North Carolina Genealogy Research

Between 1663 -1777, proprietors of the English king "granted" some land in the Carolinas to settlers, who rented it.
Lord Granville and Henry McCulloh deeded some land to settlers.
In 1777, the General Assembly authorized counties to issue land warrants of remaining vacant land.
Most settlers traveled overland to North Carolina.

North Carolina Births

- The city of Raleigh began recording births of its residents in 1890.
- The city of Wilmington began recording births in 1904.
- The rest of the state began recording births in 1913.
- There are some delayed birth records of the years before 1913.

Family Search.org and Ancestry.com have indexes of some North Carolina births between 1800 and 2000.
Obtain a copy of a birth record from the North Carolina State Department of Health or from the **County Registrar of Deeds**
The person obtaining the birth certificate must be:

- The person on the certificate, a direct descendant, spouse, direct ancestor, sibling or guardian of the person on the certificate
- Anyone with a legal interest in the certificate

North Carolina Marriages

Different types of county marriage records are available in North Carolina in different time periods. In general, the following types of records are available:

1741-1851: Marriage bonds
1851-1868: Marriage bonds, licenses and certificates
1868-present: Marriage licenses

From 1669 to 1741, marriages were performed by clergy or civil authorities and were recorded in county records. Few of these marriage records survive**. The State Archives have information about which marriage records between 1669 and 1741 are available** - http://www.ncdcr.gov/archives/Home.aspx.

From 1741 to 1961, marriage records were kept by the county clerk for each county and began at the creation of the county.
View *indexes* of North Carolina marriages between 1741 – 2004 on FamilySearch.org and on Ancestry.com. You can view *images* of some 1741 – 2004 marriage records on microfilm which can be rented from LDS Family History Centers.
Order a copy of a marriage record of the years 1741 – 1961 from the Register of Deeds in the county the marriage took place. Contact information for each county office is located at http://www.ncard.us/Directory/CountyMap.htm.
You can also order a copy of a marriage record of the years 1741 – 1961 from the State Archives. Contact information for the Archives is located at http://www.ncdcr.gov/archives/Home.aspx.
Marriages from 1962 to the present:
In 1962, counties began sending copies of their marriage records to the North Carolina Department of Public Health.
View indexes of some North Carolina marriages from 1741 – 2004 on Ancestry.com and on FamilySearch.org.
Order copies of marriage records from 1962 to the present from the **County Register of Deeds** or from the **State Vital Records office.**

North Carolina Death Records

The state of North Carolina began recording deaths in 1913.

There are indexes of some North Carolina deaths between 1906 and 2004 on FamilySearch.org and on Ancestry.com.

Images of death certificates from 1906 to 1994, as well as an index covering 1906 to 1967, are available to read on microfilm which can be rented from the LDS Family History Library for a small fee. Find the microfilm # on the Family History Catalog on www.familysearch.org and order the film online or at a LDS Family History Center.

Order a copy of a death record from the county vital records offices or from the North Carolina Department of Health. Contact information for county offices is found at http://vitalrec.com/nc.html#County. Ordering information for the state office is found at http://vitalrecords.nc.gov/order.htm.

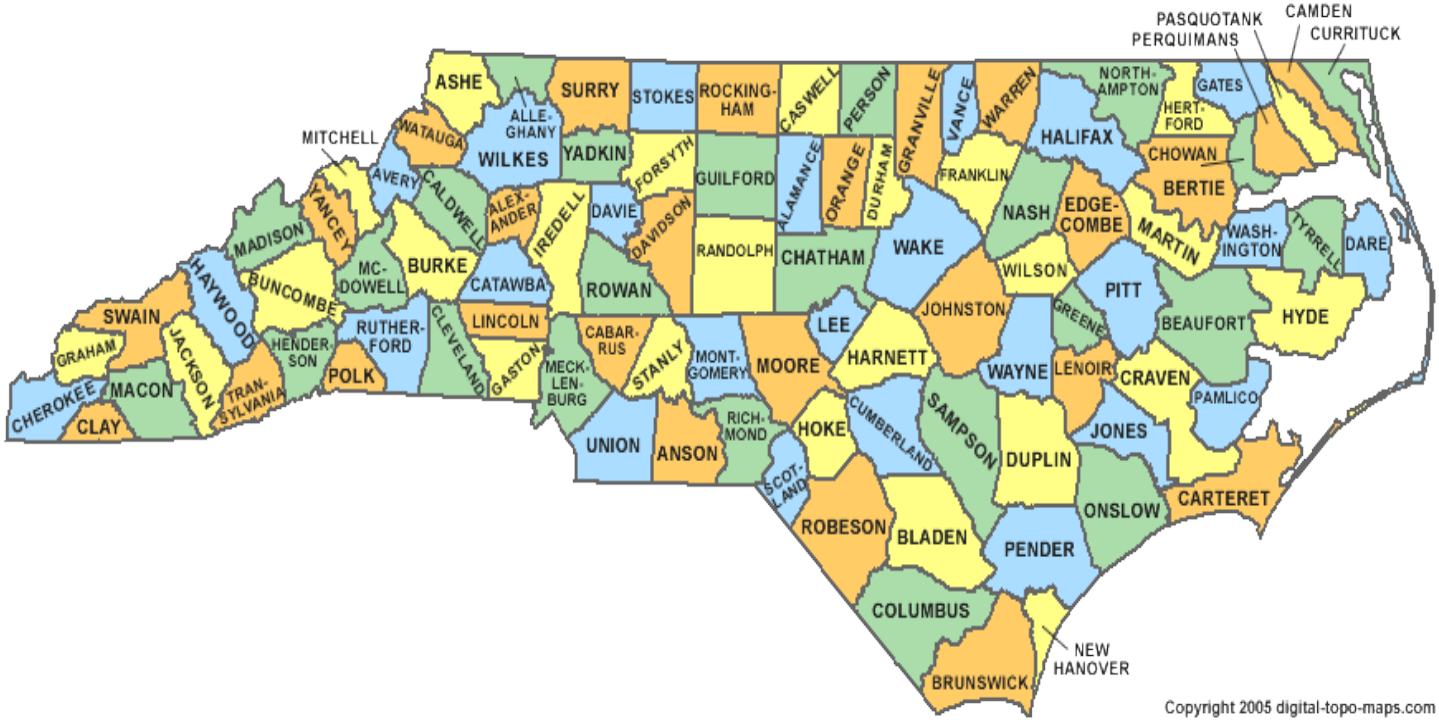
Persons ordering copies of death certificates of persons who died *within the last 50 years:*

