IT'S GOOD
TO BE HOME!
MARLBORO COUNTY, SC

Marlboro County has eclectic towns and communities that include the county seat of Bennettsville, as well as McColl, Clio, Blenheim, Tatum and Wallace.

Cotton made this a wealthy part of South Carolina prior to the Civil War and up to the early 1900s.

Today, Marlboro County is part of the "Cotton Trail", a heritage tour that traces the influence of cotton on the rural south.

There are many things that make Marlboro County unique and a wonderful place to call home!

Historic Towns

BENNETTSVILLE
Established as the county seat of Marlboro County on December 14, 1819, Bennettsville continues to serve as the political and economic center for the county. Legend has it that land in Marlboro County was so rich it once was sold by the pound instead of the acre. The State of South Carolina recognized Bennettsville by designating it South Carolina's first "G.R.E.A.T. Town" (Governor's Rural Economic Achievement Trophy) in 1979. The city logo features a star with five points representing governmental, residential, religious, cultural and retail aspects of the town.

BLENHEIM
Blenheim's famous mineral springs were discovered in 1781 during the American Revolution by James Spears, a Whig, who was running to escape Tory (British) troops. Legend says that Spears lost a shoe in a water hole while running toward his home. When he returned the next day to retrieve it, he found it in a bubbling spring, tasted the water and noticed its strong mineral content. In the late 1890s, Dr. Charles R. May encouraged his patients to drink the water. He added strong Jamaican ginger and other secret ingredients to make it taste better. That was the beginning of the famed Blenheim Ginger Ale, bottled today by Shafer Distributors of Dillon.

CLIO
In the early 1900s, Clio was home to more millionaires per capita than any other town in South Carolina. Many of the elegant homes and churches remain from these early years. The only remaining train depot in the county is in Clio and has been restored as government offices.
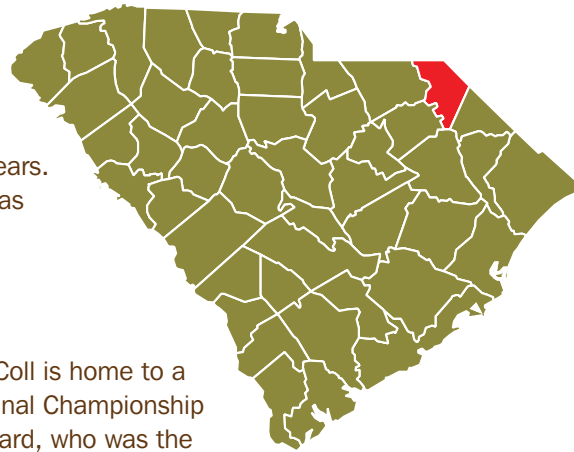
McCOLL
The second largest municipality in the county is McColl. McColl is home to a number of well-known sports figures including the last National Championship football coach Jim Tatum and the late Felix A. "Doc" Blanchard, who was the Heisman Trophy Winner as an All-American running back at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

TATUM
Tatum was home to Marlboro County's first high school. The Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918 brought tragedy and death and caused Tatum to lose population and its prosperity.

WALLACE
The Wallace community is home to the county's oldest industry, Palmetto Brick Company. Textile industry J.P. Stevens—formerly the largest industry in the county—was also located here.

Marlboro County's Rich Past

THE PEOPLE
- Marlborough County (original spelling) was named for John Churchill, first Duke of Marlborough (1650–1722).
- Marlboro County was established on March 2, 1785.
- The last "Aunt Jemima" for Quaker Oats Cereals was Annie Short Harrington from Marlboro County. She was discovered by the Quaker Oats Company in 1935 at a fairground in Syracuse, NY, while cooking pancakes.
- Mason Lee was born in 1770 in Marlboro County and was struck by lightening at age 30. He became obsessed with witches and the devil and slept in a hollowed-out log. He left a large estate of $50,000 to the states of South Carolina and Tennessee. The trial contesting his will and the subsequent ruling in this landmark case established standards for determining mental capacity studied in leading law schools both here and abroad.
- D.D. McColl brought the first railroad to the county during the 1870s, the first bank during the 1880s, and the cotton mills to McColl and Bennettsville during the 1890s.

THE PLACES
- Marlboro County's first town was called Carlisle.
- Blenheim was named in honor of Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire, England.
- Four courthouses have stood on Courthouse Square in Bennettsville since April 4, 1820.
- Courthouse Square in Bennettsville is the largest in the state.

THE ARCHITECTURE
- The Edward Crosland House at 204 Parsonage Street is the oldest house in Bennettsville built in 1800.
- Southern Oaks Plantation, located on Beauty Spot Road, was dismantled board by board and hidden to avoid being burned by Sherman's troops. Later, it was rebuilt and stands today.

THE MILITARY HISTORY
- During the Civil War, Bennettsville was occupied March 6 and 7, 1865, by Major General Frank P. Blair.
- Cadets from across the country received their primary flight training for World War II at Palmer Field.
- There were six battles or skirmishes that occurred in Marlboro County during the Revolutionary War.
- The only cartel achieved in America during the Revolution was signed in Marlboro County on May 3, 1781 for the exchange of prisoners.
- The Jennings-Brown House, build in 1825-26 by one of Bennettsville's early physicians, Dr. Edward W. Jones, was the headquarters of Union Army Major General Frank P. Blair when the Union Army occupied Bennettsville.

THE GOVERNMENT
- Marlboro County operates under a council/administrator form of government.
- Bennettsville city government is comprised of a mayor and six council members.
- Blenheim, Clio, McColl and Tatum are incorporated municipalities with the mayor and council form of government.
- The Bennettsville Visitor Center was recognized with a Municipal Achievement Award by the Main Street South Carolina program of the Municipal Association of South Carolina.

Points of Interest

Bennettsville Historic District — The Bennettsville Historic District encompasses the downtown core and includes historic homes and buildings. A walking tour of the historic district can be found online.
www.visitbennettsville.com

Breeden Grocery — the Breeden Grocery in Bennettsville has been a mainstay in downtown for more than 85 years. It's a classic butcher shop and home to a number of certified SC products.
843-479-3481

Breeden Inn — On April 20, 1978, The Breeden Inn Bed and Breakfast property, located at 404 East Main Street, was selected to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places as one of many key structures contributing to the character of the Bennettsville Historic District. It is a beautiful bed and breakfast inn with lovely rooms and grounds.
www.breedeninn.com
843-479-3665

McArthur Farms — McArthur Farms is a" Certified South Carolina Grown," roadside market featuring flowering plants and produce. They offer several "you pick, we pick" fruits and vegetables including super sweet strawberries.
Follow McArthur Farms on Facebook
843-479-3839

Marlboro County Historical Museum — located in the Dr. D.F. Kinney house at 123 South Marlboro Street, this home now houses the Marlboro County Historical Museum. The small white building in the front right of the museum was originally Dr. Kinney's office and is now the Doctor's Museum. There are a total of five buildings in the museum complex including the Printing Museum, the only one in South Carolina.
843-479-5624

Stanton's BBQ -- Stanton's BBQ is the only private fly-in restaurant in the Carolinas. It features a 2300 foot grass landing strip for pilot guests. Stanton's is a third generation pit-cooked pork barbeque business.
stantonsbarbeque.com
843-265-4855