

# North Carolina Research

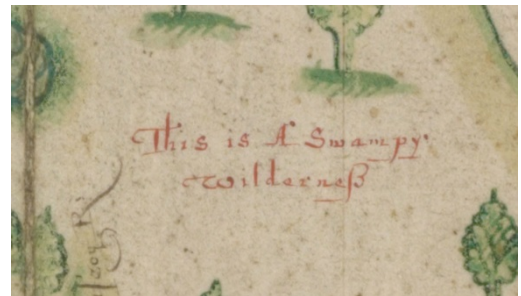
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## MAJOR TOPICS

- Geography and its impact
- History and settlement
- Governing bodies and jurisdictions
- Finding the records
- About the records



## NC EARLY HISTORY TIMELINE

Pre 1524	Indigenous people – no written records
1524	Verrazano (Spain) first describes the region
1584	Visit by Amadas and Barlowe; Manteo and Wanchese taken to England
1585-86	Grenville/Lane. Attempts to establish military post on Roanoke Island fails
1587-?	"Lost Colony" of Roanoke Island settled and later abandoned
1607	Virginia Company includes all of Albemarle Sound region
1624	Virginia becomes a Royal Colony, still includes Albemarle Sound region
1629	Sir Robert Heath granted patent for "Carolana" below 36° latitude. Does not include area north of Albemarle Sound which remains as Virginia
1637	Lord Maltravers purchases Carolana, proposed settlements failed
1655-1660	First documented settlement in Albemarle by Nathaniel Batts
1663	Original Carolina Charter does not include north of Albemarle Sound
1665	Second Carolina Charter establishes (more-or-less) current VA-NC border
1729	NC becomes a Royal colony – Land grants from King of England
1748-1763	Land grants in all of upper NC come from Lord Granville
1763-1777	No new land grants issued in upper NC after the death of Lord Granville
1776	State of North Carolina

## Initial English Settlements in Carolina

- Albemarle Sound
- Roanoke Island



## Obstacles to Settlement

- Outer bank currents
- Unstable inlets
- Shallow sounds
- Swamps
- Hurricanes
- Major rivers emptied into sounds or SC
- "Fall line" on rivers
- Rivers flowed NE to SW
- Mountains



## RECORDS OF INTEREST TO GENEALOGISTS, PRE 1776

- **Before 1607**
  - Historical accounts only. No written records useful for genealogical research
- **1607 – 1662 (Virginia Company, Virginia Colony, Heath/Maltravers "Carolana")**
  - Historical accounts
  - Personal accounts, diaries, letters, wills
  - Colony of Virginia land records
  - Norfolk County Virginia records
- **1663 – 1729 (Carolina Proprietary)**
  - North Carolina county (precinct) records
  - Virginia land records (border areas only)
  - British Colonial records
  - Church records, especially Quaker
  - Lords Proprietors meeting minutes and correspondence
  - Court records in North Carolina, Virginia, and Britain
- **1729 – 1775 (North Carolina Royal Colony)**
  - Similar to other North Carolina counties, primarily county and state records
  - Land records from Lord Granville land office 1748-1763
- **African American Research**
  - North Carolina County "Slavery Records", state and county court minutes, wills
- **Native American Research**
  - North Carolina legislative records, state and county court records

## **BIRTH AND DEATH RECORDS**

- Not required until 1913
  - o Some cities started earlier, Raleigh 1890
- Recorded by county, copies at state
- Delayed birth certificates

## **MARRAIGE RECORDS**

- Bonds – 1740s to 1860s
- License/Certificate:– 1868 to present
- South Carolina started later and had fewer rules

## **CENSUS RECORDS**

- State census 1785-1787, inconsistent by county, some counties did not respond

## **LAND RECORDS**

- Land grants 1663-1960
- Revolutionary War "Bounty" land was in what is now Tennessee
- Deeds kept by counties, microfilm at SANC
- County Civil Action Papers concerning land
- Mill, Bridge, and Road records
- Maps

## **COURT RECORDS – COUNTY COURT OF PLEAS AND QUARTER SESSIONS**

- Combination of criminal/civil court and county government
- Lasted until 1868 when duties were split
- Run by Justices of the Peace who appointed county officials
- Taxes, roads, buildings, public safety, public health, wills, deeds, care of the disadvantaged, civil lawsuits, minor criminal cases

## **MILITARY RECORDS**

- Pay vouchers, pensions, militia records

## **GOVERNMENT RECORDS**

- Legislative public and private laws
- Secretary of State
- Treasurer and Comptroller

## **AFRICAN ANCESTRY**

- Slavery from the very beginning
- Maroon communities in the Great Dismal Swamp
- County slave collection at the State Archives
- Freedmen's Bureau
- Cohabitation records

