

Reconstruction brought Black legislators to many areas for the first time. Peter H. Clark was the first Black man to sit in the Ohio legislature after the repeal of the Black Laws. Robert Brown Elliott, of South Carolina, was one of the most gifted and able of the Black Reconstruction legislators, serving South Carolina as both a state legislator and a United States congressman. Francis L. Cardozo, who had been educated in Scotland, held various state offices in Reconstruction South Carolina. He later served his state as speaker of its house.

John R. Lynch and John M. Langston were both elected United States Congressmen, from Mississippi and Virginia, respectively. Lynch later served as paymaster to the Army and Langston as minister to Haiti.

John Rock had the distinction of being, in 1865, the first Black, lawyer admitted to practice before the Supreme Court.

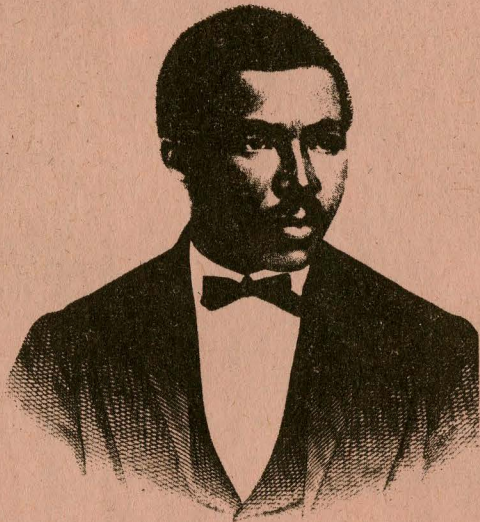
James T. Rapier, outstanding Alabama Reconstructionist, served in his state's constitutional convention in 1867. In 1872 he was elected to the United States Congress, where he served one term. Henry M. Turner, a Georgia post-war public servant, was a member of the state constitutional convention and a state legislator; later he was made a bishop in the A.M.E. Church. He also served as postmaster of Macon, Georgia, as a customs inspector and as a government detective.

John P. Green was elected to the Ohio legislature in 1881; he was one of the few Blacks to hold office after the collapse of Reconstruction in 1877.

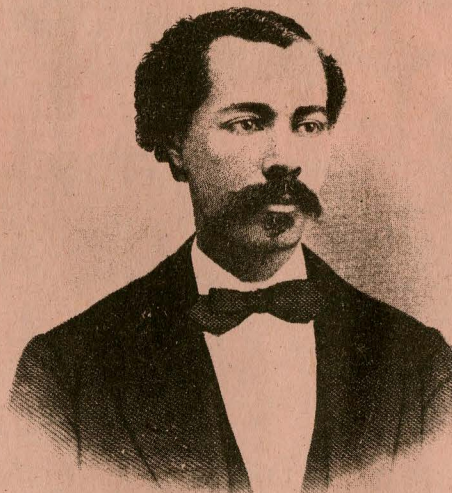
Hiram Revels was the first Black to serve

in the United States Senate. Revels was appointed by the Mississippi legislature to fill the unexpired term of former President of the Confederacy Jefferson Davis. Blanche K. Bruce served one complete term in the United States Senate, representing the state of Mississippi.

Jefferson F. Long, of Georgia, was the first legally recognized Black member of the United States House of Representatives. J. Willis Menard was the first Black man listed as a United States congressman, but the election was disputed and Menard was never seated.



Robert B. Elliott



John R. Lynch



Francis L. Cardozo

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Many Black American jurists have made lasting contributions to the civil rights cause. Perhaps the most important of these contributors is Justice Thurgood Marshall, who has dedicated his entire professional life to the courtroom battle for civil rights. An outstanding constitutional lawyer, Marshall became director of the NAACP's Legal Defense and Educational Fund in 1939. He and his team of lawyers won civil rights decision after civil rights decision before the Supreme Court during the Warren era. Perhaps the most famous of these cases was the landmark school desegregation victory of *Brown v. The Topeka Board of Education* in 1954. In 1962 President Kennedy appointed Justice Marshall to the bench of the United States Court of Appeals for the second circuit. Subsequently, President Johnson appointed Justice Marshall United States Solicitor General, and in 1967 Marshall became the first Black Supreme Court justice.



Thurgood Marshall

Following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the nation's cities experienced a wave of riots such as had not been seen since the 1940's. Although many attempts have been made to alleviate the problems causing racial violence, there have been sporadic recurrences during the 1970's. Parts of New York, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee and Florida have recently been hit by outbursts of racial unrest.

Despite the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his long-planned campaign to unite the poor of all colors at the nation's capital was carried out as scheduled during May and June of 1968. The Poor People's Campaign, as the movement was called, converged upon the Lincoln Memorial grounds and erected a tent city which was named Resurrection City. This campaign brought together poor people from all parts of the country in a concerted effort to confront Congress with their grievances.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference sponsored a march down Broadway, in New York, on April 5, 1971, toward the Wall Street district. The march was a protest that called for the end of the war in Vietnam, the establishment of a \$6,500 guaranteed annual income and the release of all political prisoners in America. About four thousand demonstrators participated in this march, which was led by a mule—a symbol of SCLC since it was used at the funeral of Martin Luther King, Jr.



Demonstrators marching down Broadway in April 1971.



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