

People to Know/Vocabulary

Lesson 23

As You Read

Who:

- *What did this person do for a living?*
- *Where are they from?*

Importance:

- *What did this person accomplish that made a difference then and/or now?*
- *How did they affect others then and/or now?*

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Andrew Johnson

Andrew Johnson (1808-1875) grew up in North Carolina living in extreme poverty. Through hard work he became a successful business person and politician. Although a slave owner, he came to dislike the privileged Southern planters.

In 1864, Democrat Andrew Johnson became vice president but became president after Lincoln's assassination. After the Civil War, Johnson and Congress argued over who controlled reconstruction of the South.

Johnson's racism led him to oppose most Republican backed civil rights legislation. Angry at Johnson's interference, the Republican controlled House of Representatives voted to impeach Johnson. The Senate failed to convict Johnson by one vote.

After the impeachment trial, Johnson lost all political power. However, his resistance to Congressional Reconstruction gave time for the South to find ways to stop civil rights reforms.

Hiram Revels

Hiram Revels (1827-1901) was born in North Carolina as a freeman. He became a minister in 1845. During the Civil War, he fought for the Union in the West along the Mississippi River.

During Reconstruction, Revels moved to Mississippi and served in the state senate. In 1870, the Mississippi legislature appointed Revels to the U.S. Senate making him the first African American Senator in history. Ironically, the seat he filled was formally held by Jefferson Davis, the president of the disbanded Confederacy.

Revels argued for civil rights for African Americans including opportunities for education and employment.

Thaddeus Stevens

Thaddeus Stevens (1792-1868) was born with a club foot—a disability that made him sympathize with the suffering of others. He became a lawyer and a politician. He constantly fought against injustice and the expansion of slavery and encouraged the use of force to bring the South down.

Stevens supported the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery. In addition, he wanted to confiscate property from Confederate leaders and give it to the freedmen.

In reaction to black codes, Stevens helped write and pushed for the ratification of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments. He called for the impeachment of President Andrew Johnson. Except for

Lincoln, Stevens did more to bring about civil rights than anyone from this time period.

VOCABULARY

amnesty:

to forgive people for a political act against a government
The Confederate leaders were given amnesty after the war.

impeach:

to accuse or charge a government official with improper behavior
President Andrew Johnson was impeached by the House of Representatives.