- The parent, step-parent, grandparent, spouse, child, or sibling of the person on the certificate
- Anyone who has legal interest in the certificate

Major Repositories of North Carolina Genealogical Information

North Carolina State Archives · State Library of North Carolina · University of North Carolina Library · Duke University Perkins Library · National Archives Southeast Region (Atlanta) · Library of Congress

North Carolina Counties



The Atlas of Historical County Boundaries – Interactive maps and text covering the historical boundaries, names, organization, and attachments of every county, extinct county and unsuccessful county proposal from the creation of the first county through December 31, 2000. - http://publications.newberry.org/ahcbp/index.html

North Carolina Counties now part of Tennessee or Virginia:

State of Franklin · Blount · Caswell (TN) · Davidson (TN) · Fincastle (VA) · Greene (TN) · Hawkins · Sevier · Spencer · Sullivan · Sumner · Tennessee · Washington (old) · Wayne (TN)

Migration Routes

Atlantic Coast Ports · Black Fox Trail · Catawba and Northern Trail · Catawba Trail · Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad · Fall Line Road (or Southern Road) · Fayetteville, Elizabethtown, and Wilmington Trail · Great Valley Road · Jonesboro Road · King's Highway · Lower Cherokee Traders' Path · New River and Southern Trail · Occaneechi Path · Old Cherokee Path · Rutherford's War Trace · Secondary Coast Road · Unicoi Trail · Upper Road · Wilmington, Highpoint, and Northern Trail

North Carolina Genealogical Websites

NOTE: Check online for the *GenWeb* or *Genealogy Trails* of any county in which your ancestor lived.

New Bern-Craven County Public Library – large variety of genealogical records - http://newbern.cpclib.org/research/genres.html
Digital North Carolina – city directories, college yearbooks, historical photos, videos and memorabilia, newspaper pages, African American education records - from libraries, museums, and archives - http://digitalnc.org/
Greensboro Public Library – *GUILFORD COUNTY:* county marriages and deaths – county WWII veterans – African Americans in Greensboro in 1880 and 1887 – Greensboro city cemetery burials – links to external databases of Guilford County Slave Deeds and Greensboro City Directories - http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=925
North Carolina Collection Biographical Index – surname search the index of titles of books containing biographies of North Carolina residents - http://www2.lib.unc.edu/ncc/ncc_bio/index.html
North Carolina Digital Collections – marriage and death notices, confederate pension applications, alien registrations, census profiles from 1960's, 1970's and 1980's, civil war regimental histories and letters, bios of famous North Carolinians and historical landmarks, records of Rev. War continental units and of county and state militias - https://digital.ncdcr.gov/
North Carolina Digital Heritage – search newspapers, yearbooks, photos, city directories, yearbooks, genealogies – www.digitalnc.org
North Carolina Pioneers $ - view images of wills, family histories, indexes of pioneers, etc. - http://northcarolinapioneers.com/
North Carolina State Archives – in County Records Box List: indexes of marriages, divorces, wills, estates, guardianships - https://archives.ncdcr.gov/researchers/finding-aids/county-records-box-lists
Online County Histories - http://www.learnwebskills.com/family/countyhistories1.htm#il
StateofUs.com – historical/genealogical information and links to research websites - http://www.stateofus.com/northcarolina/
Union County Public Library – three obituary indexes, historic photos, burial information for various cemeteries, historical scrapbooks - http://www.union.lib.nc.us/

