

**STATEMENT OF FACTS  
RELATING TO THE  
ELECTION IN LOUISIANA,  
NOVEMBER 7TH, 1876**

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Statement of Facts Relating to the Election in Louisiana, November 7th, 1876 by E. A. Burke

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**E. A. BURKE**

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RELATING TO THE

ELECTION IN LOUISIANA

NOVEMBER 7TH, 1876.

BY

E. A. BURKE,

OF COUNSEL FOR THE DEMOCRATIC AND CONSERVATIVE PARTY.

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ELECTION IN LOUISIANA.

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*Registration and Election.*

Machinery all in hands of Republicans.

All supervisors, clerks, &c., Republicans, appointed on recommendation of Republican Campaign Committee.

Registration opened August 28; closed October 28.

August 22. Democratic State Central Committee asked that our party should be allowed one clerk. Lieutenant Governor Antoine said he would refer it to the Republican Campaign Committee.

August 30. Reply received, refusing request.

September 1. Burke, chairman Registration and Election Committee, asked equal representation in offices.

Offered to prove existence of vast frauds in 1874.

September 17th. Reply received, refusing request.

Election of 1876 held upon registration of 1874; revised 1876.

Registration of 1874 made by Republican officials.

Five thousand two hundred colored frauds discovered in New Orleans, 1874.

Reported as required by law to Republican officials; none erased, but 2,000 whites erased without notice.

*Character of Registration and Election Officers, 1876.*

Michael Hahn, State Registrar, candidate for Legislature.

H. F. Brennan, Assistant Supervisor, 1st ward, Corporal of Police.

A. J. Brim, Assistant Supervisor, 2d ward, Custom-house Inspector.

P. Creagh, clerk Police Court, 3d ward, appointed by Kellogg.

R. C. Howard, Assistant Supervisor, 4th ward, Custom-house officer.

J. G. Puechtler, Assistant Supervisor, 5th ward, Custom-house officer.

W. J. Moore, Assistant Supervisor, 7th ward, Custom-house officer and candidate for Legislature.

Thomas Leon, Assistant Supervisor, 8th ward, Custom-house officer.

H. C. Bartlett, Assistant Supervisor, 9th ward, Custom-house officer, and candidate for Legislature.

T. H. Rowan, Assistant Supervisor, 10th ward, Custom-house officer.

L. Backers, Assistant Supervisor, 11th ward, police officer.

P. J. Maloney, Assistant Supervisor, 14th ward, Custom-house officer.

W. F. Loan, Assistant Supervisor, 15th ward, Chief of Police.

M. J. Grady, Supervisor for Ouachita, Collector of Internal Revenue.

Philip Joseph, Supervisor for Madison, resident of Mobile, Ala.; indicted in New Orleans for burglary and housebreaking, and a fugitive from justice from Alabama.

J. E. Scott, Supervisor for Claiborne, clerk in New Orleans Post Office, not a resident of Claiborne.

William Fulford, Supervisor for Jackson, not a resident of parish.

R. B. Edgeworth, Supervisor for Plaquemines, Custom-house officer; reputation of a thief; resident of New Orleans.

B. W. Woodruff, Supervisor for Rapides, clerk in New Orleans Post Office, and resident of New Orleans.

J. A. Veazie, Supervisor for Lafayette, killed a man in Lafayette.

Victor Gerodias, Supervisor for St. Tammany, resident of New Orleans.



D. A. Ward, Supervisor for Grant, resident of New Orleans.

F. A. Clover, Supervisor for East Baton Rouge, resident of New Orleans; not a citizen of State; formerly a roper-in for a snake show in New Orleans.

A. W. Kempton, Commissioner, fugitive from justice from Texas.

A. W. Kinchen, Supervisor for Livingston, under indictment for murder.

*Managers Republican Campaign Committee Work had Control over Supervisors.*

B. P. Blanchard, and W. L. Catlin, (see Louisiana Investigation, Senate, 1872, case,) both convicted of fraud and perjury upon the face of their own testimony.

D. J. M. Jewett, under indictment in Shreveport for obtaining money under false pretenses; organizer of Colored Councils of Freedom; all three indicted by grand jury of New Orleans.

Majority violent partisans and unscrupulous men, as is shown by their subsequent conduct.

*Conduct of Officers.*

From commencement of registration to close of election conduct characterized by gross violations of law; arbitrary and unjust rulings, refusal to register citizens entitled thereto; discriminations against whites in favor of colored.

Closing of offices during office hours, when the closing delayed or prevented Democrats from registering.

They were supplied with a force of police in citizens' clothes, who had free access to registration offices, and passed colored men in improperly, and delayed or prevented whites.

Knew of my own knowledge one old white man, aged 55, in third ward, P. Creagh supervisor. Remained in line all of one day from 8 A. M., until 3 P. M. of next, awaiting registry, and during this time Republicans appeared at the office and were registered in six minutes' time.

They refused the United States Supervisor the right to

scrutinize registry, contrary to the United States Statutes and their orders. (See sec. 2017, U. S. Statutes.)

*Concealing Books*

They concealed registration books from United States Supervisors in police stations, in the court-house, and in other places not provided by law.

*Erasures.*

They made erasures of names without notice to United States Supervisors at unseemly hours of the night.

They erased the names of over 9,000 white citizens duly registered and honestly entitled to vote, without due notice, investigation, or proof.

*Polling Places.*

In several parishes they failed to establish polling places in each justice of the peace ward, as required by act 98.

*Depriving Whites of an Opportunity to Register.*

In several parishes they failed and refused to visit localities inhabited by whites, thus depriving them of opportunity to register.

*Poll Lists.*

They caused incorrect poll lists to be printed, omitting a large number of names of the whites.

*Absent from Offices*

They absented themselves from their offices during the period of revision of registration, in violation of law, thus delaying and preventing citizens from correcting and verifying their registration.

*Refusal to Examine Affidavits or Strike off Colored Frauds.*

They refused to examine evidence against colored persons fraudulently registered—8900 affidavits against colored frauds in New Orleans were presented as required by law, both to

State Registrar of votes and to Supervisors ; they refused to receive or consider them.

*Seventh Ward.*

A notable instance was seventh ward, New Orleans, W. J. Moore Supervisor. Vote in 1874 was about fifty Democratic majority.

In 1876 Moore was candidate for Legislature. We proved 247 colored frauds, by affidavits in each case of two respectable citizens, registered voters in the ward. Supervisor refused to erase them. We proved that a large number voted November 7th. Eighty-seven cases were presented to grand jury, and under the advice of Assistant Attorney General Dibble, chairman Republican Campaign Committee, indictments were not found. Over 400 names were surreptitiously entered upon registration of this ward, under duplicate numbers and registration papers issued to different persons under same number.

The Supervisor erased the names of over 200 persons, and 106 such persons made affidavit to having been refused right to vote, attaching to affidavit Democratic ticket and registration papers.

On election day the Supervisor absented himself from the registration office, and could not be found to correct errors or omissions.

On day after election absented himself and could not be found by Commissioners of Poll 3 during twenty-four hours, and then omitted from the poll 332 Democratic and 159 Republican votes, and thus caused 3 Republican representatives to be returned as elected, one of whom being the Supervisor who had made the registration and revision.

*Returning Board.*

Was of counsel representing the Conservative and Democratic candidates before the Louisiana Returning Board; Democratic and Conservative counsel confined themselves to the defense of the parishes attacked by the Republican candidates and officials, and were not afforded time or