

BRIEF HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF THE COUNTY OF CUMBERLAND

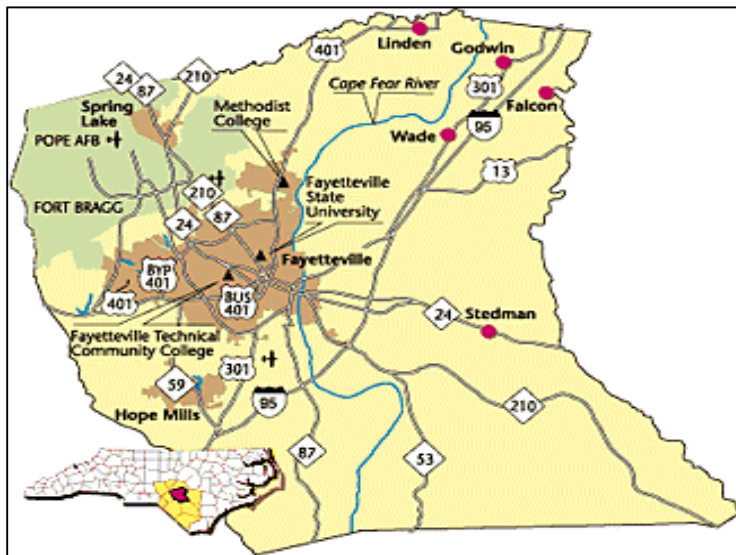
HISTORY

Cumberland County began as a settlement in the Upper Cape Fear Valley between 1729 and 1736, by European migrants known as Highland Scots. The area became a vital transportation link to other major settlements. A receiving and distribution center was established in 1730 on the Cape Fear River. This settlement was known as Campbellton.

The Colonial Legislature passed an act in 1754 which resulted in the political division of Bladen County, thus forming Cumberland County. It was named after the Duke of Cumberland (William Augustus), who commanded the English Army. The County continued to grow and prosper as the Scotch-Irish, Germans and Moravians also entered the area. Campbellton was named the county seat during 1778. In 1783, Campbellton was renamed Fayetteville in honor of Marquis De La Fayette, a French general that served in the American Colonies Revolutionary Army.

Fayetteville's growth was delayed by a devastating fire in 1831, and the invasion of General Sherman in 1865. One of the factors that boosted this slow recovery period was the opening of Camp Bragg as an artillery and temporary training facility as a permanent Army post and renamed the camp to Fort Bragg, after Confederate General Braxton Bragg, a North Carolina native. Today, Fort Bragg plays a vital role in the economy of the County as the base occupies approximately 43,000 acres of the County land area.

Presently, Cumberland County has a population of 301,098 and consists of 661 square miles located in the Upper Coastal Plain section of the state. This area is better known as the "Sandhills." Cumberland County has progressed from its beginnings as a river front distribution center to a highly commercialized area offering a variety of services to its citizens.



DESCRIPTION OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT

The County of Cumberland functions under a Board of Commissioners - County Manager form of government. The Board of County Commissioners consists of seven members. Two members are elected from District 1 which follows the 17th House District line, three members from District 2 which follows the 18th House District line, and two members at large.

Each member of the Board is elected for a four-year term. The terms are staggered with two members from District 1 and two members at large elected in a biennial general election, and three members from District 2 elected two years later. The Board members elect their own Chairman and Vice Chairman on an annual basis.

The board of Commissioners meets two times each month. Scheduled meeting days are the first Monday of each month at 9:00 a.m.; the third Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. In addition, the first and third Monday meetings are broadcast live on Fayetteville cable channel 7. When necessary, the Board holds special called meetings, always advertised in advance. The Board of Commissioners meetings are open to the public. They are held in the Commissioners' meeting room on the first floor of the County Courthouse located on Dick Street.

The agenda for each regular scheduled Board meeting is normally available on the Thursday prior to the Monday meeting on the county's website; www.co.cumberland.nc.us. The minutes of the meetings are also posted as soon as they become available.