

## **Brunswick County** <sup>[1]</sup>



Average: 4 (31 votes)

Brunswick County



<sup>[2]</sup>

### **BRUNSWICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT:**

<http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/> <sup>[2]</sup>

**COUNTY SEAT:** Bolivia

**FORMED:** 1764

**FORMED FROM:** New Hanover, Bladen

**LAND AREA:** 846.97 square miles

**2020 POPULATION ESTIMATE:** 136,693

White: 86.5%

Black/African American: 10.0%

American Indian: 0.8%

Asian: 0.7%

Pacific Islander: 0.1%

Two or more races: 1.8%

Hispanic/Latino: 4.9% (of any race)

*From [State & County QuickFacts](#), US Census Bureau, 2020.* <sup>[3]</sup>

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** 7TH

**BIOGRAPHIES FOR**  <sup>[4]</sup>

[Brunswick County](#) <sup>[4]</sup>



<sup>[5]</sup> **WILDLIFE PROFILES FOR**

[Coastal Plain](#) <sup>[5]</sup>

### **GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION**

**REGION:** [Coastal Plain](#) <sup>[6]</sup>

**RIVER BASINS:** [Cape Fear](#) <sup>[7]</sup>, [Lumber](#) <sup>[8]</sup>, [Map](#) <sup>[9]</sup>

**NEIGHBORING COUNTIES:** [Columbus](#) <sup>[10]</sup>, [New Hanover](#) <sup>[11]</sup>, [Pender](#) <sup>[12]</sup>



See also: [North Carolina Counties](#) <sup>[13]</sup> (to access links to NCPedia articles for all 100 counties); [Bald Head](#) <sup>[14]</sup>; [Brunswick Town](#) <sup>[15]</sup>; [Cape Fear](#) <sup>[16]</sup>; [Cape Fear River Settlements](#) <sup>[17]</sup>; [Resorts](#) <sup>[18]</sup>.

by [William S. Powell](#) <sup>[19]</sup>, 2006

Brunswick County, located in the [Coastal Plain](#) <sup>[6]</sup> region of southeastern North Carolina, was formed in 1764 from [New Hanover](#) <sup>[11]</sup> and [Bladen](#) <sup>[20]</sup> Counties. The county was named after King George I, who was also the duke of Brunswick and Lunenburg. Early inhabitants of Brunswick County included the [Cape Fear Indians](#) <sup>[21]</sup>, followed by English and French [Huguenot](#) <sup>[22]</sup> settlers. The county seat is now (since 1975) [Southport](#) <sup>[23]</sup>, <sup>[\*]</sup> but for most of the county's history, [Bolivia](#) (incorporated in 1911) served in that role. Situated along the Atlantic Coast, Brunswick County has some of North Carolina's most accessible and popular ocean communities, including [Sunset Beach](#) <sup>[24]</sup>, [Ocean Isle Beach](#) <sup>[25]</sup>, [Holden Beach](#) <sup>[26]</sup>, and Bald Head Island. Cape Fear lies at the southern tip of Bald Head Island, and the [Cape Fear River](#) <sup>[17]</sup> runs along the county's eastern border. The Intracoastal Waterway passes through the county as well.

Brunswick County is home to a number of historic sites, including [Orton Plantation and Gardens](#) <sup>[27]</sup>, dating to ca. 1730; [Bald Head Island Lighthouse](#) <sup>[28]</sup>, fondly known as "Old Baldy"; and the Brunswick Inn, built in 1859. [Fort Johnston](#) <sup>[29]</sup>, completed in 1764, served as a refuge for royal governor [Josiah Martin](#) <sup>[30]</sup> in 1775. [Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site](#) <sup>[31]</sup> interprets the colonial and Civil War history of the region. Other cultural institutions include the [Southport Maritime Museum](#) <sup>[32]</sup>, the Brunswick County Historical Society, and the [Bald Head Island Conservatory](#) <sup>[33]</sup>. Well-attended annual events in Brunswick County include the North Carolina Fourth of July Festival, the Christmas-by-the-Sea Festival, the North Carolina Festival-by-the-Sea, and the North Carolina Oyster Festival.