## **NATIVE AMERICAN ANCESTRY**

- Algonquin, Tuscarora, Catawba, Cherokee, plus many smaller tribes
- Disease and war wiped out most of the Eastern tribes
- Cherokee were pushed further west until they were forced out of NC

## **RECORD REPOSITORIES** (partial list)

**State Archives of North Carolina**, Raleigh NC: State, County, and Personal records

General information - <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/>

Online catalog (DOC) - <https://archives.ncdcr.gov/doc>

Free comprehensive video on using the archives -

<https://www.ncgenealogy.org/use-state-archives-nc-webinar/>

**University of NC at Chapel Hill, Special Collections**, Chapel Hill NC

<https://library.unc.edu/wilson/>

**East Carolina University, Joyner Library Special Collections**, Greenville NC

<https://library.ecu.edu/specialcollections/>

**Duke University, Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library**, Durham NC

<https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein>

**NC Central University (HBCU), Special Collections**, Durham NC

<https://www.nccu.edu/james-e-shepard-memorial-library/special-collections>

**Guilford College, Hege Library**, Greensboro NC: Quaker Archives

<https://library.guilford.edu/archives>

**Moravian Archives**, Winston-Salem NC

<https://moravianarchives.org/>

**Library of Virginia**, Richmond VA: Early NC records

<https://www.lva.virginia.gov/>

## **LIBRARIES** (partial list)

### **State Library of North Carolina**, Raleigh NC

General information - <https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/>

Online catalog - <https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/search-library>

### **University Libraries** (see above under Repositories)

### **County Genealogy Libraries**

Craven - <http://newbern.cpclub.org/research/>

Durham - <https://durhamcountylibrary.org/location/main-library/the-north-carolina-collection/>

Mecklenburg - <https://www.cmlibrary.org/services/archives-and-special-collections>

Rowan - <https://www.rowancountync.gov/1516/Edith-M-Clark-History-Room>

Wake - <https://www.wake.gov/departments-government/libraries/locations/olivia-raney-local-history-library>

### **County Genealogical Society Collections** (partial list)

Buncombe - <https://www.obcgs.com/library/>

Mecklenburg - <https://oldemeck.org/cpage.php?pt=8>

Union - <https://www.carolinasgensociety.org/>

## **GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES**

NC Genealogical Society. Quartly journal, newsletter, webinars, annual conference  
<https://ncgenealogy.org>

List of county societies (some have closed)

<https://www.ncgenealogy.org/genealogical-historical-societies/>

## **FREE ONLINE RESOURCES**

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries. Excellent visual source for old county boundaries  
<https://digital.newberry.org/ahcb/>

Carolana.com . Hundreds of pages of text on the history of the Carolinas from the very beginning, including transcriptions of original documents. There are few citations so additional research may be needed.

<https://www.carolana.com/Carolina/home.html>

David Rumsey Map Collection. Many old maps related to NC.

<https://www.davidrumsey.com/>

Digital NC. Digitized works from statewide libraries and museums

<https://www.digitalnc.org/>

Documenting the American South: Colonial and State Records of North Carolina. An indexed online version of the first edition of the Colonial and State Records of NC.

<https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/>



FamilySearch. Extensive collection of county records.

<http://familysearch.org>

Library of Congress Map Collections. Many old maps related to NC.

<https://www.loc.gov/maps/>

Library of Virginia: Research Guides. Original documents including land grants.

<https://lva-virginia.libguides.com/>

NC Scans. Selected images of original NC documents (a work in progress)

<http://ncscans.com>

NCPedia. Giant encyclopedia of all things NC, includes Gazetteer of geographical names

<https://www.ncpedia.org/>

North Carolina Digital Collections. Collections of original documents from the State Archives.

<https://digital.ncdcr.gov/>

North Carolina Land Grant Images and Data. Complete Record of NC land grants and associated documents starting in 1663.

<http://nclandgrants.com>

North Carolina Maps. Comprehensive collection of maps related to NC

<https://web.lib.unc.edu/nc-maps/>

State Library of North Carolina. Free to residents of NC, includes records from the British Colonial Office (CO-5) as well as other applicable databases.

<https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/research/online-resources#Tab-GenealogyHistory-527>

Virginia Places. "Virginia-North Carolina Boarder". History and maps of the border between the two states.

<http://www.virginiaplaces.org/boundaries/ncboundary.html>

## **FACEBOOK GROUPS**

North Carolina Genealogy. Private group, 20,000 members

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/NorthCarolinaGenealogy>

North Carolina Genealogy Network. Private group, 12,000 members

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/153280238075934>

NCGenWeb Project . Private group, 6,000 members

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1527387364194603>

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