

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:

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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 Stanly County

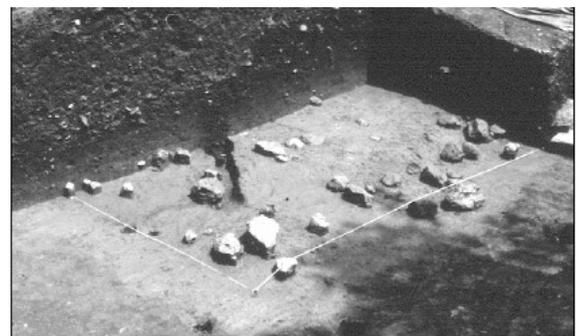
Long before Stanly County was established in 1841, archaeology has proven that American Indians began occupying the area, now known as the Hardaway site, between 10,000 and 8,000 BCE (Before the Common Era). Historically, it's the oldest excavated site in the state. When the artifacts were first discovered, folks referred to the place as the Hardaway site, after the Hardaway Construction Company that built a dam near there in 1917. (In other words, Hardaway has no meaning or reference to the American Indian culture.)

Later tribes to live in the area included the Cheraw, Keyauwee, and Tuscarora Indians. European immigrants included the German, Dutch, Scotch-Irish and English. Stanly County was formed from Montgomery County and named for John Stanly, a Speaker of the North Carolina House of Commons and, later, a U.S. congressman. Its county seat, Albemarle, incorporated in 1857, was named for the Duke of Albemarle, George Monck, one of the Lords Proprietors.

In the town of Misenheimer is Pfeiffer University, a college affiliated with the United Methodist Church and originally founded in 1885.

Stanly County is home to one of the museum's sister agencies, Morrow Mountain State Park with scenic vistas of the Uwharrie Mountains. Within the park boundaries is the Dr. Francis Kron house. Kron was born in Prussia and emigrated to America in 1823, and is recognized as the first medical doctor to settle and practice medicine in the southern piedmont. Dr. Kron traveled long distances to care for patients and practiced medicine until after the age of 80.

Gold was discovered in Stanly County by Mathias Barringer, though after it was first discovered on John Reed's farm in neighboring Cabarrus County. Subsequently, Barringer began the subsurface mining industry in the state.



Excavation of "a living floor" at the Hardaway site, which began in 1954 and continued at intervals until 1980.