

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



Average: 4 (27 votes)

Harnett County



<sup>[2]</sup>

### **HARNETT COUNTY GOVERNMENT:**

<http://www.harnett.org/> <sup>[2]</sup>

**COUNTY SEAT:**Lillington

**FORMED:** 1855

**FORMED FROM:** Cumberland

**LAND AREA:** 594.99 square miles

**2020 POPULATION ESTIMATE:** 133,568

White: 71.3%

Black/African American: 21.9%

American Indian: 1.7%

Asian: 1.3%

Pacific Islander: 0.2%

Two or more races: 3.5%

Hispanic/Latino: 13.4% (of any race)

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

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 2ND

**BIOGRAPHIES FOR**  <sup>[4]</sup>

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



<sup>[5]</sup>

**WILDLIFE PROFILES FOR**

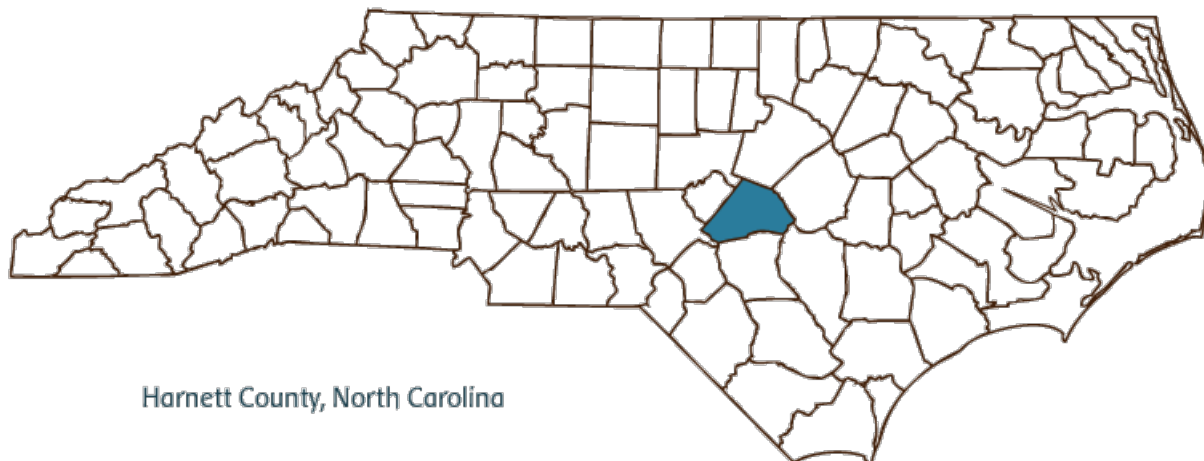
[Coastal Plain](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

### **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

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

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

**NEIGHBORING COUNTIES:** [Chatham](#) <sup>[9]</sup>, [Cumberland](#) <sup>[10]</sup>, [Johnston](#) <sup>[11]</sup>, [Lee](#) <sup>[12]</sup>, [Moore](#) <sup>[13]</sup>, [Sampson](#) <sup>[14]</sup>, [Wake](#) <sup>[15]</sup>



See also: [North Carolina Counties](#) <sup>[16]</sup> (to access links to NCpedia articles for all 100 counties); [Averasboro, Battle of](#) <sup>[17]</sup>.

by Robert Blair Vocci, 2006

Harnett County, located in North Carolina's [Coastal Plain](#) <sup>[6]</sup> region, was formed from [Cumberland County](#) <sup>[10]</sup> in 1855. It is named for [Cornelius Harnett](#) <sup>[18]</sup>, Revolutionary War patriot and delegate to the Continental Congress. The county's communities include [Dunn](#) <sup>[19]</sup>, [Coats](#) <sup>[20]</sup>, [Angier](#) <sup>[21]</sup>, [Erwin](#) <sup>[22]</sup>, Buies Creek, Bunnlevel, and Johnsonville, as well as the county seat, [Lillington](#) <sup>[23]</sup>, incorporated in 1859.

The region was originally inhabited by [Tuscarora](#) <sup>[24]</sup> and [Saura](#) <sup>[25]</sup> (Cheraw) Indians. Among the earliest European settlers in Harnett County were [Scottish](#) <sup>[26]</sup> immigrants, many of whom left their homeland after the 1745 Jacobite Rebellion. Forced to vow that they would never again fight the British, many Scots who adopted a neutral stance during the [Revolutionary War](#) <sup>[27]</sup> were executed as traitors by American Patriots. Harnett County nevertheless maintained a large Scottish population-Gaelic was spoken in parts of the county well into the late nineteenth century-and even today many families in the area can trace their ancestry back to those early Scots.

