

SPEAKERS OF SOUTH CAROLINA 1776–2008

**(Original information compiled from official records
by Inez Watson, Clerk of the House, and
maintained by each Clerk thereafter.)**

Second Provincial Congress established an independent government for South Carolina with Unicameral Legislature, Mar. 26, 1776.

James Parsons, Mar. 26, 1776–Oct. 1776.

John Matthews, Dec. 1776–Spring of 1777—(Resigned.)

Thomas Bee, Summer of 1777–Nov. 1778.

Constitution of 1778—provided that legislative authority be vested in a General Assembly consisting of two bodies, a Senate and House of Representatives.

John Matthews, St. George Parish, 1779–end of session—
(Resigned.)

Thomas Farr, Jr., St. Paul's Parish, 1779–1782.

Hugh Rutledge, Charleston, 1782–1785.

John Faucherand Grimke, Charleston, 1785–1787.

John Julius Pringle, Charleston, 1787–1789.

Jacob Read, Charleston, 1789–1795.

Robert Barnwell, Beaufort, 1795–1798.

William Johnson, Jr., Charleston, 1798–1800.

Theodore Gaillard, St. Stephen's Parish, 1800–1802.

Robert Stork, Richland, 1802–1804.

William Cotesworth Pinckney, Charleston, 1804–1805—
(Resigned.)

Joseph Alston, All Saints Parish, 1805–1810.

John Geddes, Charleston, 1810–1814.

Thomas Bennett, Charleston, 1814–1818.

Patrick Noble, Abbeville, 1818–1824.

John Belton O'Neal, Newberry, 1824–1828.

Benjamin Fanuel Dunkin, Charleston, 1828–1830.

Henry Laurens Pinckney, Charleston, 1830–1833—(Resigned.)

Patrick Noble, Abbeville, 1833–1836.

David Lewis Wardlaw, Abbeville, 1836–1842.

William F. Colcock, Prince William's Parish, 1842–1848.

John Izard Middleton, All Saint's Parish, 1848–1850.

- James Simons, Sr., Charleston, 1850–1862.
Alfred P. Aldrich, Barnwell, 1862–1864.
R. B. Boyleston, Fairfield, 1864–1865.
Chas. H. Simonton, Charleston, 1865–1868.
Franklin J. Moses, Scalawag, 1868–1872.
Samuel J. Lee, Aiken Negro, 1872–1874.
R. B. Elliott, Aiken Negro, 1874–1876.
Gen. William H. Wallace, Union, 1876–1877.
John C. Sheppard, Edgefield, 1877–1882.
James Simons, Jr., Charleston, 1882–1890.
John L. M. Irby, Laurens, 1890–1891—(Resigned.)
Ira B. Jones, Lancaster, 1891–1896.
Frank B. Gary, Abbeville, 1896–1901.
William F. Stevenson, Chesterfield, 1901–1903.
Mendel L. Smith, Kershaw, 1903–1907.
Richard S. Whaley, Charleston, 1907–1911.
Mendel L. Smith, Kershaw, 1911–1915.
James A. Hoyt, Richland, 1915–1918—(Resigned.)
Thomas P. Cothran, Greenville, 1918–1921—(Resigned.)
J. B. Atkinson, Spartanburg, 1921–1923.
Thos. S. McMillan, Charleston, 1923–1925.
Edgar A. Brown, Barnwell, 1925–1926.
John K. Hamblin, Union, 1927–1933.
James B. Gibson, Dillon, 1933–1934—(Died 1934.)
Claude A. Taylor, Spartanburg, 1935–1936—(Died 1-21-66.)
Solomon Blatt, Barnwell, 1937–1946—(Died 5-14-86.)
Bruce Littlejohn, Spartanburg, 1947–1949—(Resigned 5-12-49.)
Thomas H. Pope, Newberry, May 12, 1949–1950—(Died 8-23-99.)
Solomon Blatt, Barnwell, 1951–August 1, 1973—(Died 5-14-86.)
Rex L. Carter, Greenville, August 1, 1973–1980.
Ramon Schwartz, Jr., Sumter, 1981–1986—(Resigned 10-1-86.) Robert J. Sheheen, Kershaw—(Elected Speaker 10-1-86.)
Robert J. Sheheen, Kershaw, 1987–1994.
David H. Wilkins, Greenville, 1995–2005—(Elected Speaker 12-6-94, resigned as Speaker effective 6-21-05.) Robert W. Harrell, Jr., Charleston—(Elected Speaker 6-2-05, effective 6-21-05.)
Robert W. Harrell, Jr., Charleston, 2005–