

ECHOES OF PLACE

Artists' Reflections of New Hanover County

Historical Inspiration: Websites & Research Links

Island Arts Council | Carolina Beach, NC | Compiled March 2026

MUSEUMS & PRIMARY HISTORICAL INSTITUTIONS

Cape Fear Museum of History & Science

The oldest history museum in North Carolina (est. 1898). Now relocated to 230 Grace Street, downtown Wilmington. Opening Summer 2026 in the new Grace Street location.

- Cape Fear Museum — Official Site (NHC Gov) — <https://www.nhcgov.com/548/Cape-Fear-Museum>

Main county portal for the museum

- Cape Fear Museum Exhibitions Page — <https://www.nhcgov.com/550/Exhibitions>

Browse permanent and rotating exhibits

- Museum of the Cape Fear (NC State Historic Sites) — <https://museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov/>

NCDCR portal — includes Poe House & Arsenal Park

- Cape Fear Museum — Wikipedia Overview — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Fear_Museum_of_History_and_Science

Historical background and collection details

Bellamy Mansion Museum

Spectacular 1861 antebellum mansion at 503 Market St., built by free and enslaved Black artisans. Features preserved urban slave quarters, period gardens, and Civil War history. Part of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor.

- Bellamy Mansion Museum — Official Site — <https://www.bellamymansion.org/>

Tours, events, and programs

- Bellamy Mansion — National Trust for Historic Preservation — <https://savingplaces.org/places/bellamy-mansion-museum>

Preservation profile and significance

- Bellamy Mansion — Wikipedia — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bellamy_Mansion

Detailed architectural and social history

Federal Point History Center (Carolina Beach)

Local museum and archive at 1121-A N. Lake Park Blvd., adjacent to Carolina Beach Town Hall. Preserves the history of Pleasure Island, Fort Fisher, the hermit, hurricanes, naval stores, colonial-era Federal Point, and more.

- Federal Point Historic Preservation Society — Main Site — <https://federal-point-history.org/>

History articles, newsletters, and archives

- Federal Point History Center — Where to Visit — <https://federal-point-history.org/where-is-the-federal-point-history-center/>

Location, hours (Tue/Fri/Sat 10am–4pm)

- FPHPS — Lower Cape Fear River History Articles — <https://federal-point-history.org/category/lower-cape-fear-river/>

Naval stores, ferries, colonial industry

- FPHPS — Fort Fisher Hermit Profile — <https://federal-point-history.org/history-shorts/the-fort-fisher-hermit/>

Robert Harrill historical account

Other Key Regional Museums

- Battleship North Carolina — Official Site — <https://battleshipnc.com/>

WWII memorial and floating museum, open daily

- Poplar Grove Plantation — <https://www.poplargrove.org/>

Living history museum, 1850s plantation, 835 acres north of Wilmington

- Latimer House Museum & Lower Cape Fear Historical Society — <https://latimerhouse.org/>

1852 Victorian mansion; genealogical resources and walking tours

- Wilmington Railroad Museum — <https://www.wilmingtonrailroadmuseum.org/>

Railroad heritage; Atlantic Coast Line history; longest single rail line (1840)

- Cameron Art Museum — <https://cameronartmuseum.org/>

Includes US Colored Troops Park; Battle of Forks Road site

- NC Aquarium at Fort Fisher — <https://www.ncaquariums.com/fort-fisher>

Marine science; opened 1976 near Kure Beach

- NC Maritime Museum at Southport — <https://maritimemuseums.net/southport-maritime-museum/>

Pirate artifacts; blockade runner history; Lower Cape Fear maritime

HISTORIC SITES, REGISTRIES & PRESERVATION RESOURCES

National & State Historic Registries

- NC Historic Preservation Office — National Register — <https://www.hpo.nc.gov/survey-and-national-register/national-register-historic-places>

NC State Historic Preservation Office listings and nominations

- National Register of Historic Places — New Hanover County (Wikipedia) — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_New_Hanover_County,_North_Carolina

Complete list of 33 NHC properties on the National Register

- National Register — New Hanover County (NPS Database) — <https://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/nc/new+hanover/state.html>

Includes Fort Fisher, Cape Fear Civil War Shipwreck District, and more

- Preservation NC — National Register Overview — <https://www.presnc.org/national-register/>

How properties are listed; search tools

Historic Wilmington Foundation — Plaques Program

Buildings 75+ years old in New Hanover, Brunswick, and Pender Counties may qualify for historic plaques. Database includes 600+ plaqued properties searchable via Port City Architecture.

