

Nash, Charles E. (1844–1913)

Louisiana. Born free. Literate. Mason, cigar maker.

Louisiana's only black Reconstruction Congressman, Nash was born in Opelousas in 1844 and was educated in the common schools there. He was working as a bricklayer in New Orleans when he enlisted in the Union army in 1863, rising to the rank of sergeant in the 82d U.S. Colored Infantry. He lost much of his right leg in the battle of Fort Blakely, Alabama. Nash was appointed a night inspector of customs in 1869, and in 1874 he was elected to serve in the 44th Congress, 1875–77. He was defeated by a Democrat in his bid for reelection. After Reconstruction, Nash served as postmaster at Washington, Louisiana, and then worked as a cigar maker in New Orleans, where he died.

Logan and Winston, *Dictionary*, 471–72. Conrad, *Dictionary*, 595. *Biographical Directory*, 1558.