

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

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Robeson County



<sup>[2]</sup>

### **ROBESON COUNTY GOVERNMENT:**

[co.robeson.nc.us](http://co.robeson.nc.us) <sup>[2]</sup>

**COUNTY SEAT:** Lumberton

**FORMED:** 1787

**FORMED FROM:** Bladen

**LAND AREA:** 949.22 square miles

**2018 POPULATION ESTIMATE:** 131,831

White: 30.9%

Black/African American: 23.8%

American Indian: 41.7%

Asian: 0.7%

Pacific Islander: 0.2%

Two or more races: 2.7%

Hispanic/Latino: 9.0% (of any race)

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

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 9TH

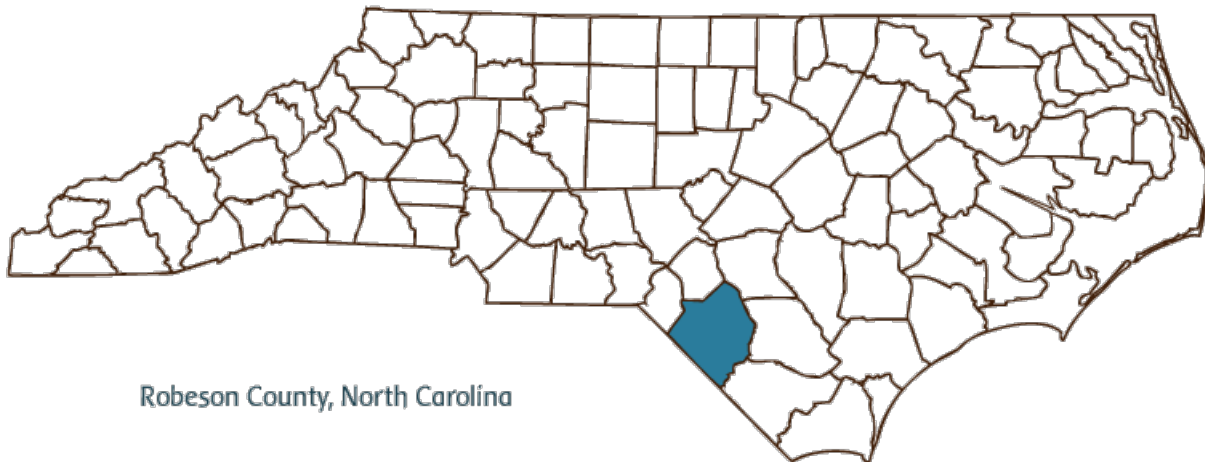
**BIOGRAPHIES FOR**  <sup>[4]</sup>  
[Robeson County](#) <sup>[4]</sup>

## GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

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

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

**NEIGHBORING COUNTIES:** Bladen <sup>[9]</sup>, Columbus <sup>[10]</sup>, Cumberland <sup>[11]</sup>, Hoke <sup>[12]</sup>, Scotland <sup>[13]</sup>



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

by Jay Mazzocchi, 2006

See also: Lowry Band <sup>[15]</sup>; Lumbee Indians <sup>[16]</sup>; University of North Carolina at Pembroke <sup>[17]</sup>.

Robeson County, located in the Coastal Plain <sup>[6]</sup> region of North Carolina, was formed in 1787 from Bladen County <sup>[9]</sup> and was named for Revolutionary War colonel Thomas Robeson. The Saura <sup>[18]</sup> (Cheraw) and Lumbee <sup>[16]</sup> were the area's earliest inhabitants, followed by Scottish <sup>[19]</sup>, English, Welsh <sup>[20]</sup>, and French settlers. Lumberton <sup>[21]</sup>, the county seat, was incorporated in 1788 and named after the Lumber River. Other communities in the county include Pembroke <sup>[22]</sup>, Rowland, Maxton, Red Springs <sup>[23]</sup>, Parkton, Lumber Bridge, Allenton, Alma, and Shannon. Notable physical features of the county, in addition to the Lumber River, include Panther and Horse Pen Branches, Gum Swamp Canal, and Currie and Bear Bays.

