



Influential Figures in Cumberland County History

Learning Objectives

- Identify the names of key figures in Cumberland County and match them to their significant actions
- Analyze and identify the socio-cultural obstacles set before the influential figures, and how the influential figures overcame those obstacles.

Background

- **Captain Robert Adam:** (c 1759 – 1801) Born in Greenock, Scotland, Robert Adam moved to North Carolina and became a merchant in Wilmington and Fayetteville. He founded the Fayetteville Independent Light Infantry on August 23, 1793. He died in 1801 and was buried at Old Cross Creek Cemetery.
- **Hiram Rhodes Revels:** (September 27, 1827—January 16, 1901) Born in Fayetteville, he became the first African American member of the U.S. Congress.
- **Mildred Barrington Poole:** (December 3, 1900 – August 26, 1992) As Fort Bragg's school administrator, she desegregated the schools in 1951, the first school to desegregate in the South, and hired the first Black teacher there.

Discussion Questions

1. Categorize the influential figures into different subjects of their significance. Do you see any similarities between them? What details sort the influential figures apart?
2. Using the provided newspaper articles, analyze the time periods related to your influential figure. What context do they reference in the articles? What do they leave out? How do they represent your influential figure to the audience? Why?

Resources To Check

- Senate Historical Office, "[Senate Stories Hiram Revels: First African American Senator](#)," *United States Senate*, February 2020.
- Hinshaw, Scott, "[Mildred Barrington Poole \(Class of 1921\) and the first desegregated schools in the South](#)," University of North Carolina Greensboro Spartan Stories, February 2019.