

Anson County ^[1]



Average: 3.4 (102 votes)

Anson County



^[2]

ANSON COUNTY GOVERNMENT:

<http://www.co.anson.nc.us/> ^[2]

COUNTY SEAT: Wadesboro

FORMED: 1750

FORMED FROM: Bladen

LAND AREA: 531.45 square miles

2020 POPULATION ESTIMATE: 22,055

White: 47.4%

Black/African American: 48.5%

American Indian: 0.9%

Asian: 1.5%

Pacific Islander: 0.1%

Two or more races: 1.7%

Hispanic/Latino: 4.1% (of any race)

From *State & County QuickFacts*, US Census Bureau, 2020. ^[3]

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 9TH

BIOGRAPHIES FOR

[Anson County](#)  ^[4]



^[5]

WILDLIFE PROFILES FOR

[Piedmont region](#) ^[5]

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

REGION: [Piedmont](#) ^[6]

RIVER BASIN: [Yadkin-Pee Dee](#) ^[7], [Map](#) ^[8]

NEIGHBORING COUNTIES: [Montgomery](#) ^[9], [Richmond](#) ^[10], [Stanly](#) ^[11], [Union](#) ^[12]



Anson County, North Carolina

See also: [North Carolina Counties](#) ^[13] (to access links to NCpedia articles for all 100 counties)

by Peter Bangma, 2006; Revised by SLNC Government and Heritage Library, July 2023

Anson County, located on the eastern edge of North Carolina's [Piedmont](#) ^[6] region, along the South Carolina border, was formed in 1750 with the division of [Bladen County](#) ^[14]. The county takes its name from George Lord Anson (1697-1762), then First Lord of the British Admiralty. For a time, Anson County was one of the largest territories in the colony, with borders that theoretically extended westward as far as the Mississippi River. Later, portions of Anson County became [Mecklenburg](#) ^[15], [Montgomery](#) ^[9], [Richmond](#) ^[10], and [Union](#) ^[12] Counties. Its county seat, [Wadesboro](#) ^[16], was established in 1783 and was known as New Town until 1787, when it was renamed for Revolutionary War soldier and North Carolina legislator Col. Thomas Wade. Other communities in the county include Ansonville, Cedar Hill, [Lilesville](#) ^[17], McFarlan, Morven, [Peachland](#) ^[18], [Polkton](#) ^[19], Pee Dee, and White Store.

Anson County was home to a considerable population of [Catawba](#) ^[20] and [Cheraw](#) ^[21] Indians, whose settlements along the Pee Dee River offered important trading outposts for British and Scot-Irish immigrants who came to the region. Today, the Pee Dee River region in the county's northeast is home to the 8,443-acre [Pee Dee National Wildlife Refuge](#) ^[22], one of ten such refuges in the state.

Anson County remained largely rural throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. [Leonidas L. Polk](#) ^[23], North Carolina's first commissioner of agriculture and president of the National Farmers' Alliance, was born in the county and founded the town of Polkton in 1875. As in other Piedmont counties, textile production became an increasingly important part of the local economy in the nineteenth century. Anson County was the site of the nation's first [soil conservation](#) ^[24] district, Brown Creek, established in 1937.

In the middle and late twentieth century, growth in nearby [Charlotte](#) ^[25] and surrounding areas led to some increased growth in Anson County. By the early twenty-first century it remained largely rural and small in overall population, but a growing number of residents were moving to the county for its quiet lifestyle within a relatively short distance of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg metropolitan area. Anson County's population was estimated to be 25,700 in 2004.

Annotated history of Anson County's formation:

For an annotated history of the county's formation, with the laws affecting the county, boundary lines and changes, and other origin information, visit these references in *The Formation of the North Carolina Counties* (Corbitt, 2000), available online at North Carolina Digital Collections (note, there may be additional items of interest for the county not listed here):

County formation history: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553272> ^[26]

Index entry for the county: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553577> ^[27]

Reference:

Mary L. Medley, *History of Anson County, North Carolina, 1750-1976* (1976).

Additional resources:

Corbitt, David Leroy. 2000. *The formation of the North Carolina counties, 1663-1943*. <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553272> ^[28] (accessed June 20, 2017).

Anson County Government: <http://www.co.anson.nc.us/> ^[2]

Anson County Chamber of Commerce: <http://ansoncountychamber.org> [29]

DigitalNC, Anson County: <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/anson-county/> [30]

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format): <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> [31]

Image credits:

Rudersdorf, Amy. 2010. "NC County Maps." Government & Heritage Library, State Library of North Carolina.

Subjects:

Counties [32]

From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press. [33]

Authors:

Bangma, Peter [34]

Origin - location:

Anson County [35]

1 January 2006 | Bangma, Peter

Source URL: <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/anson>

Links

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/anson> [2] <http://www.co.anson.nc.us/> [3] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/ansoncountynorthcarolina,US/POP010220> [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/anson-county/biography> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/wildlife/piedmont> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/region/piedmont> [7] <https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/yadkin-river-basin.pdf> [8] <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=f82f583438e74bf29adcc76247381eee> [9] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/montgomery> [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/richmond> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/stanly> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/union> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/node/156/> [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/bladen> [15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/mecklenburg> [16] <https://www.wadesboronc.gov/> [17] <https://www.citydirectory.us/town-lilesville.html> [18] <https://www.townofpeachland.org/> [19] <http://www.city-data.com/city/Polkton-North-Carolina.html> [20] <https://www.ncpedia.org/catawba-indians> [21] <https://www.ncpedia.org/saura-indians> [22] <http://www.fws.gov/peedee/> [23] <http://www.ncagr.gov/paffairs/aghall/pol.k.htm> [24] <https://www.ncpedia.org/soil-conservation> [25] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/charlotte> [26] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553272> [27] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553577> [28] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553233> [29] <http://ansoncountychamber.org/> [30] <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/anson-county/> [31] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> [32] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/counties> [33] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia-> [34] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/bangma-peter> [35] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/piedmon-25>