

Freedom's Lawmakers

A Directory of Black Officeholders
during Reconstruction

ERIC FONER

REFERENCE LIBRARY
SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES & HISTORY

*Published in cooperation with the
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
New York*

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
New York 1993 Oxford

10704

62. A Presbyterian minister, he served as a chaplain in the 26th U.S. Colored Infantry during the Civil War. After the war, he preached as a Methodist minister.

In 1865, Randolph applied for a position with the Freedmen's Bureau, writing, "I don't ask position or money. But I ask a place where I can be most useful to my race." Sent to South Carolina by the American Missionary Association, Randolph, with the Reverend E. J. Adams, founded and edited the *Charleston Journal* in 1866 and was associate editor of the *Charleston Advocate* in the following year. A Union League organizer and assistant superintendent of schools for the Freedmen's Bureau, Randolph was vice president of the Republican state executive committee, 1867, and was elected chairman of the Republican state committee by the party convention of 1868. One white Republican described him as "quite a speaker and a good man, but totally unfit for that position."



Benjamin Randolph

Randolph represented Orangeburg County in the constitutional convention of 1868 and in the state Senate and as county schools commissioner in the same year. At the constitutional convention, he said: "My radicalism consists in believing one thing; that 'God created all nations to dwell upon the earth.'" He proposed that the constitution authorize the legislature, as of 1875, to make literacy a qualification for voting. Accused by Democrats of making "incendiary speeches," Randolph was assassinated by the Ku Klux Klan in October 1868 while campaigning for the Republican party in Abbeville County.

See also Figure 3

Robert H. Woody, *Republican Newspapers of South Carolina* (Charlottesville, Va., 1936), 12. John W. Morris to William Claflin, 14 September 1868, William E. Chandler Papers, Library of Congress. Dorothy Sterling, ed., *The Trouble They Seen* (Garden City, N.Y., 1976), 80. Robert C. Morris, *Reading, Writing, and Reconstruction: The Education of Freedmen in the South, 1861-1870* (Chicago, 1981), 104. *Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention of South Carolina* (2 vols.: Charleston, 1868), I, 99, 354. Juanita D. Fletcher, "Against the Consensus:

Oberlin College and the Education of American Negroes, 1835-1900" (unpub. diss., American University, 1974), 255. Bailey, *Senate*, II, 1336. Abbott, "County Officers," 31. Holt, *Black over White*, app. Oberlin College Archives.

Randolph, J. W. (dates unknown)

Mississippi. Mulatto.

Represented Sunflower and LeFlore counties in Mississippi House of Representatives, 1874-75.

See Figure 6

Satcher, *Mississippi*, 206.

Ransier, Alonzo J. (1834-1882)

South Carolina. Born free. Mulatto. Literate. Clerk, editor.



Born in Charleston, possibly the child of immigrants from Haiti, Ransier worked before the Civil War as a clerk with a leading shipping house. He attended the South Carolina black convention of 1865 and was one of the delegation chosen to present its memorial to Congress. In 1866, he was associate editor of the *South Carolina Leader*. Ransier represented Charleston at the constitutional convention of 1868 and in the state House of Representatives, 1868-70, where he chaired the committee on privileges and elections. He also served as a presidential elector in 1868, and was also a registrar; Charleston County auditor, 1869-70; and a trustee of the state orphan asylum. In 1868, Ransier was chosen to succeed Benjamin F. Randolph as chairman of the state Republican party after Randolph's assassination. In 1869, he obtained a charter for the Amateur Literary and Fraternal Association of Charleston. The following year, Ransier was among those demanding more offices for blacks and was elected lieutenant governor, serving to 1872. In 1872, Ransier was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and served for one term, 1873-75.

Ransier attended the state labor convention of 1869. According to the census of 1870, he owned \$550 in real estate, but in 1872 he paid taxes on real estate valued at \$7,857. He was secretary of the black-owned Enterprise Railroad. In an 1870 speech in predominantly white Spartanburg County, Ransier

