



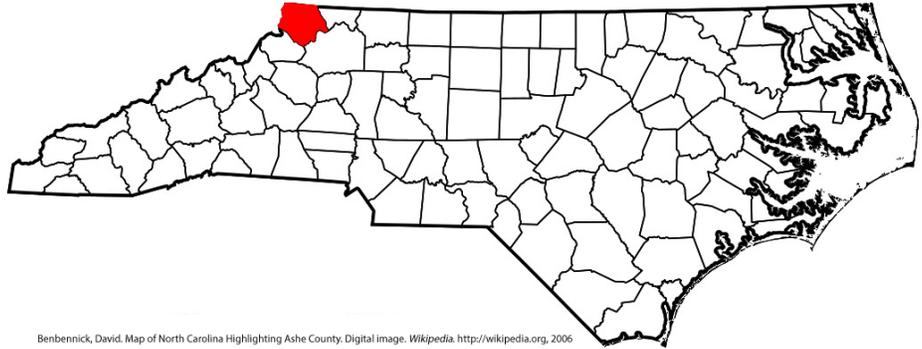
Ashe County, North Carolina Locality Guide for Genealogical Research

Robin Withrow / November 2017

Historical background

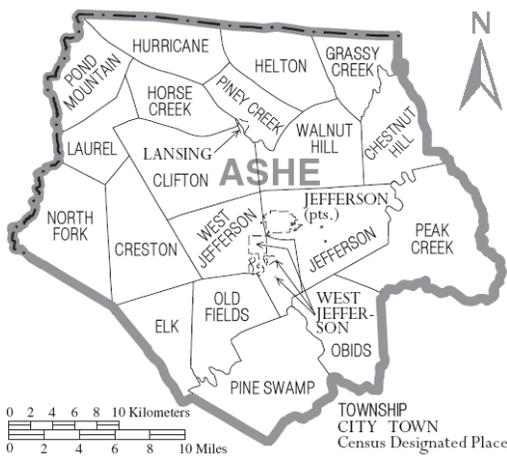
Ashe County, located in the Appalachian mountains of North Carolina's northwest corner, is about 427 square miles in area. Its current population is just over 27,000.¹ Ashe has never been heavily settled and its population did not exceed 10,000 until after 1870.²

The area was originally a part of Anson County in the early colonial period and was inhabited by Native Americans. In 1753, the area was designated a part of Rowan County, then in 1771, a part of Surry and then of Wilkes in 1777. It was considered a part of the State of Franklin from 1784-1789. Ashe as a county was officially created from Wilkes County 18 November 1799. At that time Ashe stretched from the western border of Wilkes to the Tennessee line. In 1848, Watauga County was established from the south-western part of Ashe and in 1859, Alleghany County was carved out of the northeastern corner.³



Benbennick, David. Map of North Carolina Highlighting Ashe County. Digital image. Wikipedia. <http://wikipedia.org>, 2006

Bishop Augustus Spangenburg, looking for land for a Moravian settlement in 1752, was the first recorded European to visit the area.⁴ There are records of hunting expeditions beginning around 1770, with Daniel Boone's being the most well-known.⁵ Some documents pertaining to people living in what is now Ashe County from 1771-1777, may be found in Surry County records and for the period from 1777-1799, in Wilkes. For these periods, a check of all three may be needed.



U.S. Census, Ruhrfisch. Map of Ashe County North Carolina with Municipal and Township Labels. Wikimedia Commons. <http://commons.wikimedia.org>, 2007.

The Ashe county seat is Jefferson. Other communities in Ashe include: West Jefferson, Creston, Clifton, Lansing, Fleetwood (formerly Bowie), Glendale Springs, Helton, Todd (formerly Elkland), Warrensville, Grassy Creek, North Fork, Laurel, Fig, Oldfields, Pine Swamp, Walnut Hill, Horse Creek, Peak Creek, Piney Creek, Pond Mountain, Shatley Springs, Hurricane and Obids.

¹ "U.S. Census Bureau Quick Facts: Ashe County, North Carolina," *United States Census Bureau*. (<http://www.census.gov> : accessed 17 Nov 2017).

² 1870 U.S. census, Ashe County, North Carolina, population schedule, digital images, *Ancestry*. (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 17 Nov 2017).

³ "Ashe County, North Carolina Genealogy," *FamilySearch Wiki*. (<https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/> : accessed 16 Nov 2017), 2017.

⁴ Arthur L. Fletcher, *Ashe County: A History* (Jefferson, NC: Ashe County Research Association, Inc.), 1963, 3.

⁵ Fletcher, *Ashe County: A History*, 11.

Note: Links for SOME Family Search records will require you to log in to your account (free).

Record losses

The county courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1865. Court records are fragmented, but many survive.

Repositories and their holdings

Ashe County Courthouse:

Clerk of Court

Phone: 336-219-1400

Holdings: Wills, Estate records

Register of Deeds (ACRD)

150 Government Circle, Suite 2300, Jefferson, NC 28640

Website: <http://www.ashecountygov.com/departments/register-of-deeds>

Phone: 336-846-5580

Email: registerofdeeds@ashecountygov.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Holdings: Birth certificates, 1913 – present; delayed birth certificates, late 1800s - present; death certificates, 1913 – present; marriage indexes, 1853 - present; marriage bonds and licenses, late 1800s – present; Deeds, 1799 - present (available online as well); also have map locations for many Ashe County family cemeteries. Unofficial copies of vital records may be obtained through an [online request](#) for \$10.00.

