



# North Carolina FIRSTS

- ‡ The first state art museum in the country is located in Raleigh.
- ‡ The University of North Carolina was the first public university in the United States to open its doors.
- ‡ Babe Ruth hit his first professional home run in Fayetteville on March 7, 1914.
- ‡ The first English colony in America was located on Roanoke Island. It was founded by Sir Walter Raleigh.
- ‡ The first outdoor drama in America, *The Lost Colony*, is staged every year in Manteo, North Carolina.
- ‡ The first Pepsi was created and served in New Bern, North Carolina in 1898.
- ‡ In 1955, the University of North Carolina admitted the first three African Americans undergraduates—John Brandon, and brothers John and Leroy Frasier.
- ‡ The first known miniature golf course was in Fayetteville, North Carolina.
- ‡ Mary S. MacRae was the first of five females to register at the University of North Carolina in 1897 under policy allowing women to enroll in undergraduate courses.
- ‡ On November 8, 1921, Miss Lillian Exum Clement of Asheville became the first woman elected to the General Assembly.
- ‡ The first mobile computer center was operated for Douglas Aircraft Corporation in Charlotte, North Carolina on March 27, 1961.
- ‡ Washington in Beaufort County was the first town in the United States to be named for President George Washington.
- ‡ The first x-ray photograph was made on January 12, 1896, by Dr. Henry Louis Smith of Greensboro.
- ‡ The first telephones in North Carolina were installed in Raleigh in 1879.
- ‡ Cabarrus County, North Carolina was the site of America's first gold rush.
- ‡ North Carolina established the first state-supported symphony orchestra in the nation in 1946.
- ‡ The nation's first black textile mill was owned and operated by Warren C. Coleman of Concord, North Carolina.
- ‡ Harriet Abigail Morrison Irwin (1828–1897) of Mecklenburg County was the first American woman to receive a patent for architectural innovation.

- ↳ In 1969, Chapel Hill became the first predominately white town to elect a black mayor, Howard N. Lee.
- ↳ Susie M. Sharpe became the first female chief justice of the North Carolina State Supreme Court in 1974.
- ↳ In 1969, North Carolina chartered the first totally natural habitat zoo in the United States.
- ↳ In 1942, Thomas Oxendine of Pembroke became the first Native American to graduate from the United States Naval Flight School.
- ↳ Many people believe that North Carolina was the first state to declare independence from England with the Mecklenburg Declaration of 1775.
- ↳ In 1992, Eva M. Clayton became the first woman in North Carolina history elected to Congress.
- ↳ What was probably the first drawbridge built in the United States was built over the Cape Fear River.
- ↳ In 1991, the North Carolina legislature elected Daniel T. Blue as the first African American Speaker of the House of Representatives.
- ↳ The first cotton mill was opened in Lincoln County in 1813.
- ↳ The first public school in North Carolina was opened in Rockingham County on January 20, 1840.

## SOURCES:

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*Paths Toward Freedom: A Biographical History of Blacks and Indians in North Carolina By Blacks and Indians* RNC 920.0756 P

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