

READING

Black Officeholders in the South

The following seven tables provide information about the numbers of African American officeholders in the South during Reconstruction and the backgrounds of those officeholders.¹

TABLE 1: Black Officeholders during Reconstruction by State

Alabama	173	Missouri	1
Arkansas	46	North Carolina	187
District of Columbia	11	South Carolina	316
Florida	58	Tennessee	20
Georgia	135	Texas	49
Louisiana	210	Virginia	85
Mississippi	226	Total	1,510*

*Historians estimate the total number of Black officeholders is closer to 2,000, but these numbers reflect only those for whom definite records exist.

¹ All data adapted from Eric Foner, *Freedom's Lawmakers: A Directory of Black Officeholders during Reconstruction*, revised ed. (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 1996), xi–xxxii.

TABLE 2: Black Officeholders during Reconstruction: Federal

Ambassador	2
Census Marshal	6
Census Taker	14
Clerk	12
Congressman: Senate	2
Congressman: House of Representatives	14
Customs Appointment	40
Deputy US Marshal	11
Engineer	1
Mail Agent	14
Pensions Agent	1
Postmaster/Post Office Official	43
Register of Bankruptcy	1
Timber Agent	1
US Assessor	10
US Grand Jury	3
US Land Office	5
US Treasury Agent	3
Unidentified Patronage Appointment	2

TABLE 3: Black Members of Congress during Reconstruction

Alabama Jeremiah Haralson James T. Rapier Benjamin S. Turner	Louisiana Charles E. Nash	South Carolina Richard H. Cain Robert C. DeLarge Robert B. Elliott Joseph H. Rainey Alonzo J. Ransier Robert Smalls
Florida Josiah T. Walls	Mississippi Blanche K. Bruce* John R. Lynch Hiram Revels*	
Georgia Jefferson Long	North Carolina John A. Hyman	

*Served in US Senate

TABLE 4: Black Officeholders during Reconstruction: State

Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture	1
Assistant Secretary of State	3
Assistant Superintendent of Education	2
Board of Education	1
Constitutional Convention 1867-69: Delegate	267
Constitutional Convention 1875: Delegate (North Carolina)	7
Deaf and Dumb Asylum, Superintendent	1
Governor	1
Justice of Supreme Court	1
Land Commission, including County Agents (South Carolina)	10
Legislative Clerk	7
Legislator: House of Representatives	683
Legislator: Senate	112
Lieutenant Governor	6
Lunatic Asylum, Assistant Physician	1
Lunatic Asylum, Board of Regents	7
Militia Officer	60
Orphan Asylum, Board of Trustees	6
Secretary of State	9
Speaker of House	4
State Commissioner	5
Superintendent of Education	4
Treasurer	2

TABLE 5: Major Black State Officials during Reconstruction

<p>Governor <i>Louisiana</i> P. B. S. Pinchback</p>	<p>Superintendent of Education <i>Arkansas</i> Joseph C. Corbin</p>	<p>Supreme Court <i>South Carolina</i> Jonathan J. Wright</p>
<p>Lieutenant Governor <i>Louisiana</i> Caesar C. Antoine Oscar J. Dunn P. B. S. Pinchback</p>	<p><i>Florida</i> Jonathan C. Gibbs <i>Louisiana</i> William G. Brown</p>	<p>State Commissioner <i>Arkansas</i> William H. Grey, <i>Commr. of Immigration and State Lands</i></p>
<p><i>Mississippi</i> Alexander K. Davis</p>	<p><i>Mississippi</i> Thomas C. Cardozo</p>	<p>James T. White, <i>Commr. of Public Works</i></p>
<p><i>South Carolina</i> Richard H. Cleaves Alonzo J. Ransier</p>	<p>Speaker of the House <i>Mississippi</i> John R. Lynch Isaac D. Shadd</p>	<p><i>Mississippi</i> Richard Griggs, <i>Commr. of Immigration and Agriculture</i></p>
<p>Treasurer <i>Louisiana</i> Antoine Dubuclet South Carolina Francis L. Cardozo</p>	<p><i>South Carolina</i> Robert B. Elliott Samuel J. Lee</p>	<p><i>South Carolina</i> Robert G. DeLarge, <i>Land Commr.</i> Henry E. Hayne, <i>Land Commr.</i></p>

TABLE 6: Black Officeholders during Reconstruction: County or Local

Assessor	32	Harbor Master	3
Auditor	7	Health Officer	1
Board of Education	79	Inspector	10
Board of Health	1	Jailor	9
Chancery Clerk	1	Judge	11
Charitable Institutions, Supervisor of	1	Jury Commissioner	1
City Attorney	1	Justice of the Peace or Magistrate	232
City Clerk	1	Lumber Measurer	1
City Council	146	Mayor	5
City Marshal	7	Notary Public	5
City Office (unidentified)	3	Ordinary	3
City Public Works Commissioner	2	Overseer of Poor	7
Claims Commissioner	1	Overseer of Roads	1
Clerk	12	Park Commissioner	1
Clerk of Court	24	Police Officer	71
Clerk of Market	2	Recorder	9
Constable	41	Register of Bankruptcy	1
Coroner	33	Register of Deeds	2
County Attorney	1	Register of Mesne Conveyances	1
County Clerk	2	Registrar	116
County Commissioner	113	Sheriff	41
County Superintendent of Schools	14	Solicitor	1
County Treasurer	17	Street Commissioner	5
Deputy Sheriff	25	Streetcar Commissioner	1
Detective	2	Tax Collector	35
District Attorney	1	Trustee	2
District Clerk	1	Warden	4
Election Official	52	Weigher	4

TABLE 7: Antebellum Status of Black Officeholders during Reconstruction

STATE	SLAVE	FREE	BOTH	UNKNOWN
Alabama	42	9	8	114
Arkansas	12	5	3	26
Florida	15	8	2	32
District of Columbia	0	6	2	3
Georgia	20	15	5	95
Louisiana	33	81	2	93
Mississippi	59	28	6	131
Missouri	0	0	1	0
North Carolina	22	34	3	126
South Carolina	131	88	5	91
Tennessee	4	7	2	7
Texas	28	6	4	11
Virginia	21	40	12	12
TOTAL	387	327	55	741