Note: Large free parking lot. *Very* helpful staff, will make copies for a nominal charge. Ok to use digital cameras or phone camera. Computers available that are connected to local databases for vital records search. A number of restaurants are located nearby in Jefferson, or just a few miles away in West Jefferson.

Government and Heritage Library, State Library of North Carolina (GHL)

109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27699-4614

Website: <https://statelibrary.ncdcr.gov/ghl>

Phone: 919-807-7450 Fax: 919-733-1843

Email: See [online staff directory](#)

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Sat 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM, Closed Sunday and state holidays.

Holdings: Ashe County Historical Society Newsletter 1992-2013, Wade E. Eller Genealogy Collection (12 reels of microfilm. Eller was a long-time genealogy researcher in Ashe County), also transcriptions of US Census records from 1800-1900, microfilm of land entries, court records, estate records (1819-1935), vital record indexes, genealogies, etc.

Note: The GHL and the SANC are located in the same building. This library recently began allowing many items from its collection to circulate. If you have a card from a North Carolina library that is part of the [NC Cardinal Consortium](#) you can request items be sent to you at your local branch. Self-service copier located in main reading room. Pay nominal charge for copies at desk before leaving. [See online information for directions, parking/food.](#)

North Carolina Vital Records

225 N. McDowell Street, Raleigh, NC 27699-1900

Website: <http://vitalrecords.nc.gov>

Phone: 919-733-3000 Fax: 919-733-1511

Walk-in hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Holdings: Birth certificates: 1913 - present, Death certificates: 1930 - present, Marriage certificates: 1962 - present, Divorce certificates: 1958 - present, Fetal death certificates: 2001 - present.

Note: Processing time can be lengthy for online or mailed in requests. Same day service is offered on site. Search fee (includes 1 copy, if found) per certificate is \$24. A paid parking garage is located just north of the building on McDowell St. This office is located within 3 blocks of the NC State Archives and overnment and Heritage Library.

State Archives of North Carolina (SANC)

109 E. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27699-4614

Website: <http://archives.ncdcr.gov>

Phone: 919-807-7310 Fax: 919-733-1354

Email: archives@ncdcr.gov

Hours: Tues-Fri 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM, Sat- 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Closed Sun, Mon, and on state holidays

Holdings: Original documents: Bonds, Court dockets and minutes, civil and criminal action papers, deeds and grants, estate records, marriage bonds, marriage and divorce records, lunacy records, wills. Microfilm: bonds, incorporations and partnerships, Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions minutes, Superior Court minutes, judgements, witness fee dockets, election records, estate records, land records, marriage, birth and death indexes, marriage bonds, certificates and registers, tax records , wills, and Revolutionary War payroll records.

Note: See website for information about allowed items. Lockers are available for storing anything you cannot take inside. Bring a pencil (no pens) and quarters for microfilm copies, cash for copies made by staff. Digital cameras with flash turned off are allowed. No scanners. Wifi access available. Lockers available for storing items you cannot take inside. Paid parking available on street (best chance when nearby Legislature is not in session) or across the street in paid lot. Lot takes cash or credit card. Restaurants across the street at Museums of Science or of History; vending machines on 1st floor of Archives building. [Researchers FAQ](#)

Appalachian State University Belk Library Special Collections: W.L. Eury Appalachian Collection (ASU)

Room 432, 4th floor of Belk Library, ASU Campus, Boone, NC 28608

Website: <http://www.collections.library.appstate.edu/appalachian>

Hours: Open generally weekdays 8:00AM - 8:00 PM, Sat 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM, Sun 1:00 PM – 8:00 PM, but check website.

Holdings: Over 44,000 books, periodicals, sound recordings, video and computer files, manuscript collections, related to Southern Appalachia. Of particular interest are the manuscript holdings related to Ashe County, including many family papers and some old newspapers. Some items have been digitized and are available online.

Note: If using items from the Archives, Manuscript Collection or Rare Book Collection, contact for an appointment: 828-262-4041 or spcoll@appstate.edu. Ask staff about parking before visiting. You may be able to get a permit to park in the nearby parking garage. Otherwise, parking is available at the River Street

lot. Coffee shop located on 1st floor and convenience-type store in the adjacent student union building across from the bookstore. Many restaurants within walking distance or a short drive, in Boone.

Ashe County Public Library, Heritage Room (ACPL)

148 Library Drive, West Jefferson, NC 28694

Website: <http://www.arlibrary.org/adult-services/ashe-genealogy>

Phone 336-846-2041

Hours: Mon-Thurs: 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM, Fri-Sat: 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, Closed Sunday

Holdings: Local history books, family histories, periodicals, extensive vertical file of clippings and donated genealogical research on Ashe County families, local newspapers on microfilm.

Note: Free parking. Wifi access. Numerous restaurants are on nearby Main Street.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library (DRL)

Duke University, 411 Chapel Drive, Durham, NC 27708

Website: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Phone: 919-660-5822

Hours: variable, check website. Generally Mon-Fri 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Holdings: Original NC United Methodist Church records 1784-1984, including registers, etc. from Ashe County.

Note: You must register as a researcher and request items at least 2 business days ahead of visit. Check [online](#) for details. Parking can be a problem. [Consult map online](#) before visit. No food allowed. Lockers available for storing items not allowed inside. Digital camera/phone without flash allowed. Wifi access.

University of North Carolina Wilson Library Special Collections (UNC)

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 200 South Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27514-8890

Website: <http://library.unc.edu/wilson>

Phone: 919-962-3765

Email: wilsonlibrary@unc.edu

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Sat 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM, Sun 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Holdings: Maps, books, manuscript collections.

