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	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 Cumberland County

An act by the Colonial Legislature created Cumberland County in 1754, and, like so many other counties, was formed from Bladen County. The county is named for Prince William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland, and son of King George II. Cumberland County is known for its large settlement of Highland Scots, which began in the late 1720s. Ironically, it was the Duke of Cumberland that led the English to victory over the Scots at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

The Scottish Highlanders settled the early river villages of Campbellton and Cross Creek, which merged in 1778 and renamed Fayetteville in 1783, after the Marquis de Lafayette, the first city in the United States to do so. Fayetteville became the largest inland port due to its proximity to the Cape Fear River. As such, plank roads developed throughout the county for goods to be imported and exported.

When the nation recorded its first census in 1790, Cumberland County's total population was 8,671, which included more than 2,100 African Americans. The county has been home to several African Americans notable to history: Isaac Hammond, Henry Evans, Hiram Revels, E. E. Smith, and Charles Chesnutt, to name a few.

In Cumberland County there are the remains of a burial sand mound used by late Woodland Period (1-1,000 CE) American Indians. The archaeological evidence that is found in the area suggests that American Indians used the area for hunting and establishing trade routes.

Many historical events occurred in the county, including North Carolina ratifying the Constitution to become the 12th state, the burning of the North Carolina Arsenal by Union troops, the Battle of Averasboro, and the establishment of Camp Bragg, now Fort Bragg; the largest populated military base in the world.

The county contains nine municipalities, including Spring Lake, Wade, Godwin, and Falcon where the Falcon Children's Home has been since 1909.