

Adams County

Created on January 22, 1800 and named in honor of President John Adams. Gettysburg, the county seat was incorporated as a borough on March 10, 1806. It was named for James Gettys a local landowner.

Settled by migrants from both Maryland and eastern Pennsylvania, Adams has always had a strong German ethnic strain and a farm-based economy. Although it once led the state in wheat production, general farming eventually prevailed, and apples are now its most famous product. Even though John Studebaker's wagon works gave his name to a major Detroit car manufacturer, the county has never been industrialized until recent decades. As a result, the population has grown slowly—until the last decade. Farms cover 56 percent of the land, and Adams has long led the state in fruit production; currently it produces over 40 percent of Pennsylvania's harvest. It is also strong in wheat, barley, soybeans, and hay. Food processing businesses are very successful and this, with a strong publishing industry, wood products, and farmers' supplies, accounts for Adams's remarkable 59 percent increase in the value it has added to the nation's economy by manufacturing over the five years from 1987 to 1992.

The Battle of Gettysburg, July 1–3, 1863, an irreparable loss for the Confederacy, spawned a large tourism industry. Gettysburg College, at first named Pennsylvania College, was founded in 1832. President Dwight D. Eisenhower's farm near Gettysburg was his private residence during and after his presidency.

ADAMS COUNTY - 6th Class

Formed on January 22, 1800 from part of York County

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled*</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Abbottstown	Apr. 29, 1835	1755	Berwick Township
Arendtsville	Oct. 8, 1896	Aug. 1810	Franklin Township
Bendersville	1866	S 1811	Menallen Township
Biglerville	May 26, 1903	1817	Butler Township
Bonneauville	Aug. 5, 1961	S About 1755	Mt. Pleasant Township
East Berlin	Nov. 10, 1879	May 8, 1746	Hamilton Township
Fairfield	Dec. 1896	1801	Hamiltonban Township
Gettysburg	Mar. 10, 1806	1780	Cumberland Township
Littlestown	Feb. 23, 1864	1765	Germany Township
McSherrystown	1882	1765	Conewago Township
New Oxford	Aug. 20, 1874	1792	Oxford Township
York Springs	Aug. 20, 1868	1800	Huntingdon Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Berwick	1800	1749	
Butler	Aug. 20, 1840	About 1754	Franklin and Menallen Townships
Conewago	May 25, 1801	1731	
Cumberland	Before 1800	1733-1735	Incorporated from part of York County
Franklin	Before 1800	1738	Incorporated from part of York County
Freedom	Jan. 22, 1838	1739	Liberty Township
Germany	Before 1800	1733	Incorporated from part of York County
Hamilton	Aug. 20, 1810	About 1734	Berwick Township
Hamiltonban	Before 1800	About 1741	Incorporated from part of York County
Highland	Nov. 16, 1863	1733	Cumberland, Franklin and Hamiltonban Townships
Huntingdon	Before 1800	1734	
Latimore	Aug. 19, 1807	1749	Monaghan, Huntingdon and Warrington Townships

* S Indicates date first settled

ADAMS COUNTY - 6th Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Liberty	Aug. 25, 1800	1736	Hamiltonban Township
Menallen	1749	1749	Incorporated while part of York County
Mount Joy	Before 1800	1749	Incorporated while part of York County
Mount Pleasant	Before 1800	1730	Incorporated while part of York County
Oxford	Apr. 19, 1847	1749	Berwick Township
Reading	Before 1800	1749	Incorporated while part of York County
Straban	1746	1741	Incorporated while part of York County
Tyrone	1749	1749	Incorporated while part of York County
Union	Jan. 25, 1841	1735-1752	Conewago, Germany and Mt. Pleasant Townships

Frederic A. Godcharles, Pennsylvania, Political, Governmental, Military and Civil: Political and Civil History Volume (New York: American Historical Society, Inc., 1933).

History of Cumberland and Adams Counties, Pennsylvania, (Chicago, Ill: Warner, Beers and Company, 1886).