Note: Check both the North Carolina and the Southern Historical Collections. You should register ahead as a researcher and request items at least 2 business days ahead of visit. Check [online](#) for details. Parking can be a problem. Check [online parking information](#) and arrive early. Restaurants on Franklin Street within easy walking distance.

Historical/genealogical societies, museums

Ashe County Historical Society

Website: <http://www.ashehistoricalsociety.org/>

Meets monthly in the old Ashe County courthouse in Jefferson, NC. They do not have a repository, but do sell several books on Ashe, including census, cemetery, and marriage, as well as the two volumes of the Ashe County Heritage Books.

Ashe County Museum

301 E. Main Street, Jefferson, NC

Website: <http://ashehistory.org>

Phone: 336-846-1904

Email: info@ashehistory.org

Hours: Mon – Sat 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Located in the old 1904 county courthouse, the museum houses displays and artifacts from Ashe County's past. Its gift shop sells a number of books on Ashe, including those published by the Ashe Historical Society.

North Carolina Genealogical Society

6300 Creedmoor Road, Suite 170 #323, Raleigh, NC 27612

Website: <http://www.ncgenealogy.org>

Email: info@ncgenealogy.org

Individual membership for one year: \$40. NCGS produces a quarterly journal. Members have access to all back issues online. Also produces webinars, holds workshops and an annual meeting with speakers and vendors.

Online sources

DigitalNC: Ashe County

<http://digitalnc.org/counties/Ashe>. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: North Carolina Digital Heritage Center, undated. Searchable database of materials from North Carolina libraries, museums and archives, includes many early Ashe County photographs and images of a few Ashe County documents.

New River Notes (NRN)

<http://www.newrivernotes.com>. Grayson County, Virginia Heritage Foundation, 1998-2017. Includes transcriptions of: U.S. Census enumerations for 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, 1870 and 1920; tax list from 1815; slave holders from U.S. Census records 1800-1860; list of Ashe County land grants 1799-1936; Minutes of Ashe County Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions 1806-1811 and 1860-1865; Minutes of Ashe County Superior Court 1834; War of 1812 veterans from Ashe County; Ashe County Civil War soldiers; Ashe County marriages 1801-1872; also misc. transcriptions of other Ashe records.

North Carolina Digital Collections (NCDC)

<http://digital.ncdcr.gov>. Raleigh, NC: State Library of North Carolina. Includes images of family Bible records, Civil War pension applications and more.

Published sources

General:

- Ashe County Heritage Committee, editors. *The Heritage of Ashe County, Volumes 1 and 2*. Winston-Salem, North Carolina: Ashe County Heritage Book Committee in cooperation with History Division of Hunter Pub. Co., 1984, 1994.
- Ashe County Historical Association. *Ashe County Revisited*. Images of America. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia, 2002. A compilation of over 200 historic photographs of Ashe County residents, places and events.
- Fletcher, Arthur Lloyd. *Ashe County: A History*. Jefferson, North Carolina: Ashe County Research Association, 1963.
- Hamilton, Russell, compiler. *Ashe County Cemetery Records*. 2 volumes. West Jefferson, North Carolina: Creative Press, undated. (includes inscriptions and some family information along with location, from about 1800 to mid-20th century)
- Houck, John, Clarice Weaver, Carol Williams, and Ashe County Historical Association. *Ashe County*. Images of America. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia, 2000. Contains over 200 old photographs of many Ashe County residents, historic places and events.
- Morely, Bettye G., compiler. *Unrecorded Marriages, Ashe County, NC, 1817-1850*. [Mountain City, Tennessee]: Bettye G. Morely, no date.
- Myers, Rufus. *1799: North Carolina's Northwest Frontier*. West Jefferson, North Carolina: Rufus Myers, 2005.
- Pruitt, A.B. *Abstracts of Land Entries: Ashe County, NC*. 2 volumes. [Rocky Mount, North Carolina]: A.B. Pruitt, 1994. Covers period from 1800-1823 and includes a map.
- Rambling Through Ashe: Stories and Facts about Ashe County*. Compiled by the Bicentennial Historical Committee, A.D. Goodman, chairman; Elizabeth Barlow and Gertrude Vaught, editors. No place, No publisher, 1977.
- Reeves, Eleanor Baker. *A Factual History of Early Ashe County, North Carolina: It's People, Places and Events*. West Jefferson, North Carolina: Eleanor B. Reeves, 1986.
- Turner, Grace, abstractor. *Ashe County, North Carolina Will Abstracts, 1799-1910*. Wilson, North Carolina: Grace Turner, no date.

Other print sources:

- Ashe County Historical Association. *The Virginia Creeper in Ashe County*. Images of Rails. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia, 2011. Features photographs and information about the train and its impact on the area.

- Ashe County Historical Association. *West Jefferson*. Images of America. Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia, 2014. Features over 200 old photographs of townspeople, places and events.
- Brown, Jerry. *Banks Crossing: The Hanging of Will Banks*. InstantPublisher, 2004. The story of the hanging of an African American man for murder in Ashe County in 1907.
- Cooper, Leland R. and Mary Lee Cooper. *The Pond Mountain Chronicle: Self-Portrait of a Southern Appalachian Community*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland and Company, 1998.
- Crawford, Martin. *Ashe County's Civil War: Community and Society in the Appalachian South*. Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 2001.
- Dunaway, Stewart E., compiler. *Ashe County road records (1827-1915), bridge records (1912-1915), mill record (1812)*. [North Carolina]: [Stewart E. Dunaway], 2013.
- Greene, Ivery C. *A Disastrous Flood: A True and Fascinating Story*. No place: William Byrd Press, 1941. Story of the 1940 and 1919 floods that devastated Ashe County
- McGuinn, Doug. *The Last Train from Elkland: being a brief history of Elkland (present day Todd), North Carolina, and the surrounding northwestern North Carolina communities, including Bowie (present-day Fleetwood), West Riverside (present day Brownwood), and Yuma (present day Deep Gap)*. Boone, North Carolina: Bamboo Books, 2007.
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Bible records

North Carolina Digital Collections, State Library of North Carolina. Includes several with information about Ashe County families. Originals held at the State Archives of North Carolina in Raleigh, North Carolina.

