Delaware County

Created on September 6, 1789, from part of Chester County, and named for the Delaware River, which in turn had been named for Lord de la Warr, governor of Virginia. Media, its county seat since 1850, was incorporated as a borough on March 11, 1850, and named for its central location in the county. Chester, its original county seat, was the county seat of Chester County before 1788, and the temporary capital of Pennsylvania, 1681–1682, before Philadelphia was laid out. The county adopted a home rule charter in May 1975.

Delaware includes the first permanent European settlement, the Swedes on Tinicum Island in 1643. The center of the Battle of Brandywine in 1777 was in Delaware. Phenomenal population growth occurred steadily after 1800, until a fall off began in 1980. Its many fast streams made it a milling center for lumber, grains, paper, tobacco, and textiles, and it was located on main roads south and west from Philadelphia. Shipbuilding flourished, beginning in the colonial period, and oil refineries arose in the early twentieth century. Industrial jobs brought in a large immigrant population and from 1885 to 1915 middle class families from Philadelphia relocated here. Once a strong dairy and mushroom farm area, agriculture is now almost gone. Farms occupy only 7 percent of the land. There were Underground Railroad stations in Chester Borough, Upper Darby, and Newtown Square, and Martin Luther King Jr. was educated at Crozier Baptist Seminary. Colleges and universities include Swarthmore, Haverford, Villanova, Cheyney State, and Widener.

DELAWARE COUNTY - 3rd Class

Formed on September 26, 1789 from Chester County

Third Class City

Name of City	Incorporated	Prior Status
Chester	Feb. 13, 1866 [1] Feb. 14, 1866 [2]	First settled in 1644 and called "Upland." Name changed in 1682. Incorporated as a borough on October 31, 1701

Boroughs

Name of Borough	Incorporated	Town Laid Out or Settled		Incorporated From
Aldan	Sept. 22, 1893			Darby and Upper Darby Twps.
Brookhaven	Apr. 4, 1945			Chester Township
Chester Heights	Sept. 21, 1945			Aston Township
Clifton Heights	June 1, 1885			Upper Darby Township
Collingdale	Dec. 23, 1891			Darby Township
Colwyn	Jan. 18, 1894	S	1698	Darby Township
Darby	May 3, 1853	S About	1698	Darby Township
East Lansdowne	May 27, 1911			Upper Darby Township
Eddystone	1889			Ridley Township
Folcroft	Dec. 1922			Darby Township
Glenolden	Nov. 15, 1894			Ridley Township
Lansdowne	June 7, 1893			Upper Darby Township
Marcus Hook	Apr. 18, 1893	S About	1680	Lower Chichester Township
Media	Mar. 10, 1850	S	1682	Upper Providence Township
Millbourne	Oct. 12, 1909	S	1722	Upper Darby Township
Morton	June 6, 1898	About	1866	Springfield Township
Norwood	1893		1872	Ridley Township
Parkside	June 26, 1919			Chester Township
Prospect Park	May 7, 1894			Ridley Township
Ridley Park	Dec. 8, 1888		1871	Ridley Township
Rose Valley	Since 1920			Nether Providence Township
Rutledge	June 10, 1885			Ridley Township
Sharon Hill	July 14, 1890			Darby Township
Swarthmore	Mar. 6, 1893			Springfield Township
Trainer	Mar. 2, 1919			Lower Chichester Township
Upland	May 24, 1869		1845	Chester Township
Yeadon	Apr. 23, 1894			Darby Township

First Class Townships

Name of Township	Became First Class Twp.	Incorporated as a Twp.	Settled	Incorporated From
Aston	1906	1687	1682	
Darby	Before 1926		1683	
Haverford	Jan. 1, 1912	1682	Aug. 1682	
Lower Chichester	Before 1918	1682	1679	
Marple	Nov. 8, 1960	About 1684	About 1683	
Nether Providence	About 1900	1687	1683	Providence Twp.
Radnor	Mar. 12, 1901	About 1684	About 1681	
Ridley	Mar. 6, 1906		1644	
Springfield	Jan. 7, 1924	About 1684	About 1680	Ridley Township
Tinicum	1921	Aug. 31, 1780	1643	
Upper Chichester	Jan. 1, 1942	1700 [1]	About 1682	Chichester Twp.
		Aug. 31, 1781		
Upper Darby		Aug. 30, 1736	About 1688	Darby Township

Second Class Townships

Name of Township	Incorporated	Settled	Incorporated From
Bethel	1683	1682	Concord Township
Birmingham		1684	
Chester	1682		
Concord	June 27, 1683	1683	
Edgmont	1687	About 1687	
Middletown	1686 or 1687	1681	First known as Middle Twp.
Newtown	About 1685		
Thornbury	1687	About 1685	
Upper Providence	About 1687	About 1683	

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1 Godcharles

2 Charles Palmer (ed.), A History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Vol. I (Harrisburg, Pa.: National Historical Association, Inc., 1932).

3 John W. Jordan (ed.), A History of Delaware County, Pennsylvania and Its People, Vol. I (New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1914).