de
pa
po
sei
for
sev
wh
he
be
leg
cri
int
for
wa
sus
ho
pl
Ho
13
Da
Ne
Wi
Fo

Ra

Or
Re
ba
Jol
co
ac
un
18
Sa
att
sei
Ar

Portrait Photo Credits

- Alexander, James M. Henry E. Huntington Library.
- Allain, Théophile T. William J. Simmons, *Men of Mark: Eminent, Progressive and Rising* (Cleveland, Ohio, 1887), 208.
- Allen, Richard The Institute of Texan Cultures, San Antonio.
- Andrews, William J. *The Crisis*, February 1917.
- Antoine, Felix C. Ephie A. Williams, S. W. Green, and Joseph L. Jones, *History and Manual of the Colored Knights of Pythias* (Nashville, Tenn., 1917), 975.
- Armstrong, Josiah H. Richard R. Wright, Jr., *Centennial Encyclopedia of the African Methodist Episcopal Church* (Philadelphia, 1916), 164.
- Becker, Martin F. Dr. Nellie Becker-Slaton.
- Bland, James W. D. Luther P. Jackson, *Negro Office-Holders in Virginia, 1865-1895* (Norfolk, 1945), 60.
- Bouey, Harrison N. William J. Simmons, *Men of Mark: Eminent, Progressive and Rising* (Cleveland, Ohio, 1887), 952.
- Boulden, Jesse F. Simmons, op cit., 721.
- Branch, Tazewell Jackson, op cit., 67.
- Brisby, William H. Jackson, op cit., 82.
- Brown, William Southern University.
- Bruce, Blanche K. Library of Congress.
- Cain, Richard H. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
- Campbell, Israel S. Albert W. Pegues, *Our Baptist Ministers and Schools* (Springfield, Mass., 1891), 101.
- Campbell, Tunis G. Tunis G. Campbell, *The Hotel Keepers, Head Waiters, and Housekeepers' Guide* (Boston, 1848), frontispiece.
- Cardozo, Francis L. Simmons, op cit., 433.
- Carter, Peter J. Jackson, op cit., 52.
- Chester, T. Morris Leslie Pinckney Hill Library, Cheyney University.
- Cook, George F. T. *The Crisis*, January 1913.
- Corbin, Joseph C. Simmons, op cit., 840.
- Councill, William H. *Alexander's Magazine*, 15 September 1905.
- Cox, John Cook Collection, Valentine Museum.
- Crosby, John O. Simmons, op cit., 432.
- Crump, Josiah Jackson, op cit., 27.
- Cuney, Norris W. Maude Cuney Hare, *Norris Wright Cuney: A Tribune of the Black People* (New York, 1913), frontispiece.
- Curtis, A. H. Charles O. Boothe, *The Cyclopediu of the Colored Baptists of Alabama: Their Leaders and Their Work* (Birmingham, Ala., 1895), 19.
- Dawson, John M. Jackson, op cit., 11.
- Dejoie, Aristide C. C. Dejoie, Jr.
- Delaney, McDowell Jackson, op cit., 68.
- Delany, Martin R. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
- DeLarge, Robert G. Library of Congress.
- Dorsey, A. W. Williams et al., op cit., 978.
- Dunn, Oscar J. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
- Edwards, Ballard T. Jackson, op cit., 77.
- Elliott, Robert B. Library of Congress.
- Ellison, Stewart Elizabeth Reid Murray and Anne Ray Williamson.
- Finch, William Edward R. Carter, *The Black Side: A Partial History of the Business, Religious and Educational Side of the Negro in Atlanta, Georgia* (Atlanta, 1894), 72.
- Forrester, Richard G. Jackson, op cit., 85.
- Galloway, Abram William Still, *The Underground Railroad* (Philadelphia, 1872), 150.
- Gayles, George W. Simmons, op cit., 593.
- Gibbs, Jonathan Moorland-Spingarn Research Center, Howard University.
- Gibbs, Mifflin W. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
- Hamilton, Ross Jackson, op cit., vi.
- Haralson, Jeremiah Library of Congress.
- Havis, Ferdinand Clement Richardson, *The National Cyclopedia of the Colored Race* (Montgomery, Ala., 1919), 97.
- Hayne, Henry Boston Public Library.
- Heard, William H. William H. Heard, *From Slavery to the Bishopric in the A.M.E. Church* (Philadelphia, 1924), 14-15.
- Hill, John H. Jackson, op cit., 56.
- Hodges, Charles E. Jackson, op cit., 31.
- Hodges, Willis A. I. Garland Penn, *The Afro-American Press, and Its Editors* (Springfield, Mass., 1891), 82.
- Hood, James W. William N. Hartshorn, *An Era of Progress and Promise, 1863-1910* (Boston, 1910), 395.
- Houston, Ulysses L. James M. Simms, *The First Colored Baptist Church in North America* (Philadelphia, 1888) 131.
- Hyman, John A. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
- Jacobs, Henry P. Pegues, op cit., 281.

