Visitor’s Gallery Pass for the opening day of the 110th Congress, 2007

Collection of U.S. House of Representatives
Who is OHP?
How can they help you?

- Office of History and Preservation and the Office of the Clerk
- Publication Department
- Archive Department
- House Curator

“The Carr of History”, Marble, Carlo Franzoni, 1819, courtesy of Architect of the Capitol
Our Products:

- Art and History section of the Clerk’s Web site
- Historical Highlights Section
- Tables and Charts
- Major Publications

http://clerk.house.gov/art_history
The Biographical Directory of the United States Congress

http://bioguide.congress.gov
Black Americans in Congress
1870-2007

Due out in September 2008
http://baic.house.gov
Profiles

Former Members ★ 1870–1887

Joseph Hayne Rainey
1832–1887

United States Representative ★ 1870–1879
Republican from South Carolina

Born into slavery, Joseph Rainey was the first African American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, the first African American to preside over the House, and the longest-serving African American during the tumultuous Reconstruction period. While Rainey’s representation—like that of the other 21 black Representatives of the era—was symbolic, he also demonstrated the political nuance of a seasoned, substantive Representative, balancing his defense of southern blacks’ civil rights by extending amnesty to the defeated Confederates. “I tell you that the Negro will never rest until he gets his rights,” he said on the House Floor.

The Confederate Army called Rainey to service when the Civil War broke out in 1861. At first, he dug trenches to fortify the outskirts of Charleston. He later worked as a cook and a steward aboard a blockade runner, a Confederate ship charged with carrying tradable goods through the Union Navy’s blockade of the South. In 1862, he and his wife escaped to Bermuda. The self-governed British colony had abolished slavery in 1834, and proved a hospitable home for the Raineys, who took advantage of the thriving economy and growing population that resulted from the lucrative blockade-running business.³ The Raineys lived in St. George and Hamilton, Bermuda, where Joseph

Oil on canvas, Simmie Knox, 2004,
Collection of U.S. House of Representatives
## Appendices

### Constitutional Amendments and Major Civil Rights Acts of Congress Referenced in the Text

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMENDMENT/ACT</th>
<th>PUBLIC LAW/ U.S. CODE</th>
<th>MAIN PROVISIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thirteenth Amendment</td>
<td>13 Stat. 567;</td>
<td>Abolished slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime. Approved by the 38th Congress (1863–1865) as S.J. Res. 16; ratified by the states on December 6, 1865.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13 Stat. 774–775</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Civil Rights Act of 1866</td>
<td>14 Stat. 27–30</td>
<td>Guaranteed the rights of all citizens to make and enforce contracts and to purchase, sell, or lease property. Passed by the 39th Congress (1865–1867) as S.R. 61.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fourteenth Amendment</td>
<td>14 Stat. 358–359</td>
<td>Declared that all persons born or naturalized in the U.S. were citizens and that any state that denied or abridged the voting rights of males over the age of 21 would be subject to proportional reductions in its representation in the U.S. House of Representatives. Approved by the 39th Congress (1865–1867) as H.J. Res. 127; ratified by the states on July 9, 1868.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifteenth Amendment</td>
<td>16 Stat. 346;</td>
<td>Forbade any state to deprive a citizen of his vote because of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. Approved by the 40th Congress (1867–1869) as S.J. Res. 8; ratified by the states on February 3, 1870.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16 Stat. 40–41</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>First Ku Klux Klan Act</td>
<td>16 Stat. 140–146</td>
<td>Prohibited discrimination in voter registration on the basis of race, color, or</td>
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</tbody>
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Future Publications

- Hispanic Americans in Congress
- Asian Pacific Islander Americans in Congress
- Oral History Website
Frequently Asked Questions

- Information on a former Member
- Assistance obtaining a piece of legislation
- When was the last time . . .
Projects

- How to Research
  - Legislation
  - Members of Congress
  - Images

- Standard Sources
  - House and Senate Journal
  - Congressional Record
  - Research Collections
Resources

- Office of History and Preservation
  B-53 Cannon House Office Bldg
  Washington, DC 20515
  (202) 226-1300, info.clerkweb@mail.house.gov

- Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress, (online)
  http://bioguide.congress.gov

- Biographical Directory of the U.S. Congress (2005 print edition)