<http://digital.ncdcr.gov>

Birth and Death records

Births

Official birth certificates began to be issued in Ashe County in 1913. Ashe County births from 1946-1998 are available in online indexes at *FamilySearch* and *Ancestry*. Official birth records from before this time must be found elsewhere. Ashe County birth certificates dating back to 1913 may be found at NC Vital Records and at the Ashe County Register of Deeds Office which maintains a searchable database available on site, but not online.

Title	Dates	Location	Notes
NC Birth Index, Ashe County	1946-1998	Ancestry	Images, searchable through the entire NC birth index
Index to births, Ashe Co, NC Delayed births	1913-1946 1913-1966	FamilySearch	Images, arranged by year, then alphabetically

Deaths

Death certificates began to be issued in Ashe County in 1913 and may be obtained from the Ashe County Register of Deeds Office and through NC Vital Records.

Title	Dates	Location	Notes
US Dept. of Veterans Affairs, BIRLS Death File	1850-2010	Ancestry	Searchable- data only, no images
NC Death Certificates	1909-1976	Ancestry	Searchable - images
NC Death Certificates	1906-1930	FamilySearch	Searchable - images
NC Death Index	1931-1994	FamilySearch	Searchable - data only, no images
US Social Security Death Index	1935-2014	Ancestry	Searchable - data only, no images

Cemetery Records

Records for virtually all of the still extant and legible Ashe County grave may be found online at *FindaGrave*. (<http://www.findagrave.com>) Many Ashe family cemeteries are in remote, hilltop locations. An effort has been made in recent years to update the cemetery locations given on *FindaGrave* to make them easier to find (This author was a part of that effort). The Ashe County Register of Deeds Office has mapped the exact location of many Ashe cemeteries. Their data is available when visiting in person at their office. Of visiting Ashe cemeteries, dress for hiking and be prepared to climb over (or under) fences and up steep hillsides. While many cemeteries are well cared for, be prepared for those that are not. You may want to pack clippers for overgrown sites, long pants and sleeves for briars and poison ivy.

Russell Hamilton's 2 volume *Ashe County Cemetery Records* (see list of published sources above) covers burials from about 1800 to mid-20th century. This comprehensive set is arranged alphabetically by surname of deceased. Information is taken from grave markers and obituaries for all known Ashe County cemeteries. Also includes locations for each cemetery (note: some directions are outdated as roads and landmarks may have changed. Check another source if in doubt). Available at ACPL, GHF (GHF Call #929.3 N8as H216a) or for purchase from [Ashe County Historical Society](#). These volumes contain records not found elsewhere because markers are missing, destroyed or worn beyond legibility.

Census Records

US Census Year	FamilySearch	New River Notes	Ancestry
1800	Images	Transcription	Searchable images, transcriptions
1810	Images	Transcription	Searchable images, transcriptions
1820	Images	Transcription	Searchable images, transcriptions
1830	Images		Searchable images, transcriptions
1840	Images		Searchable images, transcriptions
1850	Images		Searchable images, transcriptions
1850 slave schedule	Images		Searchable images, transcriptions
1850-1880 mortality sch.	Images (1850)		Searchable images, transcriptions
1860 slave schedule			Searchable images, transcriptions
1860	Images		Searchable images, transcriptions
1870	Images	Transcription	Searchable images, transcriptions
1880	Images		Searchable images, transcriptions
1900	Images		Searchable images, transcriptions
1910	Images		Searchable images, transcriptions
1920	Images		Searchable images, transcriptions
1930	Images		Searchable images, transcriptions
1940	Images		Searchable images, transcriptions

Church Records

Ashley's Chapel: Church Registry, Methodist Episcopal Church South, Feb. 24, 1911. North Carolina: Methodist Episcopal Church, 1911. (Available at ACPL)

Divinity Archive: A Project of Duke Divinity School and Partner Institutions. <http://divinityarchive.com>
Durham, North Carolina: Duke Divinity School Libraries. Contains many Ashe County church association minutes, which include obituaries for members.

Fletcher, James Floyd. *A History of the Ashe County, North Carolina and New River, Virginia Baptist Associations.* No place: Ashe County Research Association, 1982. (Available at ASU and from Ashe County Historical Society)

Rash, Winifred, abstractor. *Primitive Baptist Association minute obituaries 1855-1995: Roaring River, St. Clair's Bottom, Senter District.* West Jefferson, North Carolina: Ashe County Historical Society, 1977. (Digital images available online at FHC, for purchase from Ashe County Historical Association)

Stafford, Garland R. *Methodism in Ashe County, from the Beginning to 1961.* Jefferson, NC: Jefferson United Methodist Church, 1974. Short, 51 p. book, available at Duke University Perkins Library, Durham, North Carolina.

