

## **Counties** <sup>[1]</sup>

### **North Carolina's 100 Counties**

North Carolina has 100 counties. This page brings together a number of resources that relate to the history of North Carolina counties, links to resources in NCpedia related to individual counties, and other resources from North Carolina State Government agencies to help researchers locate current demographic and statistical information about North Carolina's counties and municipalities.

#### **Topics on this page**

[Explore NCpedia articles by county](#)

[Historical information and articles about North Carolina's counties](#)

[Historical resources and collections for researching North Carolina county history, records and information](#)



**North Carolina Counties - Click to see a larger version.**

**<sup>[2]</sup> Explore NCpedia**

[Alamance](#) <sup>[3]</sup> | [Alexander](#) <sup>[4]</sup> | [Alleghany](#) <sup>[5]</sup> | [Anson](#) <sup>[6]</sup> | [Ashe](#) <sup>[7]</sup> | [Avery](#) <sup>[8]</sup> | [Beaufort](#) <sup>[9]</sup> | [Bertie](#) <sup>[10]</sup> | [Bladen](#) <sup>[11]</sup> | [Brunswick](#) <sup>[12]</sup> | [Buncombe](#) <sup>[13]</sup> | [Burke](#) <sup>[14]</sup> | [Cabarrus](#) <sup>[15]</sup> | [Caldwell](#) <sup>[16]</sup> | [Camden](#) <sup>[17]</sup> | [Carteret](#) <sup>[18]</sup> | [Caswell](#) <sup>[19]</sup> | [Catawba](#) <sup>[20]</sup> | [Chatham](#) <sup>[21]</sup> | [Cherokee](#) <sup>[22]</sup> | [Chowan](#) <sup>[23]</sup> | [Clay](#) <sup>[24]</sup> | [Cleveland](#) <sup>[25]</sup> | [Columbus](#) <sup>[26]</sup> | [Craven](#) <sup>[27]</sup> | [Cumberland](#) <sup>[28]</sup> | [Currituck](#) <sup>[29]</sup> | [Dare](#) <sup>[30]</sup> | [Davidson](#) <sup>[31]</sup> | [Davie](#) <sup>[32]</sup> | [Duplin](#) <sup>[33]</sup> | [Durham](#) <sup>[34]</sup> | [Edgecombe](#) <sup>[35]</sup> | [Forsyth](#) <sup>[36]</sup> | [Franklin](#) <sup>[37]</sup> | [Gaston](#) <sup>[38]</sup> | [Gates](#) <sup>[39]</sup> | [Graham](#) <sup>[40]</sup> | [Granville](#) <sup>[41]</sup> | [Greene](#) <sup>[42]</sup> | [Guilford](#) <sup>[43]</sup> | [Halifax](#) <sup>[44]</sup> | [Harnett](#) <sup>[45]</sup> | [Haywood](#) <sup>[46]</sup> | [Henderson](#) <sup>[47]</sup> | [Hertford](#) <sup>[48]</sup> | [Hoke](#) <sup>[49]</sup> | [Hyde](#) <sup>[50]</sup> | [Iredell](#) <sup>[51]</sup> | [Jackson](#) <sup>[52]</sup> | [Johnston](#) <sup>[53]</sup> | [Jones](#) <sup>[54]</sup> | [Lee](#) <sup>[55]</sup> | [Lenoir](#) <sup>[56]</sup> | [Lincoln](#) <sup>[57]</sup> | [McDowell](#) <sup>[58]</sup> | [Macon](#) <sup>[59]</sup> | [Madison](#) <sup>[60]</sup> | [Martin](#) <sup>[61]</sup> | [Mecklenburg](#) <sup>[62]</sup> | [Mitchell](#) <sup>[63]</sup> | [Montgomery](#) <sup>[64]</sup> | [Moore](#) <sup>[65]</sup> | [Nash](#) <sup>[66]</sup> | [New Hanover](#) <sup>[67]</sup> | [Northampton](#) <sup>[68]</sup> | [Onslow](#) <sup>[69]</sup> | [Orange](#) <sup>[70]</sup> | [Pamlico](#) <sup>[71]</sup> | [Pasquotank](#) <sup>[72]</sup> | [Pender](#) <sup>[73]</sup> | [Perquimans](#) <sup>[74]</sup> | [Person](#) <sup>[75]</sup> | [Pitt](#) <sup>[76]</sup> | [Polk](#) <sup>[77]</sup> | [Randolph](#) <sup>[78]</sup> | [Richmond](#) <sup>[79]</sup> | [Robeson](#) <sup>[80]</sup> | [Rockingham](#) <sup>[81]</sup> | [Rowan](#) <sup>[82]</sup> | [Rutherford](#) <sup>[83]</sup> | [Sampson](#) <sup>[84]</sup> | [Scotland](#) <sup>[85]</sup> | [Stanly](#) <sup>[86]</sup> | [Stokes](#) <sup>[87]</sup> | [Surry](#) <sup>[88]</sup> | [Swain](#) <sup>[89]</sup> | [Transylvania](#) <sup>[90]</sup> | [Tyrrell](#) <sup>[91]</sup> | [Union](#) <sup>[92]</sup> | [Vance](#) <sup>[93]</sup> | [Wake](#) <sup>[94]</sup> | [Warren](#) <sup>[95]</sup> | [Washington](#) <sup>[96]</sup> | [Watauga](#) <sup>[97]</sup> | [Wayne](#) <sup>[98]</sup> | [Wilkes](#) <sup>[99]</sup> | [Wilson](#) <sup>[100]</sup> | [Yadkin](#) <sup>[101]</sup> | [Yancey](#) <sup>[102]</sup>