- Historic Wilmington Foundation — Plaques — <https://historicwilmington.org/plaques/>

Application process, eligibility, and plaque database

- Port City Architecture — NHC Public Library Digital Collection — <https://portcityarchitecture.nhcgov.com/>

Search 600+ plaqued historic structures by address or owner

New Hanover County Historic Resources

- NHC Historic & Archaeological Resources — <https://www.nhcgov.com/1091/Historic-Archaeological-Resources>

143 documented historic structures; archaeological site maps; cemetery database

- NHC Historic Homes Research Guide — <https://www.nhcgov.com/2608/Historic-Homes-Your-Story>

Deed records, tax records, architectural inventory guides

Fort Fisher State Historic Site

The largest earthen sea fort in the Confederacy. Site of the most decisive Civil War battle in NC (January 15, 1865). National Historic Landmark. Located in Kure Beach.

- Fort Fisher — NC Historic Sites Official Page — <https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/fort-fisher>

Hours (Tue–Sat 9am–5pm), free admission, visitor center

- Fort Fisher — Civil War History Detail — <https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/fort-fisher/history/civil-war-ft-fisher>

In-depth battle history and strategic importance

- Fort Fisher — American Battlefield Trust — <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/fort-fisher>

Battle summary, maps, and historical context

- Fort Fisher — NCPedia — <https://www.ncpedia.org/fort-fisher>

Overview: construction, battles, postwar history

Brunswick Town / Fort Anderson State Historic Site

- Brunswick Town / Fort Anderson — NC Historic Sites — <https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/brunswick-town-fort-anderson>

Colonial port ruins; Confederate fort; archaeological collections

BLACK HISTORY IN NEW HANOVER COUNTY

The 1898 Wilmington Massacre & Coup d'État

The only successful coup d'état in U.S. history, carried out November 10, 1898 by white supremacists who overthrew Wilmington's elected biracial government, burned the Black-owned Daily Record newspaper, and expelled Black leaders. State commission report published 2006.

- 1898 Wilmington Coup — NC DNCR Official Page — <https://www.dncr.nc.gov/1898-wilmington-coup>

State-authorized historical account and commission report link

- Wilmington Massacre 1898 — NHC Government Timeline & Map — <https://www.nhcgov.com/604/Wilmington-Massacre-1898>

Interactive map and timeline of events

- 1898 Memorial Park — City of Wilmington — <https://www.wilmingtonnc.gov/Parks-Recreation/Parks-Trails/1898-Memorial-Park>

Monument dedicated November 8, 2008; sculptor Ayokunle Odeleye

- **Wilmington Massacre — Wikipedia — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilmington_massacre**

Comprehensive historical account with sources

- **Wilmington 1898 — National Endowment for the Humanities — <https://www.neh.gov/article/wilmington-1898-unsupressed-history-massacre>**

Connects to PBS American Experience documentary

- **Wilmington 1898 — Equal Justice Initiative — <https://eji.org/news/wilmington-massacre-of-1898/>**

Narrative framing and community memory

- **Zinn Education Project — Nov. 10, 1898 — <https://www.zinnedproject.org/news/tdih/wilmington-massacre-2/>**

Educational resources and classroom context

African American History Tours & Resources

32-site self-guided African American History Tour; includes Green Book sites, USCT graves, Orange Street Landing (National Underground Railroad site), and 1898 landmarks.

- **Wilmington & Beaches — African American History Guide — <https://www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/things-to-do/attractions-activities/history/african-american-history/>**

Comprehensive visitor guide with site descriptions

- **Black History in Wilmington NC — Visit Wilmington — <https://www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/blog/post/immerse-yourself-in-wilmingtons-african-american-history/>**

USCT history, Bellamy Mansion, Cameron Art Museum's USCT Park

Black History — Government & Civil Rights

Dr. Hubert A. Eaton's desegregation efforts; the Wilmington Ten; USCT soldiers who settled in Wilmington after the Civil War.