Weaver, Jeffrey C., transcriber. *Maple Springs Primitive Baptist Church, Nella, Ashe County 1880-1897.* [Saltville, Virginia]: New River Notes Books, 2005. (Available at the GHL)

Weaver, Jeffrey C., transcriber. *Pond Mountain Primitive Baptist Church, Minute Book 1, 1881-1933.* Morrisville, North Carolina: LuLu Enterprises, undated. (Available at the GHL)

Weaver, Jeffrey C., transcriber. *Records of the Big Helton Primitive Baptist Church, 1840-1980: Helton Township, Ashe County, North Carolina.* Arlington, Virginia: Jeffrey Weaver, 1989. (Available at ASU)

Also see: United Methodist Church Records, Western NC Conference Records Series, 1884-1962, Circuit, Charge and Church Record Subseries, Ashe County, 1893-1905, 1908-1932. (Located at DRL, WNC Boxes 9, 10)

Court Records

Most surviving original early court records are located at the State Archives of North Carolina.

			NC Archives Call # (Original records)	FamilySearch/FHL
County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions				
Execution Dockets	1829-1868	2 vols	CR.006.304.1 - CR.006.304.2	
Minutes	1806-1866	6 vols	CR.006.301.1 - CR.006.301.6	Images, Film # 18167
Minutes	1821-1830	1 reel		Images, Film#18168
State Dockets	1829-1868	2 vols	CR.006.307.1 - CR.006.307.2	
Trial & Appearance Dockets	1829-1868	2 vols	CR.006.308.1 CR.006.308.2	
Inferior Court				
Minutes	1877-1885	1 vol	CR.006.331.1	FHL 1,689,128
Superior Court				
Civil Action Papers	1807-1934	19 boxes	CR.006.325.1 - CR.006.325.19	Images for 1798-1934, multiple files
Civil Action Papers Concerning Land	1827-1911	13 boxes	CR.006.325.20 - CR.006.325.32	
Criminal Action Papers	1805-1930	11boxes	CR.006.326.1 - CR.006.326.11	
Equity Minutes & Equity Trial Dockets	1824-1868	2 vols	CR.006.314.1 - CR.006.314.2	FHL 1,689,125
Execution Dockets	1826-1871	6 vols	CR.006.318.1 - CR.006.318.6	
Minutes	1807-1938	19 vols	CR.006.311.1 - CR.006.311.19	
Minutes	1807-1818			FHL 1,689,124
Minutes	1834-1883			Images, Film #1,689,123
Minutes v. AA	1883-1889			FHL 1,689,122
Minutes v. [A] - B	1890-1900			FHL 1,689,121
Minutes v. C-D	1901-1999			FHL 1,689,120
Minutes v. E-F	1909-1917			FHL 1,689,119
State Dockets	1840-1867	2 vols	CR.006.321.1 - CR.006.321.2	
Trial & Appearance Dockets	1807-1868	3 vols	CR.006.322.1 - CR.006.322.3	
Witness Fee Book	1845-1850	1 vol	CR.006.324.1	Images, Film #7,239,957
Judgement Dockets B-C	1869-1904			FHL 1,689,117
Judgement Dockets D-E	1895-1908			FHL 1,689,170
Judgement Dockets F-G	1905-1912			FHL 1,689,133
Judgement Dockets H-I	1912-1921			FHL 1,689,132

Judgement Dockets, Land tax sales	1856-1858			FHL 1,689,118
Cross Index to Judgements A-D	1869-1928			FHL 1,689,131
Cross Index to Judgements E-G	1924-1947			FHL 1,689,130
Cross Index to Judgements H-I	1947-1970			FHL 1,689,129
Orders and Decrees v. A	1868-1898			FHL 1,689,113
Orders and Decrees v. B-C	1884-1910			FHL 1,689,106
Orders and Decrees v. D-E	1909-1920			FHL 1,689,116
Orders and Decrees v. F-G	1900-1926			FHL 1,689,115
Special Proceedings v. [A]-B	1896-1945			FHL 1,689,111
Cross index to special proceedings v. 1	1896-1945			FHL 1,689,109

Directories

A number of state-wide business directories survive and have useful information on Ashe County.

North Carolina Directory. 1867, 1869, 1872, 1890, 1896, 1901-1916, 1922-23, Digital images. *DigitalNC*.
<http://library.digitalnc.org>.

Branson's Directory North Carolina 1868 and *North Carolina Directory, Ashe County 1873*. Transcriptions.
New River Notes. <http://newrivernotes.com>.