### NORTH CAROLINA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT

Code	County	Date	Parent(s)	Code	County	Date	Parent(s)
.001	Alamance	1849	Orange	.055	Jackson	1851	Haywood, Macon
.002	Albemarle*	1664	Original County, <i>abolished 1739</i>	.056	Johnston	1746	Craven
.003	Alexander	1847	Issell, Caldwell, Wilkes	.057	Jones	1779	Craven
.004	Allegheny	1859	Ashe	.058	Lee	1907	Moore, Chatham
.005	Anson	1750	Bladen	.059	Lenoir	1791	Dobbs
.006	Ashe	1799	Wilkes	.060	Lincoln	1779	Tryon
.007	Avoye	1911	Mitchell, Watauga, Caldwell	.061	Macon	1828	Haywood
.008	Bath*	1696	Original County, <i>abolished 1739</i>	.062	Madison	1851	Buncombe, Yancey
.009	Beaufort	1705	Bath	.063	Martin	1774	Halifax, Tyrrell
.010	Bertie	1722	Chowan	.064	McDowell	1842	Rutherford, Burke
.011	Bladen	1734	New Hanover	.065	Mecklenburg	1762	Anson
.012	Brunswick	1764	New Hanover, Bladen	.066	Mitchell	1861	Yancey, Watauga, Caldwell, Burke, McDowell
.013	Buncombe	1791	Burke, Rutherford	.067	Montgomery	1779	Anson
.014	Burke	1777	Rowan	.068	Moore	1784	Cumberland
.015	Bute	1764	Granville, <i>abolished 1779</i>	.069	Nash	1777	Edgecombe
.016	Cabarrus	1792	Mecklenburg	.070	New Hanover	1729	Craven
.017	Caldwell	1841	Burke, Wilkes	.071	Northampton	1741	Bertie
.018	Camden	1777	Pasquotank	.072	Onslow	1734	New Hanover
.019	Carteret	1722	Craven	.073	Orange	1752	Johnston, Bladen, Granville
.020	Caswell	1777	Craven	.074	Pamlico	1872	Craven, Beaufort
.021	Catawba	1842	Lincoln	.075	Pasquotank	1668	Albemarle
.022	Chatham	1771	Orange	.076	Pender	1875	New Hanover
.023	Charlotte	1839	Macon	.077	Perquimans	1668	Albemarle
.024	Chowan	1668	Albemarle	.078	Person	1791	Caswell
	Chatham*	1664	Original County, <i>abolished 1667</i>	.079	Pin	1760	Beaufort
.025	Clay	1861	Charlotte	.080	Polk	1855	Rutherford, Henderson
.026	Cleveland	1841	Rutherford, Lincoln	.081	Randolph	1779	Guilford
.027	Columbus	1808	Brunswick, Bladen	.082	Richmond	1779	Anson
.028	Craven	1705	Bath	.083	Robeson	1787	Bladen
.029	Cumberland	1754	Bladen	.084	Rockingham	1785	Guilford
.030	Curruck	1668	Albemarle	.085	Rowan	1753	Anson
.031	Dare	1870	Curruck, Tyrrell, Hyde	.086	Rutherford	1779	Tryon
				.087	Sampson	1784	Duplin
				.088	Scotland	1899	Richmond

