved to Oxford, North Carolina in 1907; became superintendent of the North Carolina Colored Orphanage at Oxford in 1907, which he helped to found in 1887; elected president of the "Negro Association of North Carolina."

Died October 29, 1935.

While serving in Congress he was present to vote for the following states to come into statehood and join the Federal Union: North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington, 1889 respectively, and Idaho and Wyoming in 1890 respectively.

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HONORABLE JOHN MERCER LANGSTON (1829-1897)

Born in Louisa, Louisa County, Virginia, December 14, 1829. Attended the common schools in Ohio, and graduated from the Literary Department of Oberlin College in 1849, and from the Theological Department in 1852; studied law in Elyria, Ohio. Assisted in recruiting colored men in the Fifty-fourth and Fifty-fifth Massachusetts Regiments during the Civil War.

Appointed Inspector-general of the Bureau of Freedmen, Refugees, and abandoned Lands in 1868. Practiced law in Washington, D. C., dean of the law department of Howard University 1869-1876; appointed and commissioned by President Grant, a member of the Board of Health of the District of Columbia in 1871. Elected vice-president and acting president of Howard University in 1872. Appointed by President Hayes, minister resident and consul general to Haiti, and charge d'affaires to Santo Domingo, Sept. 28, 1877. Elected president of the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, Petersburg, Virginia, in 1875. Successfully contested as a Republican the election of Edward C. Venable (white) to the Fifty-first Congress, and served from September 23, 1890 to March 3, 1891; unsuccessful candidate for re-election in 1890 to the Fifty-second Congress.

Died in Washington, D. C., November 15, 1897. Interment in Woodlawn Cemetery. He was the first and only Negro Representative from Virginia elected to Congress, and the only Negro who was a Congressman and a foreign diplomat.

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HONORABLE THOMAS EZEKIEL MILLER (1849-)

Born in Ferrebeeveville, Beaufort County, South Carolina, June 17, 1849; attended the public schools in Charleston, S. C., and Hudson, New York; was graduated from Lincoln University, Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1872; School Commissioner of Beaufort, S. C., in 1872; studied law, and admitted to the bar in 1875, and practiced his profession in Beaufort; member of the State executive committee, 1878-1880; elected a member of the State Senate in 1880. He successfully contested the election of William Elliott (white) to the Fifty-first Congress and served from September 24, 1890, to March 3, 1891; he was an unsuccessful candidate for re-election in 1890 to the Fifty-second Congress; elected a member of the State Constitutional Convention in 1895; elected president of the State Colored College in Orangeburg, South Carolina, and served from 1896 to 1911, when he retired. He resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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HONORABLE GEORGE WASHINGTON MURRAY (1853-1926)

Born near Rembert, Sumpter County, South Carolina, September 22, 1853; educated in the public schools of his State, and the University of South Carolina, at Columbia; taught school for fifteen years. U. S. Inspector of Customs at the port of Charleston, S. C., 1890-1892.

Rank: United States Representative; elected as a Republican to the Fifty-third Congress, and served from March 1893 to March 3, 1895; successfully contested the election of William Elliott (white) to the Fifty-fourth Congress, and served from June 4, 1896 to March 3, 1897, after which he retired and engaged in the real estate business; moved to Chicago, Illinois in 1905 and engaged in literary pursuits and lecturing.

Died in Chicago, Ill., April 21, 1926; interment in Lincoln Cemetery.

During his term in Congress he was present to vote the admission of the State of Utah into statehood and to become a State in the Federal Union in 1896.

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HONORABLE GEORGE HENRY WHITE (1852-1918)

Born in Rosindale, Bladen County, North Carolina, December 18, 1852; attended public schools and was graduated from Howard University, Washington, D. C., in 1877; studied law, and was admitted to the bar in 1879, and commenced his practice in New Berne, N. C., principal of the State Normal School of North Carolina; served in the State House of Representatives in 1880; member of the State Senate 1884; solicitor and prosecuting attorney for the second judicial district of North Carolina.

Rank: United States Representative.

Elected as a Republican to the Fifty-fifth and and Fifty-sixth Congress and served from March 4, 1897 to March 3, 1901. Resumed the practice of law and also engaged in banking.

Died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, December 28, 1918. Interment in Eden Cemetery.

He was the last of the group of twenty-two colored men who for thirty-one years (1870-1901) kept almost continuously one of their race in the Halls of Congress, among the American Political Classics.

He was a member present when Congress declared War on Spain, April 25, 1898.

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HONORABLE OSCAR DePRIEST (1871-)

Born in Florence, Alabama, March 9, 1871; family moved to Kansas in 1878; attended public schools in Salina and the Salina Normal School (business department); painter and decorator by trade. Adopted State: Chicago, Illinois, where he established his trade and opened a real estate office in 1889-1909; served as County Commissioner of Cook County, 1894-1904; elected a member of the City Council of Chicago, 1916-17; served one term as Alderman; appointed Commissioner under Mayor William Hale Thompson, 1912-22.

Rank: United States Representative.

On November 6, 1928, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives as a Republican, to the 71st Congress; and re-elected to the 72nd Congress, November 4, 1930; and re-elected to the 73rd Congress November 8, 1932, and served from December 3, 1928 to June 18, 1934, unsuccessful candidate for the 74th Congress, November 6, 1934, and an unsuccessful candidate November 3, 1936 for the 75th Congress. He was the first colored man elected to the City Council of Chicago, and the first to be elected to Congress from a Northern State; and the first to be elected and seated since the late George H. White, of North Carolina, who retired from Congress March 3, 1901.

Mr. DePriest resides in Chicago, Illinois.

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HONORABLE ARTHUR W. MITCHELL (1886-)

Born on a farm in Randolph County, Alabama, December 22, 1886; attended the public schools until fourteen years of age, later attended Tuskegee Institute; taught in the public schools of Georgia and Alabama; attended Talladega College, Talladega, Alabama, and Harvard and Columbia Universities; established the Armstrong Agriculture College and served for 10 years as president, without salary; studied law, was admitted to the bar and practiced in Washington, D. C.; moved to Chicago, Illinois in 1928 and continued the practice of law; in 1934 he was nominated and elected as a new deal Democrat to the Seventy-fourth Congress, November 6, 1934, and re-elected to the Seventy-fifth Congress, November 3, 1936, with term beginning January 3, 1935, to January 3, 1939.

He has the distinction of being the first Negro ever elected to the Congress of the United States as a Democrat, also the second colored man elected to Congress from a Northern State, or North of the Mason and Dixon line.

Coincidentally, both colored men that have been elected to Congress from the State of Illinois are natives of Alabama; both live in the same Congressional District (First) of their adopted city and state; incidentally one is a Republican, the other a Democrat; each one served more than two terms in Congress. Mr. DePriest served three terms in succession. Mr. Mitchell is serving his second.

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