

Region of Responsibility

We thought you might like to know—The Museum of the Cape is one of seven museums in the Division of State History Museums. We are one of the regional museums and our exhibits reflect a 20 county region. This series focuses on the history of those counties within our region of responsibility.



The 20 Counties in alphabetical order:

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| 1. Anson | 11. Moore |
| 2. Bladen | 12. New Hanover |
| 3. Brunswick | 13. Onslow |
| 4. Columbus | 14. Pender |
| 5. Cumberland | 15. Richmond |
| 6. Duplin | 16. Robeson |
| 7. Harnett | 17. Sampson |
| 8. Hoke | 18. Scotland |
| 9. Lee | 19. Stanly |
| 10. Montgomery | 20. Union |

A Brief History of Duplin County

North Carolinians might automatically think of the Duplin Winery when they hear Duplin County. The winery, established in the 1960s, is the oldest winery in the state. But before the establishment of the winery, Duplin was formed from New Hanover County in 1750. It is named for Sir Thomas Hay, Lord Duplin, a member of the [English Board of Trade and Plantations](#).

The European settlers to the area included English, Welch, Swiss, Scots, Scotch-Irish, and German. The Native Americans who already called the area home were the Tuscarora and Siouan.

The Northeast Cape Fear River runs through the county, along with Muddy Creek, Bear Swamp, Maxwell Mill Pond, and Picadilly Bay; pretty common geographical features for North Carolina's coastal plain. Ulster Scots and Swiss Protestants created a settlement on the east bank of the Northeast

Cape Fear River named Sarecta and it became Duplin County's first incorporated town in 1787.

The completion of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad in 1840, ran through the western half of the county and provided opportunities for growth and development. The first major industry in the area was naval stores, the harvesting of resin from pine trees for making tar, pitch & turpentine. African Americans—enslaved, freed, and free—worked in the naval stores industry more than anyone else.

Duplin County is 819 square miles, making it the 9th largest in the Tar Heel state. In 2000 the population was a little over 49,000 residents.



Duplin
County