Click here for a printable PDF listing of the development of North Carolina counties by date. PDF includes maps showing chronological development. From the State Library of NC.

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## Historical information about North Carolina's counties

### Background information and articles

- [History of North Carolina Counties, NCpedia article](#) <sup>[104]</sup>
- [North Carolina Places Names for Governors, NCpedia article](#) <sup>[105]</sup>
- [Naming Places in Early Carolina, NCpedia article](#) <sup>[106]</sup>
- [History of North Carolina County Development, interactive timeline and map](#) <sup>[107]</sup>
- [History of North Carolina County Formation: Dates and Parent Counties, NCpedia article](#) <sup>[108]</sup>

**Standard text on the history of the formation of North Carolina's counties, footnoted with annotations to legislative actions. Contains maps and illustrations.**

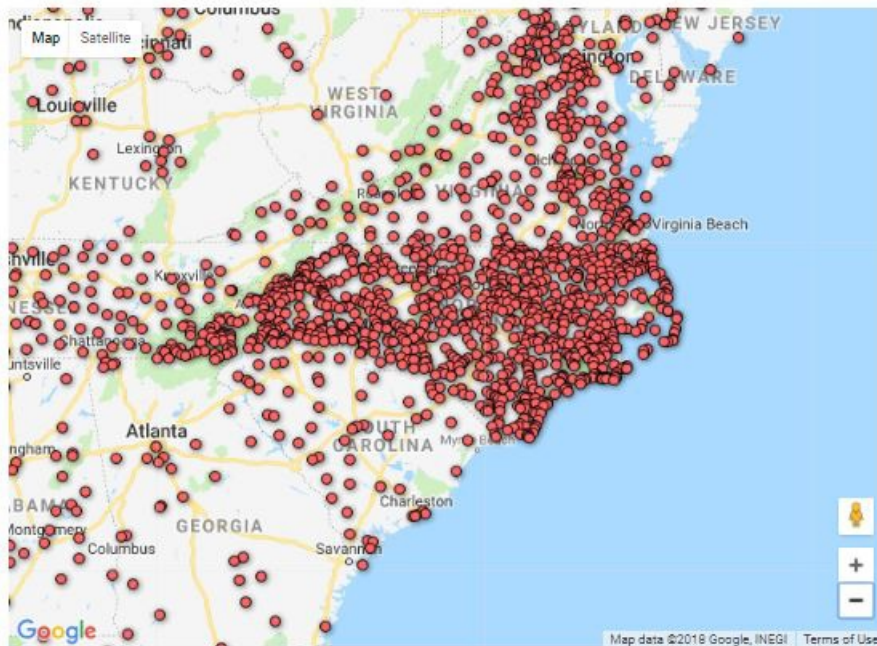
Corbitt, David Leroy. 2000. *The formation of the North Carolina counties, 1663-1943*. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553233> <sup>[109]</sup>

### Defunct and Renamed Counties:

In North Carolina's history, several counties were created that later became defunct or were renamed. North Carolina also created three counties in the 1780s and 1790s that are now part of Tennessee.

