

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

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## 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.**  
**articles by county**

**<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 | Irrell, Caldwell, Wilkes               | .057 | Jones       | 1779 | Craven                      |
| .004 | Allegheny  | 1859 | Ashe                                   | .058 | Lee         | 1907 | Moore, Chatham              |
| .005 | Anson      | 1750 | Bladen                                 | .059 | Lenoir      | 1791 | Debbis                      |
| .006 | Ashe       | 1799 | Wilkes                                 | .060 | Lincoln     | 1779 | Tryon                       |
| .007 | Avery      | 1911 | Mitchell, Watson, 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, Watson, Caldwell,   |
| .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](#) [104]

[North Carolina Places Names for Governors, NCpedia article](#) [105]

[Naming Places in Early Carolina, NCpedia article](#) [106]

[History of North Carolina County Development, interactive timeline and map](#) [107]

[History of North Carolina County Formation: Dates and Parent Counties, NCpedia article](#) [108]

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/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290103> [109]

### 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](#) [110], extinct 1689

Bath County, extinct after 1724

Bute County <sup>[111]</sup>, divided into Franklin <sup>[37]</sup> and Warren <sup>[95]</sup> counties in 1779

Clarendon County, abandoned by 1667 <sup>[112]</sup>

Dobbs County <sup>[113]</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>[114]</sup>, divided into Lincoln <sup>[57]</sup> and Rutherford <sup>[83]</sup> Counties in 1779.

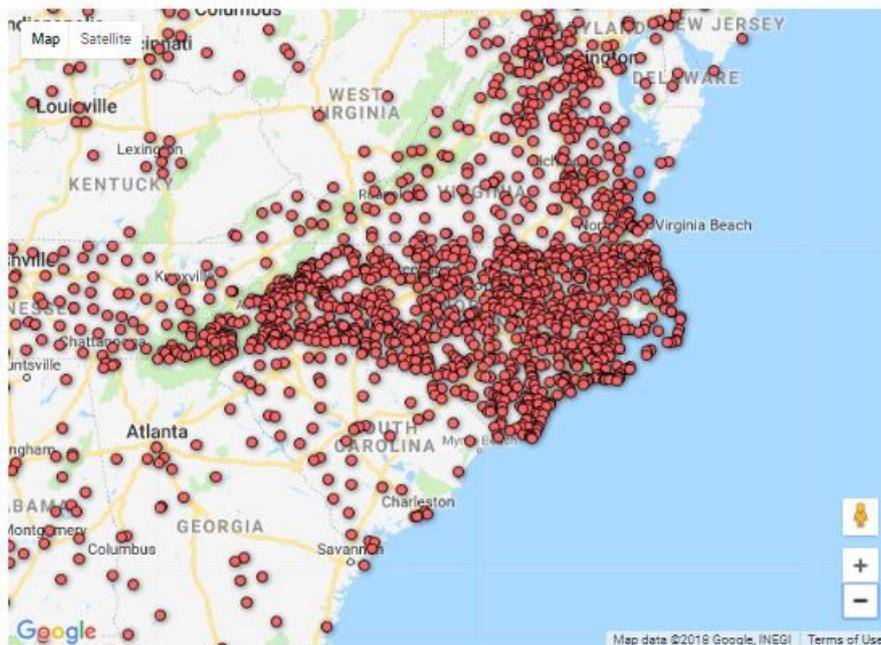
Western counties now in Tennessee:

District of Washington (formerly the Watauga Settlement <sup>[115]</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, formed in 1779 from Washington County, now Tennessee

Davidson County, 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.**

**<sup>[116]</sup> Historical resources and collections for researching North Carolina county history, records and information**

**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.*

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

[Data Resources Guide \(researching statistical information and databases with tutorials\)](#) [117]

[North Carolina Land Records before 1800](#) [118]

[County Tax Records in North Carolina](#) [119]

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

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### 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/> [116]

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

[NC.gov](#) [121], portal for accessing state government agency websites and information about North

Carolina: <https://www.nc.gov/> [121]

[Current Municipal Population Data](#) [122] (NC Office of Budget and Management): <https://www.osbm.nc.gov/facts-figures/population-demographics/state-demographer/municipal-population-estimates> [122]

[ACCESS NC](#) [123] (NC Dept. of Commerce), open access to a range of databases with census, wage, occupational, employment, demographic and other data: <https://accessnc.nccommerce.com/> [123]

### Image credit:

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

### Authors:

[Agan, Kelly](#) [124]

### From:

[Government & Heritage Library, State Library of North Carolina](#). [125]

10 October 2012 | Agan, Kelly

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

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