Genealogies and Biographies

- Ashley, William Greyson. *The Family of William Greyson Ashley*. North Carolina: No publisher, undated. (Includes information on Ashley, Kemp, Eller and Little families. Available at ACPL)
- Ballard, Sandra L. and Leila E. Weinstein, editors. *Neighbor to Neighbor: a Memoir of Family, Community and Civil War in Appalachian North Carolina*. Boone, North Carolina: Center for Appalachian Studies, 2007. Contains genealogy of Wilson family of Ashe County. (See WorldCat: <http://www.worldcat.org>)
- Ballou, Eleanor James Larkin. *Ancestral Sketches on Meredith Ballou, Connecting Families and the Ashe County Ballou Genealogy*. No place, No publisher, 1969.
- Blevins, Ronald L. *Genealogy of Ashe County's Ashley Family and Related Families*. Norfolk, Virginia: Ronald L. Blevins, 1980. (Available at ASU: Call # CS71.A844 1980)
- Brown, O. Lester. *The Browns in a Delightful Mountain County*. Greensboro, North Carolina: Piedmont Press, undated. Contains the memoir of Confederate conscript W.H. Younce. (Available at ASU)
- Brown, Susan Wilkinson. *The Wagg Family of Ashe County, NC; Correspondence, 1858-1885*. Roanoke, Virginia: No publisher, undated. (Available at UNC)
- Dickson, Roy Shelton, Jr. *Descendants of Thomas Dickson and Nancy McMillan of Scotland, Wilkes County, NC, Ashe County, NC*. CD-Rom. No place: Plane Truth Press, 2013. (Available at ASU: Call # CS71 .D621 2013)
- Foster, Roger, and Julia Sanders Eller. *Descendants of George Michael Eller, 1722-1778*. Sneads Ferry, North Carolina: Roger Foster and Julia Sanders Eller, 2007. (Available at ACPL)
- Graybeal, Henry Clay. *The Autobiography of Henry Clay Graybeal, Born February 1, 1889*. No Place: Martha Faye Harris Brown, 2015. (Available as an e-book through Amazon)
- Graybeal, Kyle R. *Research Notes on Some African-American Families of Ashe County, North Carolina*. No place: KRG Publications, 1999. (Available at ASU: Call # F262.A7 G73 1999, also at GHL: Call #929.3 N8as G783R)
- Graybeal, William S. and Henry Clay Graybeal. *A Partial Genealogical Record of the Graybeal Family of Ashe County, North Carolina*. Graybeal Family, No place: no publisher, 1992. (Available at the Library of Congress)
- Hamby, Zetta Barker. *Memoirs of Grassy Creek: Growing Up in the Mountains on the Virginia-North Carolina Line*. Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland Company, 1998. (See WorldCat: <http://www.worldcat.org>)
- Handy, Russell Phipps and Virginia Parlier Phipps. *Descendants of John Handy of Ashe County, NC*. Raleigh, North Carolina: Russell Phipps Handy, 2001.

- Hash, Lee and Jeffrey C. Weaver. *Preliminary Report on the Family of John Hash (1817-1912) and Sarah Hash (1817-1912) of Weaver's Ford Chestnut Hill Township Ashe County, North Carolina*. No place: Lee Hash and Jeffrey C. Weaver, 1990.
- Hook, James W., compiler. *George Michael Eller and Descendants of His in America: Including Information on Related Families of Vannoy, Van Noy, McNeil, Stoker, Welker, Graybill, Colvard, Whittington, Hook and Others*. New Haven, Connecticut: No publisher, 1957. (Available on *Ancestry*, print copy at ACPL)
- Houck, Warren H. *Early Houcks in Ashe Co., North Carolina*. Todd, North Carolina: Warren H. Houck, undated.
- Hunt, Roy Kenneth. *The Richardson Family of Alleghany, Ashe Counties of North Carolina and Grayson County, Virginia*. No place: Roy Kenneth Hunt, 2003. (Available at the *Library of Congress*).
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- Leafer, Ruth Worth Crowell. *A History of the Worth Family in Ashe County*. Creston, North Carolina: Ruth Worth Crowell Leafer, 1976. (Available at ASU)
- Little, Bernice Edmondson. *Stansberry, Graybeal and Shoun, 1554-2003*. North Carolina: Wanda Edmondson Marine, 2007. (Available at ACPL)
- Miller, Danny. *The Miller Families of Ashe County, NC*. Winston-Salem, North Carolina: No publisher, 1979. (Available at ASU, UNC, digital images available online at Family History Centers)
- Myer, Mary Ann Testerman. *Testerman, Testament, Testement*. Coco Beach, Florida: Mary Ann Testerman Myer: 2003. (Available online at Family History Centers)
- Reece, Michael. *Eller Family in America: History and Genealogy*. Virginia Beach, Virginia: Donning Company, 2012. (Available at ACPL)
- Reed, Brenda Helen Keck. *Benjamin Ward of Ashe County, North Carolina c1750-1820 and His Descendants*. No place: Brenda Helen Keck Reed: 1998. (See *WorldCat*: <http://www.worldcat.org>)
- Snow, Donald R., Jr. *The Descendants of David May of Ashe County, North Carolina*. Charleston, South Carolina: Donald R. Snow Jr., 1995. (Available at the GHL)
- Watson, Roy. *Our Family*. Fleetwood, North Carolina: Roy Watson, 2008. (Available at ACPL)
- Weaver, James H. *Memoirs of James H. Weaver: a Typescript Taken from His Minute Book*. Hickory, North Carolina: No publisher, 1910. (Available at ASU)
- Weaver, Jeffery and Grace Miles. *The Farmer Family of Ashe County, NC: Descendants of Wilson and Susan Wyatt Farmer*. No place: No publisher, 1985.

Land Records

Many original Ashe County land records are held at the State Archives of North Carolina, but Ashe County Register of Deeds has also made their deed books available online, 1799 - present.

<http://www.ashencrod.org/opening.asp>

Title	Date		SANC Call # Original records	FamilySearch
Deeds and Grants	1778-1849	13 vols	CR.006.401.1 - CR.006.401.12	Images
Deeds, Cross Index to	1799-1935	4 reels	microfilm	
Deeds, Record of	1800-1955	57 reels	microfilm	
Deeds	1802-1954	8 boxes	CR.006.401.13 - CR.006.401.20	Images
Land Entries	1803-1906	6 vols	CR.006.404.1 - CR.006.404.6	Images
Miscellaneous Land Records	1826-1911	1 box	CR.006.408.2	
Ejectments	1827-1911	1 box	CR.006.403.1	
Mortgage Deeds, Deeds of Trust, and Miscellaneous Land Records	1828-1949	1 box	CR.006.401.21	
Surveys, Record of	1905-1918	1 reel	microfilm	

Maps

[North Carolina County Formation Interactive Slide Show](#), North Carolina American History and Genealogy Project. *USGenNet*. <http://www.usgennet.org>, 2006. This site shows the formation of North Carolina counties from colonial times to the present

Ashe County, North Carolina (Highway Culture Map). *North Carolina Maps, UNC Libraries*.