- **UNCW Civil Rights Movement in SE North Carolina — Digital Collection — https://library.uncw.edu/web/collections/civil_rights/**

Desegregation history; Randall Library archives

- **NHC Green Book Digital Guide — <https://www.nhcgov.com/2290/Green-Book-Guide>**

Safe locations for Black motorists during Jim Crow era

- **Freedom Park (Brooklyn neighborhood) & 1898 context — Port City Daily — <https://portcitydaily.com/>**

Local journalism covering Brooklyn historic community and Freedom Park area

LUMBEE INDIAN & NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY

The Lumbee Tribe is the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River (~55,000 members). Their ancestral territory spans Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland, and Scotland counties in southeastern NC. In January 2025, President Trump signed an executive order advancing federal recognition — a goal pursued for over a century.

- Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina — Official Site — <https://www.lumbeetribe.com/>
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Tribal government, services, enrollment

- Lumbee Tribe — History and Culture Page — <https://www.lumbeetribe.com/history-and-culture>
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Banners, cultural identity, origins

- Lumbee Tribe — NC DNCR Historical Marker Profile — <https://www.dncr.nc.gov/blog/2024/01/03/lumbee-tribe-i-96>
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Marker I-96; Fort Fisher connection; Henry Berry Lowrie

- Lumbee Indians — NCPedia — <https://www.ncpedia.org/lumbee/introduction>
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Comprehensive historical overview

- Lumbee History — UNCP Special Collections LibGuide — <https://libguides.uncp.edu/specialcollections/lumbee>
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Academic and cultural resources; Adolph Dial collection

- Lumbee Indians — PBS Timeline — <https://www.pbs.org/speak/seatosea/americanvarieties/lumbee/timeline/>
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Timeline from 1724 to present

- NC Tribal Communities — NC Department of Administration — <https://www.doa.nc.gov/divisions/american-indian-affairs/tribes>
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All 8 NC state-recognized tribes with contacts

CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Wilmington served as the last major Confederate port supplying Robert E. Lee's army. Fort Fisher's fall January 15, 1865 sealed the Confederacy's fate. The US Colored Troops won the pivotal Battle of Forks Road (Feb. 20–21, 1865), leading to Wilmington's liberation.

- Fort Fisher — NC Historic Sites (Civil War) — <https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/fort-fisher/history>
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Full history of construction, battles, and aftermath

- Fort Fisher — Naval History & Heritage Command — <https://www.history.navy.mil/browse-by-topic/wars-conflicts-and-operations/civil-war/cw-operations-and-engagements/1864-civil-war/fort-fisher.html>
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Detailed naval operations and strategic context

- Cape Fear Civil War Shipwreck District — NPS — <https://www.nps.gov/places/cape-fear-civil-war-shipwreck-discontiguous-district.htm>
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Blockade runner wrecks; National Register of Historic Places

- Blockade Runner — The Condor Dive Site — <https://kure-beach.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/things-to-do/attractions-activities/history/>
-

NC's first Heritage Dive site; the Condor wreck off Fort Fisher

- Battle of Forks Road / USCT — Cameron Art Museum — <https://cameronartmuseum.org/usct-park/>
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Nation's first US Colored Troops Park; Boundless sculpture

- Fort Fisher — American Battlefield Trust — <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/fort-fisher>
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Battle facts, maps, and significance

PIRATES & THE GOLDEN AGE OF PIRACY

The Cape Fear River estuary was a notorious pirate haven in the early 1700s. Blackbeard (Edward Teach) and Stede Bonnet — the 'Gentleman Pirate' — both used these waters extensively. The Battle of Cape Fear River (September 27, 1718) ended Bonnet's piracy career.