- [Albemarle County](#) <sup>[110]</sup>, extinct 1689
- [Bath County](#) <sup>[111]</sup>, extinct after 1724
- [Bute County](#) <sup>[112]</sup>, divided into [Franklin](#) <sup>[37]</sup> and [Warren](#) <sup>[95]</sup> counties in 1779
- [Clarendon County](#) <sup>[113]</sup>, abandoned by 1667
- [Dobbs County](#) <sup>[114]</sup>, abolished in 1791
- Glasgow County, renamed [Greene County](#) <sup>[42]</sup> in 1799
- Pamtecough (or Pamticough) County, renamed [Beaufort County](#) <sup>[9]</sup> in 1712
- [Tryon County](#) <sup>[115]</sup>, divided into [Lincoln](#) <sup>[57]</sup> and [Rutherford](#) <sup>[83]</sup> Counties in 1779.
- Western counties now in Tennessee:
  - District of Washington (formerly the [Watauga Settlement](#) <sup>[116]</sup>), annexed to North Carolina in 1776, name changed to Washington County in 1777 and ceded to the U.S. Government in 1790.
  - [Sullivan County](#) <sup>[117]</sup>, formed in 1779 from Washington County, now Tennessee
  - [Davidson County](#) <sup>[118]</sup>, formed from Washington County in 1783, now Tennessee

## Map



**Explore by location items from the State Library and State Archives of NC in the NC Digital Collections. Collections include historical and state government agency publications, manuscript items, governors' papers, image and media collections, and more.**

**and collections for researching North Carolina county history, records and information** <sup>[119]</sup> **Historical resources**

**Printable handout of chronological list of North Carolina's county development with maps**<sup>[103]</sup>

**Standard text on the history of the formation of North Carolina's counties, footnoted with annotations to legislative actions. Contains maps and illustrations.**

Corbitt, David Leroy. 2000. *The formation of the North Carolina counties, 1663-1943*.

Digitized version available online at NC Digital Collections: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553233> <sup>[109]</sup>

### **Research guides from the State Library of North Carolina**

[Data Resources Guide \(researching statistical information and databases with tutorials\)](#)<sup>[120]</sup>

[North Carolina Land Records before 1800](#) <sup>[121]</sup>

[County Tax Records in North Carolina](#) <sup>[122]</sup>

[#EverythingNC, comprehensive research guide for researching many aspects of North Carolina history and information](#)

<sup>[123]</sup>

**Explore historical items from North Carolina state government agency publications and manuscript collections in the NC Digital Collections (State Library of NC and State Archives of NC):** <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> <sup>[119]</sup>

Access current state government agency, statistical and demographic information about North Carolina's counties and municipalities

[NC.gov](#) <sup>[124]</sup>, portal for accessing state government agency websites and information about North

Carolina: <https://www.nc.gov/> <sup>[124]</sup>

[Current Municipal Population Data](#) <sup>[125]</sup> (NC Office of Budget and Management): <https://www.osbm.nc.gov/facts-figures/population-demographics> <sup>[125]</sup>

[ACCESS NC](#) <sup>[126]</sup> (NC Dept. of Commerce), open access to a range of databases with census, wage, occupational, employment, demographic and other data: <https://accessnc.nccommerce.com/> <sup>[126]</sup>

### **Image credit:**

Rudersdorf, Amy. 2010. "NC County Maps." Government & Heritage Library, State Library of North Carolina.

**Authors:**Agan, Kelly <sup>[127]</sup>**From:**Government & Heritage Library, State Library of North Carolina <sup>[128]</sup>

10 October 2012 | Agan, Kelly

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**Source URL:**<https://ncpedia.org/geography/counties?page=1>**Links**

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