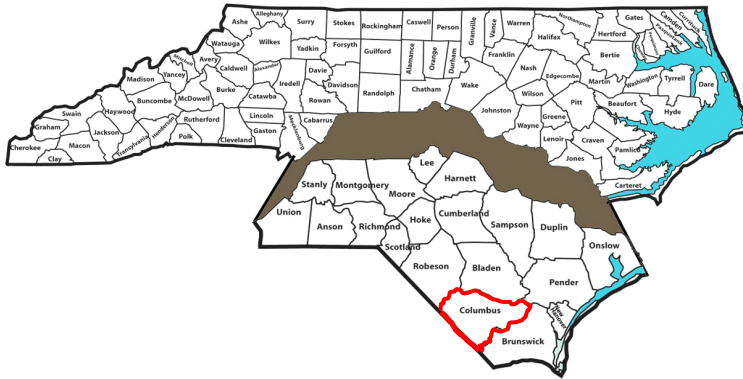


# Region of Responsibility

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 three regional museums and our exhibits reflect a 20 county region. Be on the lookout as we begin to focus on the history of those counties.



The 20 Counties in alphabetical order:

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

## A Brief History of Columbus County

Formed in 1808 from Brunswick and Bladen counties, Columbus County is named for, as you might suspect, Christopher Columbus. The first settlers came up the Cape Fear River after sailing from Barbados. When they arrived they met the local Native Americans: the Waccamaw, Cape Fear and Sapona. The 1946 history of Columbus County, published by James A. Rogers, states that as settlers came into the area, the Native Americans left and joined the Catawbas, who live further west, and the Seminoles in Florida. Other European settlers to the area include English, French and Scots.

The county was created by an Act of the General Assembly because the inhabitants had difficulty in getting to the Brunswick County seat for business and legal transactions. The General Assembly directed that a site for a courthouse and jail be determined, and until these buildings were ready, the courts would be held at Stephen Barfield's home. To pay for the new structures, commissioners, appointed by the General Assembly, were ordered to levy and collect a tax of three shillings on the poll and one shilling on every 100 acres of land.

The county is home to Lake Waccamaw State Park. Archaeologically, it is known for its many Native American canoes and other evidence of their life. William Bartram, and his father John, America's first botanist, explored Lake Waccamaw in the 18th century.

Whiteville is the county seat, and today the agrarian county grows sweet potatoes, corn, soybeans, Irish potatoes, catfish, pecans, peanuts.