- Pirates — NCPedia — <https://www.ncpedia.org/pirates>
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Comprehensive historical account; Blackbeard, Bonnet, and others

- Stede Bonnet — NCPedia Biography — <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/bonnet-stede>
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Full biography of the Gentleman Pirate

- Stede Bonnet NC Historical Marker D-110 — NC DNCR — <https://www.dncr.nc.gov/blog/2023/12/11/stede-bonnet-1688-1718-d-110>
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Marker text and Cape Fear battle history

- Cape Fear Museum — History To-Go: Pirates — <https://museumofthecapefear.ncdcr.gov/history-go-pirates>
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Educational content on coastal piracy

- Tales of Wilmington (Cape Fear River Piracy) — <https://www.riverlightsliving.com/whats-happening/blog/posts-by-date/2019/november/tales-of-wilmington/>
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Blackbeard, Bonnet, and the Battle of Cape Fear River narrative

- Port City Daily — Blackbeard & Cape Fear Legend — <https://portcitydaily.com/local-news/2017/08/12/blackbeard-and-the-legend-of-the-topsail-island-treasure-nws/>
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Topsail Island 'gold hole' lore and colonial trade routes

- Stede Bonnet — Wikipedia — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stede_Bonnet
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Complete account of capture at Cape Fear River

THE HERMIT OF FORT FISHER

Robert E. Harrill (1893–1972), known as the Fort Fisher Hermit, lived for 17 years in an abandoned WWII bunker in the salt marshes near Carolina Beach. He became NC's second-largest tourist attraction, drawing 17,000+ visitors annually. His death in 1972 remains mysterious. His bunker is accessible today via the Hermit Trail at Fort Fisher State Recreation Area.

- Fort Fisher Hermit — Wikipedia — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Harrill
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Complete life story, death controversy, and legacy

- Fort Fisher Hermit — Federal Point Historic Preservation Society — <https://federal-point-history.org/history-shorts/the-fort-fisher-hermit/>
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Local historical society account (original 1995 newsletter)

- Fort Fisher Hermit — Island Life NC — <https://islandlifenc.com/the-fort-fisher-hermit/>
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Detailed narrative of Harrill's arrival and life

- Fort Fisher Hermit — WWAY History Segment — <https://www.wwaytv3.com/history-with-hud-complex-story-of-the-fort-fisher-hermit/>
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Local TV historical profile

- Fort Fisher Hermit — Roadside America (Bunker Guide) — <https://www.roadsideamerica.com/story/15669>
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Visitor guide to the hermit bunker trail

HURRICANES & STORM HISTORY

Cape Fear has been struck by some of the most significant Atlantic hurricanes in American history, including Category 4 Hurricane Hazel (1954), Hurricane Fran (1996), Hurricane Floyd (1999), and Hurricane Florence (2018). Wilmington holds the record for the most hurricane landfalls of any U.S. city.

- Most Memorable Cape Fear Hurricanes — WWAY History — <https://www.wwaytv3.com/history-with-hud-most-memorable-hurricanes-to-strike-cape-fear/>
-

Hazel, Fran, Floyd, Bonnie, Florence, Isaias — narrative summaries

- Retired Cape Fear Hurricanes — WWAY History — <https://www.wwaytv3.com/history-with-hud-impactful-cape-fear-hurricanes-which-were-subsequently-retired/>
-

5 storms retired due to Cape Fear impacts

- Hurricane Floyd in NC — NC State Climate Office — <https://climate.ncsu.edu/blog/2019/09/floyds-flooding-overwhelmed-eastern-north-carolina/>
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Detailed analysis; record 13.38" rain in Wilmington in one day

- Hurricane Floyd — NWS Wilmington — <https://www.weather.gov/ilm/floyd>
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Official NWS local impacts report; Carolina Beach, New Hanover County details

- Top 20 Strongest Storms in Wilmington History — NWS — https://www.weather.gov/ilm/Top_20_Storms
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Ranked by barometric pressure since 1871

- **Wilmington Hurricane History — HurricaneCity — <https://hurricanecity.com/city/wilmington.htm>**
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Complete list of storms affecting Wilmington with data links

- **NC Hurricane Landfalls — NC State Climate Office — <https://products.climate.ncsu.edu/weather/hurricanes/nc-landfalls/>**
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All 36 hurricane landfalls in NC since 1851

- **List of NC Hurricanes — Wikipedia — https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_North_Carolina_hurricanes**
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Comprehensive overview with damage and death statistics

WORLD WAR II HISTORY

The USS North Carolina (BB-55) participated in every major Pacific offensive in WWII, earning 15 battle stars. Moored as a memorial in Wilmington since 1961, she serves as NC's official WWII memorial to 11,000+ North Carolinians killed in the war. Fort Fisher's WWII bunkers were also part of anti-aircraft training infrastructure.