- King, Horace John W. Gibson and William H. Crogman, *The Colored American from Slavery to Honorable Citizenship* (Naperville, Ill., 1903), 257.
- Landry, Pierre Henry D. Northrup, Joseph R. Gay, and I. Garland Penn, *The College of Life or Practical Self-Education* (1900), 112.
- Langston, John M. Mifflin W. Gibbs, *Shadow and Light: An Autobiography* (Washington, D.C., 1902), 70.
- Lapsley, Daniel L. Walter R. Vaughan, *Vaughan's 'Freedmen's Pension Bill'* (Chicago, 1891), 175.
- Leary, John S. Simmons, op cit., 433.
- Lewey, Matthew M. Hartshorn, op cit., 444.
- Lewis, James Simmons, op cit., 955.
- Lipscomb, James F. Jackson, op cit., 31.
- Long, Jefferson Library of Congress.
- Lynch, John R. Simmons, op cit., 1057.
- Mattocks, J. H. William H. Quick, *Negro Stars in All Ages of the World*, 2d ed. (Richmond, 1898), 196.
- Menard, John W. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
- Miller, Thomas E. J. J. Pipkin, *The Story of a Rising Race: The Negro in Revelation, in History and in Citizenship* (1902), 446.
- Montgomery, Benjamin Library of Congress.
- Morgan, Peter G. Jackson, op cit., 11.
- Murrell, William *Harper's Weekly*, 3 March 1866.
- Murrell, William, Jr. Penn, op cit., 139.
- Myers, Cyrus Gibson and Crogman, op cit., 618.
- Napier, James C. *Alexander's Magazine*, 15 July 1905.
- Nash, William B. *Scribner's Magazine*, May 1895.
- Nelson, Richard Penn, op cit., 275.
- Nickens, Armistead S. Jackson, op cit., 60.
- Norton, Daniel M. Jackson, op cit., 31.
- Norton, Robert Jackson, op cit., 52.
- O'Hara, James Regenstein Library, University of Chicago.
- Paige, Richard G. L. Jackson, op cit., 27.
- Patterson, Samuel J. Richard Bailey.
- Perkins, Caesar Jackson, op cit., 68.
- Perkins, Fountain M. Jackson, op cit., 77.
- Pinchback, Pinckney B. S. Library of Congress.
- Rainey, Joseph H. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
- Randolph, Benjamin F. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
- Ransier, Alonzo J. Library of Congress.
- Rapier, James T. James G. Blaine, *Twenty Years of Congress* (Norwich, Conn., 1884-86), II, 304.
- Revels, Hiram Library of Congress.
- Reynolds, John T. J. A. Whitted, *A History of the Negro Baptists of North Carolina* (Raleigh, 1908), 123.
- Ruby, George T. Texas State Archives.
- Sampson, John P. Penn, op cit., 89.
- Simkins, Paris Orville V. Burton.
- Simmons, Robert H. James W. Hood, *One Hundred Years of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church* (New York, 1895), 302.
- Simms, James M. Simmons, op cit., 163.
- Smalls, Robert Library of Congress.
- Smythe, John H. Simmons, op cit., 618.
- Spelman, James J. Simmons, op cit., 955.
- Stevens, William N. Jackson, op cit., 27.
- Steward, Theophilus G. Theophilus G. Steward, *Fifty Years in the Gospel Ministry* (Philadelphia, 1921), frontispiece.
- Straker, Daniel A. Penn, op cit., 445.
- Stringer, Thomas W. Williams et al., op cit., 47.
- Swails, Stephen U.S. Army Military History Institute, Carlisle Barracks, Penn.
- Syphax, John B. Jackson, op cit., 52.
- Teamoh, George Library of Congress.
- Turner, Benjamin Library of Congress.
- Turner, Henry M. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
- Turner, J. Milton Lincoln University, Jefferson City.
- Turpin, Henry Jackson, op cit., 31.
- Tyler, Mansfield Pegues, op cit., 494.
- Walker, Thomas William H. Ferris, *The African Abroad; or His Evolution in Western Civilization* (New Haven, Conn., 1913), facing 882.
- Wallace, John John Wallace, *Carpetbag Rule in Florida* (Jacksonville, Fla., 1888), title page.
- Walls, Josiah T. Library of Congress.
- Whipper, William J. Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.
- White, James T. Simmons, op cit., 593.
- Williams, Benjamin F. Texas State Archives.
- Williams, Henry Jackson, op cit., 85.
- Williamson, John H. Penn, op cit., 181.
- Wilson, Joseph T. Penn, op cit., 175.
- Wright, Jonathan J. *Harper's Weekly*, 5 March 1870.