Brunswick County agricultural products include [tobacco](#) <sup>[34]</sup>, vegetables, berries, corn, oats, sweet potatoes, [swine](#) <sup>[35]</sup>, beef cattle, and poultry; and manufactured products include polyester fibers, children's clothes, lumber, and citric acid. In addition to the beaches that draw millions of vacationers, the county's numerous golf courses are a popular attraction for visitors (as well as a growing number of retirees). Charter boat fishing on the [Intracoastal Waterway](#) <sup>[36]</sup> is another important recreational activity in the region. Brunswick County's population was estimated to be 85,000 in 2004.

## Annotated history of Brunswick 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-ca...> <sup>[37]</sup>

Index entry for the county: <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-ca...> <sup>[38]</sup>

### Update from N.C. Government & Heritage Library staff:

\*NOTE: the county seat of Brunswick is once again Bolivia.

### References:

Lawrence Lee, *The History of Brunswick County, North Carolina* (1980).

David Stick, *Bald Head: A History of Smith Island and Cape Fear* (1985).

### 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=4553233> [39] (accessed June 20, 2017).

Brunswick County Government: <http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/> [2]

Brunswick County Chamber of Commerce: <https://brunswickcountychamber.org/> [40]

DigitalNC, Brunswick County: <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/brunswick-county/> [41]

North Carolina Digital Collections (explore by place, time period, format):<https://digital.ncdcr.gov> [42]

#### Image credits:

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

#### Subjects:

Counties [43]

#### From:

Encyclopedia of North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press.[44]

#### Authors:

Powell, William S. [45]

#### Origin - location:

Brunswick County [46]

1 January 2006 | Powell, William S.

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Source URL:<https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/brunswick?page=0>

#### Links

[1] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/brunswick> [2] <http://www.brunswickcountync.gov/> [3] <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/brunswickcountynorthcarolina,US/POP010220> [4] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/brunswick-county/biography> [5] <https://www.ncpedia.org/wildlife/coastal-plain> [6] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/region/coastal-plain> [7] <https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/cape-fear-river-basin.pdf> [8] <https://files.nc.gov/deqee/documents/files/lumber-river-basin.pdf> [9] <https://ncdenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/PublicInformation/index.html?appid=f82f583438e74bf29adcc76247381eee> [10] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/columbus> [11] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/new-hanover> [12] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/pender> [13] <https://www.ncpedia.org/node/156/> [14] <https://www.ncpedia.org/bald-head> [15] <https://www.ncpedia.org/brunswick-town> [16] <https://www.ncpedia.org/cape-fear> [17] <https://www.ncpedia.org/rivers/cape-fear> [18] <https://www.ncpedia.org/resorts> [19] <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/powell-william> [20] <https://www.ncpedia.org/geography/bladen> [21] <https://www.ncpedia.org/cape-fear-indians> [22] <https://www.ncpedia.org/huguenots> [23] <https://cityofsouthport.com/> [24] <http://www.sunsetbeachnc.gov/> [25] <https://www.oibgov.com/> [26] <https://hbtownhall.com/> [27] <https://islandlifenc.com/orton-plantation-a-legacy-of-the-south/> [28] <https://www.ncpedia.org/old-baldy-lighthouse> [29] <https://www.ncpedia.org/fort-johnston> [30] <https://www.ncpedia.org/martin-josiah> [31] <https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/brunswick-town-fort-anderson> [32] <https://ncmaritimemuseumssouthport.com> [33] <https://bhic.org/> [34] <https://www.ncpedia.org/tobacco> [35] <https://www.ncpedia.org/hog-farming> [36] <https://www.ncpedia.org/intracoastal-waterway> [37] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553298> [38] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553580> [39] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/the-formation-of-the-north-carolina-counties-1663-1943/3692099?item=4553233> [40] <https://brunswickcountychamber.org/> [41] <https://www.digitalnc.org/counties/brunswick-county/> [42] <https://digital.ncdcr.gov> [43] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/subjects/counties> [44] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/entry-source/encyclopedia-> [45] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/authors/powell-william-s-0> [46] <https://www.ncpedia.org/category/origin-location/brunswick->