Much of Robeson County's history has involved the trials and accomplishments of the Lumbee Indians <sup>[16]</sup>, North Carolina's largest tribe, who populate the region. One of their most famous tribal members, Henry Berry Lowry <sup>[24]</sup>, led a band of outlaws in the state during and after the Civil War, at times using violence to bring attention to the plight of the Lumbee. His story is the subject of the long-running outdoor drama <sup>[25]</sup> *Strike at the Wind!*, performed in Pembroke during the summer months. Lowry's restored cabin is on display at an adjacent recreational area.

Robeson County has a number of historic sites and landmarks, including the Luther Henry Caldwell House <sup>[26]</sup>, built around 1903; the Carolina Theatre, built in 1927; and the Archie Buie House, built in 1902. Cultural institutions include Robeson Little Theatre, the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, the Border Belt Farmer's Museum, and the Robeson County Showcase Museum. Robeson County is also home to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke <sup>[17]</sup>, which was established in 1887 as the Croatan Normal School and became a campus of the consolidated University of North Carolina in 1972. The county hosts festivals such as St. Paul's Annual Festival, Fairmont Farmers Festival, the Native American Wild Game Festival, and the Lumbee Spring Pow Wow.

Agricultural commodities raised in Robeson County include [tobacco](#) <sup>[27]</sup>, cotton, soybeans, vegetables, [poultry](#) <sup>[28]</sup>, [hogs](#) <sup>[29]</sup>, and beef cattle, and manufactures include transformers, water pipes and valves, speakers, textiles, wood products, and manufactured homes. The estimated population of Robeson County in 2004 was 126,500.

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## Annotated history of Robeson 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/289956> <sup>[30]</sup>

Index entry for the county: <http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/ref/collection/p16062coll9/id/290093> <sup>[31]</sup>

### References:

Adolph L. Dial, *The Lumbee* (1993).

### Additional resources:

Corbitt, David Leroy. 2000. *The formation of the North Carolina counties, 1663-1943*. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290103> <sup>[32]</sup> (accessed June 20, 2017).

Robeson County Government: <https://www.co.robeson.nc.us/> <sup>[2]</sup>

Lumberton Chamber of Commerce: <http://www.lumbertonchamber.com/> <sup>[33]</sup>

DigitalNC, Robeson County: <http://www.digitalnc.org/counties/robeson-county/> <sup>[34]</sup>

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format): <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/> <sup>[35]</sup>

### Image credits:

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

### Subjects:

[Counties](#) <sup>[36]</sup>

[UNC Press](#) <sup>[37]</sup>

### From:

[Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.](#) <sup>[38]</sup>

### Authors:

[Mazzocchi, Jay](#) <sup>[39]</sup>

### Origin - location:

[Robeson County](#) <sup>[40]</sup>

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

#### Links

- [1] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/robeson>
- [2] <https://www.co.robeson.nc.us/>
- [3] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/robesoncountynorthcarolina,NC/PST045218>
- [4] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/robeson-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/lumber-river-basin.pdf>
- [8] <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=f82f583438e74bf29adcc76247381eee>
- [9] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/bladen>
- [10] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/columbus>
- [11] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/cumberland>
- [12] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/hoke>
- [13] <https://ncpedia.org/geography/scotland>
- [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/counties>
- [15] <https://ncpedia.org/lowry-band>
- [16] <https://ncpedia.org/lumbee/introduction>
- [17] <https://ncpedia.org/university-north-carolina-pembroke>
- [18] <https://ncpedia.org/saura-indians>
- [19] <https://ncpedia.org/scottish-settlers>
- [20] <https://ncpedia.org/welsh-settlers>
- [21] <http://www.ci.lumberton.nc.us/>
- [22] <https://www.pembrokeenc.com/>
- [23] <http://www.redsprings.org/>
- [24] <https://ncpedia.org/biography/lowry-henry>
- [25] <https://ncpedia.org/outdoor-dramas>
- [26] <https://d.lib.ncsu.edu/collections/catalog/SHPO030>
- [27] <https://ncpedia.org/tobacco>
- [28] <https://ncpedia.org/poultry>
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- [32] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/collection/p16062coll9/id/290103>
- [33] <http://www.lumbertonchamber.com/>
- [34] <http://www.digitalnc.org/counties/robeson-county/>
- [35] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/>
- [36] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/counties>
- [37] <https://ncpedia.org/category/subjects/unc-press>
- [38] <https://ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia->
- [39] <https://ncpedia.org/category/authors/mazzocchi-jay>
- [40] <https://ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/coastal--1>