

Martin County ^[1]

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Martin County



^[2]

MARTIN COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

www.martincountyncgov.com ^[2]

COUNTY SEAT: Williamston

FORMED: 1774

FORMED FROM: Halifax, Tyrrell

LAND AREA: 461.22 square miles

2018 POPULATION ESTIMATE: 22,671

White: 55.2%

Black/African American: 42.3%

American Indian: 0.5%

Asian: 0.6%

Pacific Islander: 0.2%

Two or more races: 1.3%

Hispanic/Latino: 4.2% (of any race)

From *State & County QuickFacts*. US Census Bureau, 2018. ^[3]

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 1ST

BIOGRAPHIES FOR  ^[4]
[Martin County](#) ^[4]

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REGION: Coastal Plain ^[6]

RIVER BASIN: Roanoke ^[7], Tar-Pamlico ^[8], Map ^[9]

NEIGHBORING COUNTIES: Beaufort ^[10], Bertie ^[11], Edgecombe ^[12], Halifax ^[13], Pitt ^[14], Washington ^[15]



See also: North Carolina Counties ^[16] (to access links to NCpedia articles for all 100 counties)

by Robert Blair Vocci, 2006

Martin County, located in North Carolina's Coastal Plain ^[17] region, was formed from Halifax ^[13] and Tyrrell ^[18] Counties in 1774. It was named for Josiah Martin ^[19], the last royal governor of North Carolina. The county seat of Williamston ^[20] (originally Squhawky or Skewarky) was incorporated in 1779; other communities include Oak City, Jamesville, Hamilton, Hassell, Gold Point, Parmele, Everetts, Robersonville ^[21], Bear Grass, and Darden.

The area that became Martin County was settled by English colonists early in the eighteenth century, supplanting the land's original Tuscarora Indian ^[22] inhabitants. Williamston, the county's first incorporated town, developed along the banks of the Roanoke River ^[23] as an important shipping hub for tar, turpentine, and other local products. Although later towns such as Jamesville and Hamilton were established along the river to participate in the thriving shipping business, Williamston continued to flourish as a trade center throughout the nineteenth century and well into the twentieth with its integration into a network of railroads and highways.

The Confederate outpost Fort Branch ^[24] is one of Martin County's popular tourist attractions, and the Roanoke River and its surrounding lowlands provide an abundance of opportunities for hunting and fishing. Tobacco ^[25], peanuts, corn, soybeans, and cotton are produced in Martin County, and its manufactured products include paper, farm machinery, and textiles. In 2004 Martin County's estimated population was 24,700.

Annotated history of Martin 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: <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll9/id/289919> ^[26]

Index entry for the county: <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll9/id/290087> ^[27]

References:

Martin County Heritage (1980).

Additional resources:

Corbitt, David Leroy. 2000. *The formation of the North Carolina counties, 1663-1943*. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290103> ^[28] (accessed June 20, 2017).

Martin County Government: <https://www.martincountyncgov.com/> ^[2]

Martin County Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.martincountync.com/> ^[29]

Martin County resources, NC Digital Heritage Center: <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/martin-county/> ^[30]

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format): <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/> ^[31]

Image credits:

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

Subjects:

[Counties](#) ^[32]

[UNC Press](#) ^[33]

From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) ^[34]

Authors:

[Vocci, Robert Blair](#) ^[35]

Origin - location:

[Martin County](#) ^[36]

1 January 2006 | Vocci, Robert Blair

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

Links

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

[2] <https://www.martincountyncgov.com/>

[3] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/martincountynorthcarolina,NC/PST045218>

[4] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/martin-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/roanoke-river-basin.pdf>

[8] <https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/tar-pamlico.pdf>

[9] <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=f82f583438e74bf29adcc76247381eee>

- [10] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/beaufort>
- [11] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/bertie>
- [12] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/edgecombe>
- [13] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/halifax>
- [14] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/pitt>
- [15] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/washington>
- [16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/counties>
- [17] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/region/coastal-plain>
- [18] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/tyrrell>
- [19] <https://ncpedia.org/martin-josiah>
- [20] <http://www.townofwilliamston.com/>
- [21] <https://www.townofrobersonville.com/>
- [22] <https://ncpedia.org/american-indians/tuscarora>
- [23] <https://ncpedia.org/rivers/roanoke>
- [24] <http://www.fortbranchcivilwarsite.com/>
- [25] <https://ncpedia.org/tobacco>
- [26] <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll9/id/289919>
- [27] <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll9/id/290087>
- [28] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290103>
- [29] <http://www.martincountync.com/>
- [30] <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/martin-county/>
- [31] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/>
- [32] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/counties>
- [33] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/unc-press>
- [34] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->
- [35] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/vocci-robert-blair>
- [36] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal-28>