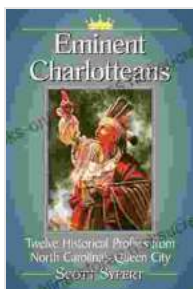


# Twelve Historical Profiles from North Carolina's Queen City

Nestled in the heart of the Piedmont region, Charlotte, North Carolina, has a rich and vibrant history that has shaped its identity as the "Queen City." From the early days of the Catawba Indians to the bustling metropolis it is today, Charlotte has been home to a diverse cast of characters who have left an indelible mark on both the city and the nation.

In this article, we will take a glimpse into the lives of twelve historical figures who have played pivotal roles in shaping the history of Charlotte:

1. **Andrew Jackson:** As the seventh president of the United States, Andrew Jackson spent his formative years in Charlotte. He attended Charlotte Latin School and practiced law in the city before embarking on his political career. Jackson's legacy as a strong-willed and decisive leader continues to influence American politics today.



## Eminent Charlotteans: Twelve Historical Profiles from North Carolina's Queen City by Scott Syfert

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Word Wise : Enabled  
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2. **James K. Polk:** Another Charlotte native, James K. Polk served as the eleventh president of the United States. During his presidency, he oversaw the annexation of Texas and the Mexican-American War. Polk's expansionist policies significantly enlarged the territory of the United States.
3. **Rutherford B. Hayes:** As the nineteenth president of the United States, Rutherford B. Hayes left an enduring mark on Charlotte. He attended Davidson College and practiced law in the city before entering politics. Hayes's presidency was marked by efforts to reunite the nation after the Civil War and to reform the civil service.
4. **Zebulon Baird Vance:** A prominent Confederate general and politician, Zebulon Baird Vance played a pivotal role in North Carolina's history. He served as governor of the state during the Reconstruction era and later as a U.S. senator. Vance's unwavering support for the Confederacy and his advocacy for states' rights continue to resonate with many North Carolinians.
5. **Cameron A. Morrison:** As Charlotte's mayor from 1920 to 1940, Cameron A. Morrison oversaw a period of rapid growth and development in the city. He initiated the construction of Independence Boulevard, which became a major artery connecting Charlotte to the region. Morrison's legacy as a visionary leader contributed to Charlotte's transformation into a modern metropolis.
6. **John Belk:** A retail magnate and philanthropist, John Belk founded Belk, Inc., one of the largest department store chains in the United States. Belk's business acumen and unwavering commitment to

customer service played a major role in the economic development of Charlotte. His legacy of giving back to the community continues to inspire countless individuals.

7. **Harvey Gantt:** A renowned architect, Harvey Gantt broke racial barriers in the field of architecture. He was the first African American to graduate from Clemson University's School of Architecture and the first African American to be elected mayor of a major American city (Charlotte). Gantt's architectural designs and commitment to social justice have left a lasting impact on both Charlotte and the nation.
8. **A.G. Gaston:** A prominent African American entrepreneur and civil rights activist, A.G. Gaston founded Gaston Savings and Loan Association, one of the first black-owned financial institutions in the United States. Gaston's business success and unwavering advocacy for civil rights earned him the respect and admiration of both the black and white communities in Charlotte.
9. **Libba Cotten:** A legendary folk musician, Libba Cotten wrote over 500 songs, including the classic "Freight Train." Her unique guitar style and evocative lyrics captured the spirit of the American South. Cotten's music continues to be celebrated and performed around the world.
10. **Eric Hunter, Sr.:** A pioneering civil rights attorney, Eric Hunter, Sr. played a pivotal role in the desegregation of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. He represented the plaintiffs in the landmark case *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education*, which led to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to order busing to achieve racial balance in schools.

11. **Patricia Harris:** A trailblazing attorney and politician, Patricia Harris served as the first African American woman to hold a cabinet position in the United States. She served as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development under President Jimmy Carter. Harris's commitment to social justice and equality for all Americans continues to inspire generations.
  
12. **Billy Graham:** A world-renowned evangelist, Billy Graham preached to millions of people around the globe. He founded the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, which continues to spread the Christian message through crusades, radio, and television broadcasts. Graham's legacy as a spiritual leader and advocate for peace and understanding extends far beyond Charlotte.

These twelve historical figures represent just a fraction of the countless individuals who have contributed to the rich tapestry of Charlotte's past. Their stories of leadership, innovation, activism, and creativity continue to shape the identity and aspirations of the Queen City.

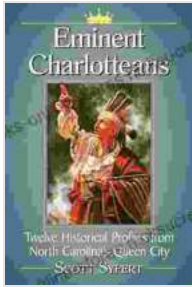
By delving into the lives of these historical figures, we gain a deeper appreciation for the complexities, challenges, and triumphs that have defined Charlotte's journey. Their legacies serve as a reminder of the power of resilience, determination, and a shared commitment to building a vibrant and inclusive community.

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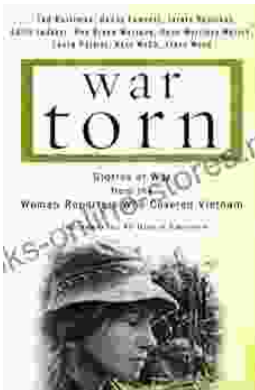
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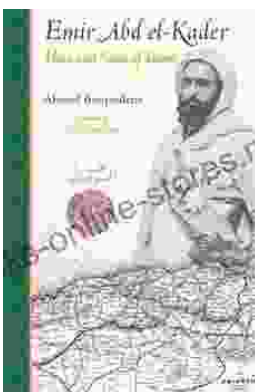


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