Harnett County was the site of one of the last battles of the [Civil War](#) <sup>[28]</sup>, a confrontation between Gens. William T. Sherman and William J. Hardee at [Averasboro](#) <sup>[17]</sup>, near Erwin, on 15-17 Mar. 1865. Historical markers denote major events and a [museum](#) <sup>[29]</sup> interprets the battle.

Harnett County's principal towns developed into important local trading and commercial centers after urban development began in the 1880s, though by the early twenty-first century the county had only recently begun to promote industrial expansion. The primary source of income remained agriculture, which either employed or indirectly sustained a majority of the county's population.

Important agricultural products include [tobacco](#) <sup>[30]</sup>, cotton, sweet potatoes, soybeans, wheat, [swine](#) <sup>[31]</sup>, and beef and dairy cattle. Manufactures include textiles, building materials, furniture, mobile homes, and athletic equipment. [Raven Rock State Park](#) <sup>[32]</sup>, established in 1970, is one of the county's principal natural attractions. In 2004 the population of Harnett County was estimated at 99,600.

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## Annotated history of Harnett 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>[33]</sup>

Index entry for the county: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-ca...> <sup>[34]</sup>

## References:

Hairr, John. *Harnett County: A History*. Mount Pleasant: Arcadia Publishing, 2002.

## Additional resources:

Corbitt, David Leroy. *The Formation of the North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943*. Raleigh: Division of Archives and History, North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 1987. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553233> <sup>[35]</sup> (accessed June 20, 2017).

Harnett County Government. "Harnett County, North Carolina." <http://www.harnett.org/> <sup>[2]</sup> (accessed February 13, 2019).

Angier Chamber of Commerce. "The Angier Chamber of Commerce." <https://www.angierchamber.org/> [36] (accessed February 13, 2019).

Dunn Area Chamber of Commerce. "Dunn, North Carolina." <https://dunnchamber.com/> [37] (accessed February 13, 2019).

Erwin Chamber of Commerce. "Erwin, North Carolina." <https://erwinchamber.org/> [38] (accessed February 13, 2019).

Lillington Chamber of Commerce. "Lillington Area Chamber of Commerce." <https://lillingtonchamber.org/> [39] (accessed February 13, 2019).

DigitalNC. "Harnett County." North Carolina Digital Heritage Center. <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/harnett-county/> [40] (accessed February 13, 2019).

North Carolina Digital Collections. "Explore by ... [place, time period, format]." North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> [41] (accessed February 13, 2019).

#### Image credits:

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

#### Subjects:

Counties [42]

#### From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. [43]

#### Authors:

Vocci, Robert Blair [44]

#### Origin - location:

Harnett County [45]

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Source URL: <https://ncpedia.org/geography/harnett?page=0>

#### Links

[1] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/harnett> [2] <http://www.harnett.org/> [3] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/harnettcountynorthcarolina/POP010220> [4] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/harnett-county/biography> [5] <https://ncpedia.org/wildlife/coastal-plain> [6] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/region/coastal-plain> [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/chatham> [10] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/cumberland> [11] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/johnston> [12] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/lee> [13] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/moore> [14] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/sampson> [15] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/wake> [16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/counties> [17] <https://ncpedia.org/averasboro-battle> [18] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/harnett-cornelius> [19] <http://www.dunn-nc.org/> [20] <http://www.coatsnc.org/> [21] <https://www.angier.org/> [22] <https://www.erwin-nc.org/> [23] <http://www.lillingtonnc.org/> [24] <https://ncpedia.org/american-indians/tuscarora> [25] <https://ncpedia.org/saura-indians> [26] <https://ncpedia.org/scottish-settlers> [27] <https://ncpedia.org/american-revolution> [28] <https://ncpedia.org/civil-war> [29] <https://www.averasboro.com/> [30] <https://ncpedia.org/tobacco> [31] <https://ncpedia.org/hog-farming> [32] <https://www.ncparks.gov/state-parks/raven-rock-state-park> [33] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553379> [34] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553592> [35] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553233> [36] <https://www.angierchamber.org/> [37] <https://dunnchamber.com/> [38] <https://erwinchamber.org/> [39] <https://lillingtonchamber.org/> [40] <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/harnett-county/> [41] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> [42] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/counties> [43] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia-> [44] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/vocci-robert-blair> [45] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/harnett-co>