

## **Alamance County** <sup>[1]</sup>

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Alamance County



<sup>[2]</sup>

### **ALAMANCE COUNTY GOVERNMENT:**

[www.alamance-nc.com](http://www.alamance-nc.com) <sup>[2]</sup>

**COUNTY SEAT:** Graham

**FORMED:** 1849

**FORMED FROM:** Orange

**LAND AREA:** 423.94 square miles

**2018 POPULATION ESTIMATE:** 166,436

White: 74.3%

Black/African American: 20.3%

American Indian: 1.4%

Asian: 1.7%

Pacific Islander: 0.1%

Two or more races: 2.2%

Hispanic/Latino: 12.9%

*From State & County QuickFacts, US Census Bureau, 2018.*<sup>[3]</sup>

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 6TH

### **BIOGRAPHIES FOR**



<sup>[4]</sup>[Alamance County](#) <sup>[4]</sup>



<sup>[5]</sup> **WILDLIFE PROFILES FOR**

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

**REGION:** Piedmont <sup>[6]</sup>

**RIVER BASIN:** Cape Fear <sup>[7]</sup>, Map <sup>[8]</sup>

**NEIGHBORING COUNTIES:** Caswell <sup>[9]</sup>, Chatham <sup>[10]</sup>, Guilford <sup>[11]</sup>, Orange <sup>[12]</sup>, Randolph <sup>[13]</sup>



Alamance County, North Carolina

See also: North Carolina Counties <sup>[14]</sup> (to access links to NCpedia articles for all 100 counties)

by Jay Mazzocchi, 2006.

Alamance County, located in the Piedmont <sup>[6]</sup> region of north central North Carolina, was formed in 1849 out of Orange County <sup>[12]</sup>. The county was named for either the Great Alamance Creek or the Battle of Alamance <sup>[15]</sup> (16 May 1771), the decisive battle in the War of the Regulation. Early inhabitants of the area included the Saxapahaw and Sissipahaw Indians, followed by English, Scotch-Irish, German, Welsh, and Pennsylvania Quaker settlers. Graham, the county seat, was incorporated in 1851 and named for William A. Graham <sup>[16]</sup>, a former North Carolina governor. Other important communities in Alamance County include Burlington, Green Level, Haw River, and Mebane. Elon College (now Elon University <sup>[17]</sup>) was established in the county in 1889.

Beginning in 1837, when Edwin M. Holt <sup>[18]</sup> opened the first large-scale textile mill in the county and began producing the widely popular Alamance Plaids, the textile industry has been a principal part of the Alamance County economy. Burlington Industries <sup>[19]</sup>, founded in 1923 by J. Spencer Love <sup>[20]</sup>, dominated the textile industry for much of the twentieth century. Other important manufactured goods have included furniture, biomedical products, chemicals, foundry products, and building supplies. Burlington, with its numerous outlet stores, draws shoppers from a wide surrounding area. Alamance County also produces a variety of agricultural goods, such as tobacco, poultry, eggs, vegetables, soybeans, beef cattle, and hogs. Notable physical features of the county include the Haw River, Stony Creek Mountain, the Stony Creek Reservoir, and Great Alamance Creek.

Alamance County is home to many landmarks and historic sites, such as Glencoe Mill Village Historic District, a nineteenth-century cotton mill village; the Southern Railway Passenger Depot; and the Burlington Historic District, which features examples of early North Carolina architecture. The outdoor drama *The Sword of Peace* <sup>[21]</sup>, based on the activities of local Quakers during the Revolution, is produced in Snow Camp during the summer. Cultural institutions include the Alamance Battleground Museum, the Gallery Players, the Burlington Artists League, the McDade Wildlife Museum, and Cedarock Historic Farm. July Fourth in Snow Camp is one of the county's largest festivals. In 2004 Alamance County had an estimated population of slightly more than 137,000.

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**Annotated history of Alamance County's formation:**

For an annotated history of the county's formation, with the laws affecting the county, boundary lines and changes, and other origin information, visit these references in *The Formation of the North Carolina Counties* (Corbitt, 2000), available online at North Carolina Digital Collections (note, there may be additional items of interest for the county not listed here):

County formation history: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/289775> [22]

Index entry for the county: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290073> [23]

#### Reference:

Elinor Samons Euliss, ed., *Alamance County: The Legacy of Its People and Places* (1984).

#### Additional resources:

Corbitt, David Leroy. 2000. *The formation of the North Carolina counties, 1663-1943*. <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll9/id/290103> [24] (accessed June 20, 2017).

Alamance County Government: <https://www.alamance-nc.com/> [2]

Alamance County Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.alamancechamber.com/> [25]

DigitalNC, Alamance County: <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/alamance-county> [26]

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format): <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/home/browse> [27]

#### Image credits:

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

#### Subjects:

[Counties](#) [28]

[UNC Press](#) [29]

#### From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press](#). [30]

#### Authors:

[Mazzocchi, Jay](#) [31]

#### Origin - location:

[Alamance County](#) [32]

1 January 2006 | Mazzocchi, Jay

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Source URL: <https://ncpedia.org/geography/alamance>

#### Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/alamance>

[2] <https://www.alamance-nc.com/>

[3] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/alamancecountynorthcarolina,NC/PST045216>

[4] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/alamance-county/biography>

[5] <https://ncpedia.org/wildlife/piedmont>

- [6] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/region/piedmont>
- [7] <https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/cape-fear-river-basin.pdf>
- [8] <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=f82f583438e74bf29adcc76247381eee>
- [9] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/caswell>
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- [18] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/holt-edwin-michael>
- [19] <https://ncpedia.org/burlington-industries>
- [20] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/love-james-spencer>
- [21] <https://www.snowcampoutdoortheatre.com/>
- [22] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/289775>
- [23] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290073>
- [24] <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll9/id/290103>
- [25] <http://www.alamancechamber.com/>
- [26] <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/alamance-county/>
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