

Northampton County

Created on March 11, 1752 from parts of Bucks County and named for Northamptonshire, England, where Thomas Penn's father-in-law, the Earl of Pomfret, lived. Easton, the county seat was named for the Earl's estate. It was incorporated as a borough on September 23, 1789 and became a city on November 2, 1886. The county adopted a home rule charter in April 1976.

Pennsylvania's Walking Purchase from the Delaware Indians in 1737 included all the present area of this county. Moravians settled in 1740 at Nazareth and in 1741 at Bethlehem. Fries' Rebellion against a federal tax on windows occurred here. Until 1800 Northampton was the entire northeastern section of Pennsylvania. In 1812 the creation of Lehigh County divided the Lehigh Valley, and Northampton continued to yield land until the formation of Carbon County in 1843. German farmers from Bucks County and Perkiomen Valley, as well as Scots-Irish from New Castle, were the first settler groups. The opening of the Lehigh Canal in 1829 triggered industrial growth. Major iron works functioned at Easton, Glendon, and South Bethlehem before 1860. Bethlehem Iron Works became Bethlehem Steel, the second largest United States' steel producer. By 1890 there were also flour mills, textile factories, slate quarries, and zinc mines. Depression was seriously felt from 1930 to 1941. Bethlehem Steel recognized the United Steelworkers in 1939, but there was a bitter strike in 1941. Lasting industrial decline began in 1955, reaching beyond the steel industry. The cement mills and the Dixie Cup Company have closed. Farms cover 36 percent of the county and Northampton is a significant grain and peaches producer.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY - 4th Class

Formed on March 11, 1752 from parts of Bucks County

Third Class Cities

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Bethlehem	July 17, 1917	Settled in 1741. Erected as a township in 1746. Incorporated as a borough on March 6, 1845
Easton	Nov. 2, 1886 ¹ Apr. 4, 1887 ²	Settled about 1739. Laid out as a town on May 9, 1750. Incorporated as a borough on September 23, 1789 and reincorporated on March 19, 1828

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Bangor	May 22, 1875	1863	Washington Township
Bath	Feb. 1, 1856	1816	East Allen Township
Chapman	1865	1850	Moore Township
East Bangor	Apr. 15, 1884	S 1850	Mount Bethel Township
Freemansburg	Jan. 24, 1856	1830	Bethlehem Township
Glendon	Dec. 18, 1867	1843	Williams Township
Hellertown	1872	S About 1742	Lower Saucon Township
Nazareth	Apr. 14, 1863	1849	Upper Nazareth Township
North Catasauqua	1908	S 1731	Allen Township
Northampton	May 6, 1901	1867	Allen Township
Pen Argyl	1882	1868	Plainfield Township
Portland	1876	1845	Upper Mt. Bethel Township
Roseto	1910	1883	Washington Township
Stockertown	Dec. 17, 1900	1774	Stockertown Township
Tatamy	1893	S About 1790	Palmer Township
Walnutport	1909	S 1830	Lehigh Township
West Easton	1900	About 1860	Palmer Township
	1890		
Wilson	July 12, 1920	About 1860	Wilson Township
Wind Gap	1893	About 1740	Plainfield Township

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY - 4th Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>		<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Allen	June	1748 ¹	1728	Incorporated while part of Bucks County
	June	1746 ²		
Bethlehem		1746	1741	Incorporated while part of Bucks County
Bushkill	Aug. 13,	1813	1776	Plainfield Township
East Allen		1845	1728	Allen Township
Forks		1752 ¹	1740	
		1754 ²		
Hanover	Aug. 8,	1798	1760	Allen Township
Lehigh		1752	1732	
Lower Mt. Bethel		1746	1728	
	Sept.	1787		
Lower Nazareth	Apr. 22,	1807	1750	Nazareth Township
Lower Saucon		1743	1720	Saucon Township
Moore		1765	1740-1750	
Palmer	May 5,	1857	1740	Forks Township
Plainfield	Dec. 24,	1762	1740	Bushkill Township
Upper Mt. Bethel	Mar. 17,	1787	1730	Lower Mt. Bethel Township
Upper Nazareth	Apr. 22,	1807	1740	Nazareth Township
Washington		1781	1730	Lower Mt. Bethel Township
Williams		1750	1725	Incorporated while part of Bucks County

1 Godcharles

2 William J. Heller (ed.), History of Northampton County, Pennsylvania Vols. I and II (New York: American Historical Society, 1920).