<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/ref/collection/ncmaps/id/652>. Raleigh, North Carolina: NC State Highway Commission, 1967. This map shows the location of many cemeteries and churches not found on other maps. (Available at the SANC# MC.006.1967nc3 and online)

Soil Map, North Carolina, Ashe County Sheet. *North Carolina Maps, UNC Libraries*,

<http://dc.lib.unc.edu/cdm/singleitem/collection/ncmaps/id/290/rec/1>. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1912. Shows many communities, churches and schools in the county whose names have changed or that no longer exist. (Available SANC# MC006.1912h and online)

Bowers, George, Elijah Calloway, William Judd, Gideon Lewis and James McNeil. "This plan Represents the Publick Hiway from Wilkesborough by way of Colonel Hortons on new River to the Top of the Stone Mountain." ca 1821. Early detailed map of the Ashe County area. (Available at SANC# MC.171.W682.1821c).

Marriage records

Existing marriage records for Ashe County begin in 1799, but are incomplete due to losses. Original early marriage bonds are housed at the NC State Archives. A listing of marriages taken from these, Bible records and marriage registers for the period 1801-1872, can be found on the website *New River Notes*:

http://www.newrivernotes.com/ashe_vitals_1801-1872_marriagerecords.htm.

<http://familysearch.org>. Database with images. *FamilySearch*.

<http://familysearch.org>. Citing Office of Archives and History, Division of Archives and Records. State Archive of North Carolina and various county Register of Deeds. Images from microfilm of marriage bonds, records and registers – Ashe images from 1799-1942. Searchable, some records have information only, no record image.

Military Records

Revolutionary War – note that Ashe was a part of Surry and then Wilkes Counties during the war. Militia based there were a part of Salisbury District until 1782 and then part of Morgan District.

Ashe County, North Carolina Pension Roll. (compilation) *New River Notes* <http://newrivernotes.com>.

“North Carolina Revolutionary Pay Vouchers, 1779-1782.” Database with images. *FamilySearch*.

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1498361>. Citing State Archives of North Carolina, Raleigh.

Graves, Will, administrator. “Southern Campaigns Revolutionary War Pension Statements and Rosters” Database with transcriptions. SouthernCampaigns.Org. <http://www.revwarapps.org/>. Updated 11 Nov 2017.

War of 1812 – Ashe County contributed at least 88 men to this war, serving in the 1st and 2nd Companies of the 5th NC Militia Regiment. *New River Notes*.

http://www.newrivernotes.com/topical_wars_1812_ashe_county_5th_north_carolina_militia.htm

Civil War – Like many North Carolina mountain counties, Ashe was divided over the war. Many Ashe County men served reluctantly and deserted when the chance arose. A few crossed into Tennessee and joined Union regiments there⁶.

1901 Confederate Pension Applications. Digital images. State Archives of North Carolina.

<http://digital.ncdcr.gov/cdm/home/collections/confederate-pension-applications>

Brown, Matthew, editor. *North Carolina Troops, 1861-1865: A Roster*. Matthew Brown, Editor. Raleigh, North Carolina: NC Office of Archives and History, various dates. Eighteen volumes so far, with information on approximately 125,000 NC military personnel.

⁶ Martin Crawford, *Ashe County's Civil War: Community and Society in the Appalachian South* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University Press of Virginia, 2001), 109-112.

Civil War Oaths, Ashe County Clerk of Superior Court, 1 vol., 1865. (SANC# CR.006.928.4)

Civil War Service Records 1861-1865. Online and searchable at *Fold3*.

Pension Records, Ashe County Clerk of Superior Court, 1885-1919, 1 box. (SANC)

Weaver, Jeffrey C., compiler. *Civil War Soldiers from Ashe and Alleghany*. Online database. *New River Notes*.
http://www.newrivernotes.com/ashe_alleghany_military_cwsoldiers.htm. An alphabetized listing of all those from Ashe County thought to have served in the war.

Spanish American War – no known participants, but searchable on *Fold3*.

World War I

North Carolina, World War I Service Cards, 1917-1919. Database with images. *FamilySearch*.
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/2568864>. Citing The North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

U.S. Army Transport Service, Passenger Lists 1910-1939. Digital images. *Ancestry*.
<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=61174>. Citing The National Archives, College Park, Maryland. NAI #6234477. Records of the Office of the Quartermaster General 1774-1985.

World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Digital images. *Ancestry*.
<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=6482>. Citing Selective Service System, World War I Selective Service Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Washington: NARA. Draft cards for Anson-Ashe Counties are also online at *FamilySearch*.
https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?count=20&query=%2Bfilm_number%3A1765559

Miscellaneous Records

Apprentice Bonds, 1876-1923, 2 Vols. (SANC# CR.006.919.1). Also on *Ancestry*

Bastardy Bonds, 1876 – 1880, 1 Vol. Clerk of Superior Court. (SANC# CR.006.102)

Bastardy Bonds and Records, 1828 – 1910, and undated, 1 box, Clerk of Superior Court. (SANC# CR.006.102.2)

Board of County Commissioners Minutes, 1870-1955. 3 reels microfilm - SANC

Record of Elections, 1878-1956. 1 reel microfilm - SANC

Records of Lunacy, 1900-1934, 1 box (SANC# CR.006.919.1) Records made available 100 years after their creation.