- **Battleship North Carolina — Official Site — <https://battleshipnc.com/>**
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Self-guided tour of 9 levels; open daily 8am–5pm

- **Battleship North Carolina — NCPedia — <https://www.ncpedia.org/uss-north-carolina>**
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History of the ship from construction to memorial

- **Battleship North Carolina — UNC Docsouth Memorial Record — <https://docsouth.unc.edu/commland/monument/437>**
-

Dedication, plaque text, and photographic record

- **Fort Fisher WWII Bunker (Hermit's Bunker) — Hermit Trail — <https://nccottages.com/the-fort-fisher-hermit-trail-and-guide/>**
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WWII anti-aircraft bunker now accessible on Hermit/Basin Trail

- **WWII in Wilmington — NC Tripping — <https://www.nctripping.com/facts-about-wilmington-nc/>**
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Overview including shipyard production and wartime economy

CAPE FEAR INDUSTRY & ECONOMIC HISTORY

Naval Stores (Tar, Pitch, Turpentine)

For over 200 years — from colonial times through the early 20th century — the lower Cape Fear region was the world's leading producer of naval stores extracted from longleaf pine forests. These products (tar, pitch, turpentine, resin) waterproofed and maintained ships worldwide. NC was known as the 'Tar Heel State' because of this industry.

- Naval Stores History — FPHPS Article — <https://federal-point-history.org/category/historic-features-from-newsletters/page/4/>

Trees, maritime forest, and colonial-era naval stores production

- Naval Stores — NCpedia — <https://www.ncpedia.org/naval-stores>

Comprehensive history of the industry in NC

- Cape Fear Naval Stores / Maritime History — NCDCCR Digital — <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/Documents/Detail/maritime-history-and-survey-of-the-cape-fear-and-northeast-cape-fear-rivers-wilmington-harbor-north-carolina.-volume-1-maritime-history/2143404>

Maritime history survey: Cape Fear & NE Cape Fear Rivers

Cotton, Railroad & Port Industry

In 1840, the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad became the world's longest single-track railroad, transforming the port. During the Civil War it was called 'the lifeline of the Confederacy.' The Cotton Exchange (1884) at the downtown waterfront symbolizes the city's 19th-century cotton export economy.

- Wilmington Railroad Museum — <https://www.wilmingtonrailroadmuseum.org/>

Atlantic Coast Line history; original locomotive; model trains

- The Cotton Exchange — Wilmington History — <https://www.wilmington-nc.com/wilmington-nc-history.html>

Historical overview from colonial port to Civil War to postwar economy

- Wilmington & Weldon Railroad — NCpedia — <https://www.ncpedia.org/wilmington-and-weldon-railroad>

World's longest railroad (1840); Confederate supply lifeline

MONKEY JUNCTION & LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD HISTORY

Monkey Junction — the informal name for the US-421/College Road intersection area — has a colorful local history. The nickname is said to come from a gas station that sold monkeys in the 1940s–1950s. The area was historically rural pine woodland and turpentine territory before becoming one of Wilmington's fastest-growing commercial corridors.

- Monkey Junction History — Port City Daily — <https://portcitydaily.com/>
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Search 'Monkey Junction history' for local journalism coverage

- NHC Historic Architecture Inventory (PDF) — <https://www.nhcgov.com/DocumentCenter/View/672>
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143 documented structures including rural southern New Hanover

- Sunset Park / Forest Hills / Carolina Place Neighborhood Histories — NHC — <https://www.nhcgov.com/2608/Historic-Homes-Your-Story>
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Suburban history research resources for New Hanover County neighborhoods

FAMOUS PEOPLE OF NEW HANOVER COUNTY

New Hanover County has produced or been home to a remarkable array of notable figures across sports, journalism, politics, music, and the arts.

