

Cumberland County Virginia and its people
The Cumberland County Historical Society
Cumberland County 1833 – pgs. 15 & 16.

Cumberland County was created by the House of Burgess's in 1748 from a part of Goochland. It is bounded N by James river, which separates it from Fluvanna, and Goochland, E by Powhatan, SE and S by the Appomattox which separates it from Amelia and Prince Edward and W by Buckingham. Length 32 ms, mean breadth 10 and area 323 Sp. Ms. The slope of this county is NE and the central part is drained by Willis's River, which empties into the James a few miles above Cartersville. This stream is navigable by boats to Curdsville, a small town in Buckingham. This county is also watered by 4 creeks, which rise in the upper part within 3 or 4 miles of each other, near Rains' Tavern. Bear Branch empties into Willia river; Great Guinea after running about 20 miles in the county empties into the Appomattox; Angle (Angloa) creek is about 12 miles long and Green Creek, about 3, both of which afford much fertile bottom lands: and Little Guniea Creek, all flow into the Appomattox. The Appomattox waters and bounds the southern part of the county from Powhatan to Buckingham, about 30 miles, and the James river on N, by making a considerable bend, bounds and waters about the same distance.

The surface is undulating, and the soil is productive. The staples are indian corn, wheat and tobacco. The latter has been considered the principal article but of late the farmers have turned their attention more to the cultivation of wheat, by which the lands have much improved, and the improvement is still progressing.

Iron and coal have recently been discovered, on the Appomattox near Farmville. The prevailing religious sects are Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists. There are 10 houses of public worship and 4 resident ministers. There are 4 flour manufacturing and a number of grist mills in the county. Population 1820, 11 023 --1830, 11 690. Cumberland belongs to the 8th judicial circuit and 4th district. Taxes paid in 1833 \$2,881.80; in 34, on lots \$59.13; land \$1458.19; 3850 slaves, \$962.50; 2,161 horses, \$129.66; 7 studs, \$134; 50 coaches, \$123.15; 34 carryalls, \$46.55; 107 gigs, \$68.70; Total \$2,985.88. Expended in educating poor children in 1832, \$376.73; in 1834, \$196.38.

The Literary Fund, established by Legislature in 1809 from fines, forfeitures etc. "to the encouragement of learning, is appropriated in proportion to the white population. It is for the sole purpose of instructing poor children in the elements of learning, under management and control of School Commissioners appointed by the Court of the county." In 1832, 9 school commissioners, 20 common schools for poor children, 100 poor children, 91 sent to school, Expenditures in 1832 for all education of poor children, \$376.73.

County Courts are held on the 4th Monday of every month; Quarterly in Feb., may, July and October; Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery on the 1st of April and September.

From the Gazeteer of Virginia and District of Columbia by Joseph Martin – 1836.