

HIRAM RHODES REVELS

(1827-1901)

Born in Fayetteville, Cumberland County, N. C., September 27, 1827. Attended the Quaker Seminary, Union County, Ind., and Drake County Seminary, Ohio, was graduated from Knox College Bloomington, Ill., and was ordained a minister in the AME Church at Baltimore in 1845. Accepted a pastorate in Baltimore in 1860. During the early stages of the Civil War, he assisted in organizing the first colored regiments of soldiers in Maryland to help

serve the Union and served in Vicksburg, Miss., as chaplain of a colored regiment in 1864. He settled in Natchez, Miss., 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 Republican to the United States Senate, served 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.

Served as president of Alcorn Agricultural College, Rodney, Miss., 1876-1882. Appointed district superintendent of the AME Church at Holly Springs, Miss., 1873.

Died in Aberdeen, Miss., January 16, 1901, while attending a church conference.

JOSIAH T. WALLS

(1842-1905)

Born in Winchester Va., December 30, 1842; received a limited education there and moved to Florida where he became a farmer. A member of the Constitutional Convention of Florida in 1868; State Senator 1869-1872. Elected to the Forty-second Congress March 4, 1871; served until 1873; re-elected as a Republican to the Forty-third and Forty-fourth Congresses, served from March 4, 1873, to March 3, 1877.

Upon retirement, he engaged in a successful truck-farming business and died in Tallahassee in 1905.

BENJAMIN STERLING TURNER

(1825-1894)

Born near Weldon, Halifax County, N. C., March 17, 1825; received a primary education; adopted State: Alabama. Elected tax collector of Dallas County, Ala., 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 agricultural pursuits.

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

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GEORGE HENRY WHITE

(1852-1918)

Born in Rosindale, Bladen County, N. C., December 18, 1852; attended public schools and was graduated from

Howard University, Washington in 1877.

Studied law, admitted to the bar in 1879 and commenced his practice in New Bern, N. C. Was principal of N. C. State Normal School, 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.

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

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

He was the last of the group of twenty-two colored men who for thirtyone years (1870-1901) kept almost continuously one of their race in halls of Congress.

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