

Timeline of Reconstruction in North Carolina ^[1]

1862

- Union troops win the [Battle of New Bern](#) ^[2] in March. Thousands African Americans seek freedom behind Union lines in New Bern.
- Vincent Colyer sets up night schools for freed people.

1863

- Lincoln issues the [Emancipation](#) ^[3] Proclamation.
- Recruitment of African American soldiers begins.

1864

- [Abraham Galloway](#) ^[4] and four others visit Abraham Lincoln.

1865

- The Thirteenth Amendment, which [abolishes](#) ^[5] slavery in the United States, is approved in January and [ratified](#) ^[6] in December. Congress establishes the [Freedmen's Bureau](#) ^[7] in March.
- The Civil War effectively ends with Lee's surrender at Appomattox on April 9.
- President Lincoln is assassinated on April 15. Vice President Andrew Johnson becomes president.
- President Johnson presents plans for Reconstruction.
- [Freedmen's Convention](#) ^[8] takes place in Raleigh on September 29.
- North Carolina holds a constitutional convention on October 2.
- Congress refuses to readmit North Carolina in December.
- States enact Black Codes.

1866

- The Ku Klux Klan is created in Tennessee.
- Congress approves the Fourteenth Amendment.
- North Carolina refuses to ratify the Fourteenth Amendment.
- Radical Republicans gain control in Congress.
- Congress expands the Freedmen's Bureau's responsibilities and powers.

1867

- The Reconstruction Acts are passed over Johnson's [veto](#) ^[9], initiating Congressional Reconstruction.
- [The Union League](#) ^[10] and Abraham Lincoln League become active recruiting black voters in Craven County.

1868

- The Fourteenth Amendment is ratified, entitling all persons born or naturalized ^[11] in the United States to citizenship and equal protection under the laws of the United States.
- North Carolina is readmitted to the Union.
- Andrew Johnson is impeached ^[12] by Congress, but is acquitted by one vote.

1869

- Former Union General Ulysses S. Grant becomes president.
- The Freedman's Bureau leaves North Carolina.

1870

- Hiram Revels ^[13] of Mississippi (born in Fayetteville, North Carolina) is the first African American elected to the United States Senate.
- The Fifteenth Amendment is ratified, granting the right to vote to all male citizens regardless of color or previous condition of servitude.
- Three African American representatives from Craven County are elected to the General Assembly.
- Conservative government is reestablished in North Carolina, "redeeming" the state.

1871

- Governor William Holden ^[14] publishes a list of crimes committed by the Ku Klux Klan.
- Act to Enforce Fourteenth Amendment (Ku Klux Klan Act) is passed in Congress.

1876

- Democrat Zebulon Vance is elected Governor of North Carolina.

1877

- The last federal troops leave South Carolina, effectively ending the Federal government's presence in the South.

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- Andrew Johnson ^[24]

- [Hiram Revels](#) [13]
- [Zebulon Vance](#) [25]

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- [Freedmen's Schools: The school houses are crowded, and the people are clamorous for more](#) [29]
- [The Thirteenth Amendment](#) [30]
- [The Fourteenth Amendment](#) [31]
- [Black Codes in North Carolina](#) [32], 1866
- [Reconstruction](#) [33]

Primary Sources:

[13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Abolition of Slavery \(1865\)](#) [34]

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[14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Civil Rights \(1868\)](#) [35]

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[15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution: Voting Rights \(1870\)](#) [36]

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