

# 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 Anson County

As most North Carolinians know, the counties in our state were formed from the larger counties. That is true about Anson County, which was formed from a part of Bladen County. Today, there are three counties separating the two. Anson County was formed in 1750, named for George, Lord Anson (1697-1762), who at the time was First Lord of the British Admiralty.

Map-making technology of the time being what it was, had Anson County's western border extended, at least theoretically, all the way to the Mississippi River, making it one of the largest territories in the colony.

A large population of Catawba and Cheraw Native Americans existed in the county, with many settlements along the Pee Dee River. In 1854, the population was 13,489, of whom 6657 were free, and 6832 slaves. (Source: *New and Complete Gazetteer of the United States*, Baldwin, Thomas J. and J. Thomas, M.D., Lippincott, Grambo & Co., Philadelphia, PA, 1854: page 46.) The county was also the birthplace of Leonidas K. Polk, who became the first commissioner of agriculture in the state. While known for his agricultural prowess, Polk was in the Confederate Army and fought at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Anson County can claim having the nation's first soil conservation district, Brown Creek, established in 1937. Today, the county is home to the Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge, one of ten in the state, whose acreage totals 8,443.