North Carolina African American Research

Access Genealogy – links by state to websites of African American genealogy, cemeteries, and censuses
AfricaMap – track the slave trade with historical overlays and geographical data - http://worldmap.harvard.edu/africamap/
AfriGeneas – slave records, death and marriage records, censuses, surnames – chat or send messages to other researchers - http://afrigeneas.com/
Digital Library on American Slavery – search database of slave petitions, runaway slave advertisements, bills of sale, transatlantic slave trade database; this compilation of various online collections started with a focus on records in North Carolina but the information includes people in all 15 slave states and Washington D.C.; more records about specific areas of North Carolina are currently being digitized - http://library.uncg.edu/slavery/
Digital North Carolina – African American education records - from state archives - http://digitalnc.org/

Free African Americans in the Southeast - Free people of color in the colonies of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maryland, and Delaware – a few families in Illinois, Tennessee and Indiana - http://www.freeafricanamericans.com/
Guilford County Genealogical Databases – African Americans in Greensboro in 1880 and 1887 - http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=925
International African American Museum - African American funeral programs, obituaries, marriage records, photos, historical documents and family histories – military records of the U.S. Colored Troops are currently being digitized - https://cfh.iaamuseum.org/records/
Last Seen: Finding Family After Slavery - search thousands of "Information Wanted" advertisements taken out by former slaves in all states searching for family members lost by sale, flight, or enlistment – the collection currently includes newspapers from 1853 to 1911 - http://www.informationwanted.org/
Slave Confederate Payrolls - digitized NARA records: payrolls list names of slaves of 10 southern states who worked for the Confederate Army and whose pay went to their masters - https://catalog.archives.gov/search?q=719477
Slave Voyages - the *Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database* documents vessels along the Atlantic slave routes from 1514 to 1866; *Intra-American Slave Trade Database* documents vessels traveling between the Atlantic and Pacific ports ranging from the United States to Brazil; the *African Names Database* gives names, ages, possible origins of slaves liberated from captured slave ships between 1808 and 1862 - https://www.slavevoyages.org/

North Carolina Cemetery Research

Granville County Cemeteries – alphabetical burial listings, headstone photos, Google map, GPS coordinates, driving directions, and a brief history of each cemetery - http://cemeterycensus.com/nc/gran/
GUILFORD COUNTY, N.C.: **Greensboro City Cemeteries** –funeral home/burial records of interments in the three city cemeteries - http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=925
RALEIGH, NC: **Oakwood Cemetery** – burials of area residents and almost 1500 Confederate soldiers – search burial records, read biographies of notable citizens buried there - https://www.historicoakwoodcemetery.org/search-burial-records/
Tennessee Valley Authority Cemeteries – index of over 30,000 graves originally in TN, AL, MS, KY, GA, NC, and VA that were flooded or relocated when the dams were built - https://www.tva.com/environment/environmental-stewardship/land-management/cultural-resource-management/relocated-cemeteries

North Carolina Military Research

Grand Army of the Republic Records Project – developing database - histories of posts, reports of officers and members if available, search by state - http://suvcw.org/garrecords/
North Carolina Troop Returns – pay or muster rolls, field records, prisoner records, draft and enlistment records of soldiers in Revolutionary War - https://digital.ncdcr.gov/digital/custom/troop-returns
North Carolina War of 1812 Pay Vouchers – search the images of pay vouchers by name - http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16062coll7/
Revolutionary War soldiers for NC and SC – alphabetical list gives name, rank, regiment, dates of service, notes, and location of battles - https://www.ourfamtree.org/soldier/search.php

North Carolina Native American Research

Carlisle Indian School Digital Resource Center – student records, cemetery information, info about Lakota, Ojibwe, Seneca, Oneida, Cherokee, Apache, Cheyenne, and Alaska Native tribes - http://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu/
First People - Links to State Recognized Tribes, sorted by state - http://www.firstpeople.us/FP-Html-Links/state-recognized-tribes-in-usa-by-state.html
Native American Tribes of North Carolina - http://www.native-languages.org/ncarolina.htm

North Carolina Newspaper Research

Digital North Carolina – read community and college newspapers - http://digitalnc.org/
North Carolina Newspapers, 1824 - **2012** – browse or keyword search - http://digitalnc.org/collections/newspapers
North Carolina Online Historical Newspapers – https://sites.google.com/site/onlinenewspapersite/Home/usa/nc

Information on these pages is compiled from information in:

- *FamilySearch.org* Wiki
- Family Tree Magazine
- *The Weekly Genealogist, NEHGS; Dick Eastman Genealogy Newsletter*
- *Genealogy Gems from the Allen County Public Library*
- *Online Military Indexes and Records* - http://www.militaryindexes.com/index.html