

## Dobbs County <sup>[1]</sup>

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by Ansley Wegner

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<https://www.dncr.nc.gov/about-us/history/division-historical-resources/nc-highway-historical-marker-program> <sup>[2]</sup>



Royal Governor Arthur Dobbs, for whom Dobbs County was named.

In 1758 the General Assembly decided that Johnston County <sup>[3]</sup> should be divided and that the newly formed county would be known as Dobbs, in honor of Arthur Dobbs <sup>[4]</sup>, the Royal Governor of the colony of North Carolina. Close to the center of the new county, the old Johnston county seat at Walnut Cre



Section of Henry Mouzon's 1775 map of the Carolinas, showing Dobbs County. Image from North Carolina Maps.

the seat of Dobbs, with the courthouse and its records remaining in tact. Johnston County was given a new seat and courthouse at Hinton's Quarter, closer to the center of the new smaller county.

<sup>[5]</sup>ek became

In 1779 Dobbs County was divided and the county seat was moved to Kingston (modern Kinston) where Richard Caswell <sup>[6]</sup>, then Governor of the new state of North Carolina, owned property. Walnut Creek became the seat of the new county of Wayne <sup>[7]</sup>, formed from the western half of Dobbs. The records in the old courthouse, however, moved with the Dobbs County records to Kingston.

Dobbs County, the name a constant reminder of the old regime, was abolished in 1791 and two new counties were formed. They were Lenoir <sup>[8]</sup>, named for William Lenoir <sup>[9]</sup>, speaker of the state senate, and Glasgow, named for James Glasgow <sup>[10]</sup>, Secretary of State. When Glasgow was found guilty of land fraud, the name of that county was changed to Greene <sup>[11]</sup>, in honor of Revolutionary War hero General Nathanael Greene.

### References:

William S. Powell, *Annals of Progress: The Story of Lenoir County and Kinston, North Carolina*(1963)

David Leroy Corbitt, *Formation of the North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943* (1950)

Walter Clark and William L. Saunders, eds., *Colonial Records of North Carolina and State Records of North Carolina* (1886-1900)

#### Image Credits:

Mouzon, Henry. "An Accurate Map of North and South Carolina With Their Indian Frontiers, Shewing in a distinct manner all the Mountains, Rivers, Swamps, Marshes, Bays, Creeks, Harbours, Sandbanks and Soundings on the Coasts, with The Roads and Indian Paths; as well as The Boundary or Provincial Lines, The Several Townships and other divisions of the Land in Both the Provinces; the whole from Actual Surveys by Henry Mouzon and Others." London: Robt. Sayer and J. Bennett, Map and Print-Sellers. 1775. North Carolina Maps.

<https://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/ncmaps/id/125/rec/55> <sup>[5]</sup>

#### Subjects:

[American Revolution \(1763-1789\)](#) <sup>[12]</sup>

[Counties](#) <sup>[13]</sup>

[Geography](#) <sup>[14]</sup>

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#### Origin - location:

[Greene County](#) <sup>[16]</sup>

[Johnston County](#) <sup>[17]</sup>

[Lenoir County](#) <sup>[18]</sup>

[Wayne County](#) <sup>[19]</sup>

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