County Board of Education Minutes, 1885-1966. 1 reel microfilm - SANC

Wardens of the Poor: Minutes and Accounts, 1832-1855, 1 Vol. (SANC# CR.006.927.1)

Newspapers

	Holdings	GHL Call #	ACPL Call #
<i>Mountain Messenger</i>	6 Feb 1873 25 Dec 1873	JeMISC1	GR-M-FILM NC-ASHE 071
<i>The Ashe Reporter</i>	14 Oct 1892	JeMISC1	GR-M-FILM NC-ASHE 071
<i>The Western Herald</i>	20 Jun 1899	JeMISC1	GR-M-FILM NC-ASHE 071
<i>The Jefferson Recorder</i>	19 Dec 1907	JeMISC1	GR-M-FILM NC-ASHE 071
<i>The Ashe Recorder</i>	17 Apr 1919 11 Mar 1920 28 Apr 1921 4 May 1921	JeMISC1	GR-M-FILM NC-ASHE 071
<i>The Northwestern Herald</i>	28 Feb 1924	JeMISC1	GR-M-FILM NC-ASHE 071
<i>Ashe County Journal</i>	9 Dec 1931	JeMISC1	GR-M-FILM NC-ASHE 071
<i>The Skyland Post</i>	1935-1950 broken series	WJfSP1, WJfSP10-18	
<i>The Jefferson Times</i>	1978-1985 broken series	WJfjTP1- WJfjTP18	GR-M-FILM NC-ASHE #100

Current Newspapers:

Ashe Mountain Times

Website: <http://ashemountaintimes.com>

7 E. Main St.

West Jefferson, NC 28694

Phone: 336-246-6397

Email: web@mountaintimes.com

published every Thursday since 1993.

Jefferson Post

<http://www.jeffersonpost.com>

203 W. 2nd Street

West Jefferson, NC 28694

Phone: 336-846-7164

Published twice weekly since 1988.

Tax lists

North Carolina Tax Lists, 1777, for Captain Smith's, Jabez Jervis's, and Captain Benjamin Cleveland's Districts. [microfilm] Salt Lake City: Filmed by The Genealogical Society of Utah, 1986. Benjamin Cleveland's district included the Ashe County area. FHL #6,047,793

[Tax Records, Wilkes County, North Carolina, 1778-1779](http://familysearch.org). Wilkes County Superior Court Clerk. *FamilySearch*. <http://familysearch.org>. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 2009. FHL #2,439,290. Weaver's Company accounts are for Ashe County residents.

The 1815 is the only year for which an Ashe County tax list survives from the antebellum period. It can be viewed online at the [North Carolina Digital Collections>Tax Lists and Records>Ashe County](#). State Archives of North Carolina. A transcription is available online at New River Notes. http://www.newrivernotes.com/ashe_enumerations_1815_tax_list.htm.

Other Tax records for Ashe County:

County Tax Book, 1915-1916, 1 reel microfilm - SANC

Tax Ledgers, 1915-1945, 1 reel microfilm - SANC

Tax Lists, 1925, 1935, 1 reel microfilm - SANC

Tax Scrolls, 1955, 1 reel microfilm - SANC

Wills and Estate records

State Archives of North Carolina (primarily original records)

Ashe County Records			Call #
Accounts of Indigent Orphans, Records of	1939-1966	1 reel	microfilm
Accounts, Records of	1869-1936	6 vols	CR.006.501.3 - CR.006.501.8
Administrators' Bonds	1876-1920	4 vols	CR.006.503.1 - CR.006.503.4
Administrators, Executors, & Guardians, Record of	1920-1943	1 vol	CR.006.504.2
Administrators, Record of	1924-1936	1 vol	CR.006.504.3
Appointment of Administrators, Executors, & Guardians	1868-1920	1 vol	CR.006.504.1
Estates, Record of	1828-1842, 1853-1873	2 vols	CR.006.501.1 CR.006.501.2
Estates Records	1819-1935	34 boxes	CR.006.508.1 - CR.006.508.34
Guardians' Bonds	1876-1941	4 vols	CR.006.511.1 - CR.006.511.4
Guardians' Records	1829-1918	5 boxes	CR.006.510.1 - CR.006.510.5
Guardians, Record of	1927-1966	2 reels	microfilm
Settlements, Record of	1869-1938	4 vols	CR.006.518.1 - CR.006.518.4
Wills	1801-1970	25 boxes	CR.006.801.1 - CR.006.801.24

FamilySearch

Wills	1816-1871	Images, Film #1,8189
Wills, v. A, B, C, D, E	1801-1914	Images, Film #1,689,104
NC Probate Records, Ashe	1802-1970	Images, Multiple reels
Deeds, Grants, Wills and Equity Documents	1820-1829	Images, Film #1,8174
Records of Estates	1853-1873	Images, Film #1,689,179
Executors' Appointment Records	1869-1919	Images, Film #1,689,175
Administrators' bonds	1876-1925	Images, Film #1,689,176
Probate Records	1801-1966	Images, Multiple reels

Ancestry

Administrators' Bonds	1876-1925	Searchable images
Cross Index to Wills, Vols 1 & 2	1816-1917	
NC Wills & Estate Records, Ashe	1801-1941	
Estate Records	1853-1873	
Executors Appointment Records	1869-1919	
Index to Wills	1816-1966	
Original Wills, Adams, John - Osborn, David		
Original Wills, Osborn, David - Yates, Squire Allen		
Settlements, Vol A-E	1801-1941	
Settlements, Vol F-G	1898-1941	
Wills & Estate Papers, Ashe, NC	1663-1978	