

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. This series focuses on the history of those counties within our region of responsibility.



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 Moore County

Moore County was formed in 1784 from its current neighbor, Cumberland County. Moore County is often synonymous with golf and the sandhills. It is named for a Revolutionary War captain named Alfred Moore. Moore would later serve as a U.S. Supreme Court Justice. The county seat, Carthage, is named for the ancient North African city.

Archaeological evidence indicates the native people were of the Siouan language family, as were the majority of American Indians in that part of the state. Their life centered around growing food and hunting for survival. The evidence further indicates that the American Indians were there as early as the beginning of the sixth century.

European settlers came to the area about 1739. They were English, Ulster Scots, Highland Scots, and Germans. As typical of settlement patterns in North Carolina, these Europeans traveled down the Great Wagon Road from Pennsylvania, or came up the Cape Fear River to colonize and make a new home.



Golfers come from all over to tee up on the links at Pinehurst. In 2005, the U.S. Open was held at Pinehurst #2, which was established in 1903. In 1974, the World Golf Hall of Fame opened in Pinehurst, but it was relocated to St. Augustine, FL. in 1989.

During the 1880's, Shaw's Ridge, later incorporated as Southern Pines, became a popular resort area for people seeking "fresh air and mineral water" for their ailments. It is now a popular retirement area.