- Famous People from Wilmington NC — Wrightsville Beach Magazine — <https://wrightsvillebeachmagazine.com/notable-names/>
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Top 25 famous Wilmington residents with biographical notes

- Celebrities from Wilmington NC — StarNews / Yahoo — <https://www.yahoo.com/entertainment/celebrities-wilmington-19-famous-people-100357604.html>
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Michael Jordan, David Brinkley, Charlie Daniels, Althea Gibson and more

- Famous People from NC — eReferenceDesk — <https://www.ereferencedesk.com/resources/state-famous-people/north-carolina.html>
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State-wide list including Wilmington natives

- People from Wilmington NC — Wikipedia Category — [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:People from Wilmington, North Carolina](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Category:People_from_Wilmington,_North_Carolina)
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Comprehensive categorized list

Notable figures include: Michael Jordan (NBA legend, grew up in Wilmington), David Brinkley (NBC/ABC anchor, born 1920), Charlie Daniels (country musician, born 1936), Meadowlark Lemon (Harlem Globetrotters, born 1932), Althea Gibson (tennis champion, trained in Wilmington), Sonny Jurgensen (NFL Hall of Fame QB, born 1934), Charles Kuralt (journalist, born 1934), Sugar Ray Leonard (boxing champion, born 1956), Roman Gabriel (NFL MVP 1969, born 1940), Anna McNeill Whistler (subject of Whistler's Mother, born 1804), and President Woodrow Wilson (lived in Wilmington 1874–1882).

- Michael Jordan Legacy in Wilmington — StarNews — <https://www.starnewsonline.com/>
-

Search 'Michael Jordan Wilmington' for local coverage

- David Brinkley — NCpedia — <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/brinkley-david-mclure>
-

Full biography of the Wilmington-born broadcaster

- Althea Gibson — History in Wilmington — <https://www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/blog/post/immerse-yourself-in-wilmingtons-african-american-history/>
-

Gibson trained with Dr. Hubert Eaton before winning French Open & Wimbledon

- Anna McNeill Whistler (Whistler's Mother) — NCpedia — <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/whistler-anna-mcneill>
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Born in Wilmington 1804; subject of famous Whistler painting

NEWS & ADDITIONAL RESEARCH RESOURCES

Local News Archives

- Port City Daily — Wilmington Local News — <https://portcitydaily.com/>

Independent local journalism; searchable archive

- Wilmington StarNews Online — <https://www.starnewsonline.com/>

Primary regional newspaper; historical coverage

- WECT News — Historical Coverage — <https://www.wect.com/>

Local TV news; search for exhibition-relevant topics

- WWAY TV3 — History with Hud — <https://www.wwaytv3.com/category/history-with-hud/>

Series of local history stories including hermit, hurricanes, pirates

Digital Collections & Research Databases

- DigitalNC — NC Digital Collections — <https://www.digitalnc.org/>

Historic newspapers, photographs, and documents statewide

- NCpedia — North Carolina Encyclopedia — <https://www.ncpedia.org/>

Authoritative entries on NC history, people, and places

- NC DNCR — NC Department of Natural & Cultural Resources — <https://www.dncr.nc.gov/>

State history portal; historic markers; digitized records

- NC Historical Markers Database — <https://www.dncr.nc.gov/historical-markers>

Searchable database of all NC roadside historical markers

- NCDCCR Digital Collections — <https://digital.ncdcr.gov/>

State Archives photographs, documents, reports

- NHC Public Library — Local History / NC Room — <https://www.nhclibrary.org/local-history>

Bill Reaves Collection; Port City Architecture database; genealogy resources

- Wilmington & Beaches — History Overview — <https://www.wilmingtonandbeaches.com/things-to-do/attractions-activities/history/>

Comprehensive tourism-facing history guide

Cape Fear Region History Sites

- Bald Head Island / Smith Island History — FPHPS — <https://federal-point-history.org/history-shorts/bald-head-the-history-of-smith-island-and-cape-fear/>

Pirate capture, colonial history, Cape Fear name origin

- Brunswick Town / Fort Anderson State Historic Site — <https://historicsites.nc.gov/all-sites/brunswick-town-fort-anderson>

Pre-Revolutionary colonial port; largest NC archaeological collection

- Historic Wilmington Walking Tour Resources — Historic Wilmington Foundation — <https://historicwilmington.org/>

Tours, events, plaque history

- Wilmington History Tours — African American e-Tour App — <https://www.wilmingtonhistory.com/>

Self-guided app; 32 African American history sites

Compiled by the Island Arts Council for Echoes of Place Exhibition Research

Fort Fisher State Historic Site | August 1–15, 2026 | islandartscouncilinc.com