

## Alexander County <sup>[1]</sup>



Average: 3.9 (62 votes)

Alexander County



<sup>[2]</sup>

### ALEXANDER COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

<https://alexandercountync.gov/> <sup>[2]</sup>

**COUNTY SEAT:** Taylorsville

**FORMED:** 1847

**FORMED FROM:** Iredell, Caldwell, Wilkes

**LAND AREA:** 259.99 square miles

**2020 POPULATION ESTIMATE:** 36,444

White: 90.8%

Black/African American: 5.9%

American Indian: 0.5%

Asian: 1.0%

Pacific Islander: .1%

Two or more races: 1.7%

Hispanic/Latino: 4.8% (of any race)

From *State & County QuickFacts, US Census Bureau 2020*. <sup>[3]</sup>

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 5TH

### BIOGRAPHIES FOR

<sup>[4]</sup>

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



<sup>[5]</sup>

### WILDLIFE PROFILES FOR

[Piedmont region](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

### GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

**REGION:** [Piedmont](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

**RIVER BASINS:** [Catawba](#) <sup>[7]</sup>; [Map](#) <sup>[8]</sup>

**NEIGHBORING COUNTIES:** [Caldwell](#) <sup>[9]</sup>, [Catawba](#) <sup>[10]</sup>, [Iredell](#) <sup>[11]</sup>, [Wilkes](#) <sup>[12]</sup>



See also: [North Carolina Counties](#) <sup>[13]</sup> (to access links to NCpedia articles for all 100 counties)

by Robert Blair Vocci, 2006

Alexander County, located in the western [Piedmont](#) <sup>[6]</sup> region, was formed from sections of [Caldwell](#) <sup>[9]</sup>, [Iredell](#) <sup>[11]</sup>, and [Wilkes](#) <sup>[12]</sup> Counties in 1847. The county took its name from [William Julius Alexander](#) <sup>[14]</sup>, Speaker of the North Carolina House of Commons. Taylorsville, the county seat, was named for either [John Louis Taylor](#) <sup>[15]</sup>, the first chief justice of the [North Carolina Supreme Court](#) <sup>[16]</sup>, or U.S. president [Zachary Taylor](#) <sup>[17]</sup>. Other communities of note in the county include Hiddenite, Stony Point, Bethlehem, Ellendale, Little River, and Millersville.

Approximately two-thirds of Alexander County is farmland. Although agriculture employs only a small segment of the county's population (most jobs are provided by the manufacturing and service sectors), agricultural production remains strong. The county ranks third in the state for its poultry output, fifth in apples (apples produced in the county won first prize at the 1900 Paris World's Fair), sixth in dairy products, and tenth in beef cattle.

Alexander County is home to a wide variety of minerals. The [Hiddenite Gems Emerald Hollow Mine](#) <sup>[18]</sup> is rich with emeralds, sapphires, garnets, aquamarine, smoky and clear quartz, tourmaline, sillimanite, monazite, and rutile. In 1969 the largest emerald in North America (subsequently given the name "Carolina") was unearthed in Hiddenite. The town also hosts the [Hiddenite Celebration of the Arts](#) <sup>[19]</sup>, which features an eclectic program of musical performances. Other Alexander County events include the [Apple Festival](#) <sup>[20]</sup>, the Taylorsville Lions Club Agricultural Fair, Stony Point Day, Mayfest, and the Vashti Fourth of July Parade. Alexander County had an estimated population of 35,000 in 2004.

---

## Annotated history of Alexander 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/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-ca...> <sup>[21]</sup>

Index entry for the county: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-ca...> <sup>[22]</sup>

### References:

Sara C. Allen, ed., *The Heritage of Alexander County, North Carolina* (1985).

### Additional resources:

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>[23]</sup> (accessed June 20, 2017).

Alexander County Government: <https://alexandercountync.gov/> <sup>[2]</sup>

DigitalNC, Alexander County: <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/alexander-county/> <sup>[24]</sup>

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format): <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> <sup>[25]</sup>

### Image credits:

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

**Subjects:**

Counties [26]

**From:**

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.[27]

**Authors:**

Vocci, Robert Blair [28]

**Origin - location:**

Alexander County [29]

1 January 2006 | Vocci, Robert Blair

---

**Source URL:**<https://ncpedia.org/geography/alexander>

**Links**

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/alexander> [2] <https://alexandercountync.gov/> [3] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/alexandercountynorthcarolina,alamancecountynorthcarolina,US/POP010220#POP010220> [4] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/alexander-county/biography> [5] <https://ncpedia.org/wildlife/piedmont> [6] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/region/piedmont> [7] <https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/catawba-river-basin.pdf> [8] <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=f82f583438e74bf29adcc76247381eee> [9] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/caldwell> [10] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/catawba> [11] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/iredell> [12] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/wilkes> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/node/156> [14] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/alexander-william-julius> [15] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/taylor-john-louis> [16] <https://ncpedia.org/supreme-court-north-carolina> [17] <https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/presidents/zachary-taylor/> [18] <https://www.emeraldhollowmine.com/> [19] <https://hiddenitearts.org/> [20] <https://www.alexandercountyonline.com/applefestival/> [21] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553266> [22] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553577> [23] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553233> [24] <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/alexander-county/> [25] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> [26] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/counties> [27] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia-> [28] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/vocci-robert-blair> [29] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmon-14>