

# 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       | 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 Scotland County

As its name suggest, Scotland County was a destination for many Highland Scots. Previous to European settlement, the original inhabitants were Cheraw Indians, a group of native people from the Siouan language family. The county was formed in 1899 from Richmond County, which borders Scotland to the west. The county is the southern tip that divides the Coastal Plain and Piedmont regions of the state.

It was in Scotland County, on March 8, 1865, that General Sherman and the left wing of his Union Army crossed into North Carolina, having left South Carolina in sporadic heaps of ash. Historic accounts of that time consistently describe weather conditions of relentless rainfall, and soldiers marching down muddy roads in standing water. The next day, the same army crossed the Lumber River at Gilchrist Bridge.

The county's military history also includes Camp Mackall, established in 1943 as a United States training facility during World War II. Before leaving for the European Theater, the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions trained there. Camp Mackall was named in honor of Private John Thomas (Tommy) Mackall who was mortally wounded in the Allied invasion of North Africa.

In 1961, the campus of St. Andrews Presbyterian College opened its doors at its new location in Laurinburg, the county seat. In 2011, after a merger with Webber International University, the school became St. Andrews University. The university is known for the Scottish Heritage Center and the renown St. Andrews Pipe Band.

Scotland County can also claim native son, John Charles McNeill, the first poet laureate of North Carolina. Here are a few lines from one of McNeill's poems:



John Charles McNeill

### *September*

"I have not been among the woods,  
Nor seen the milk-weeds burst their  
hoods,

The downy thistle-seeds take wing,  
Nor the squirrel at his garnering. ..."

To read the rest of the poem, click [here](#).