

## Blair County

Created on February 26, 1846 from parts of Huntingdon and Bedford Counties, and named for John Blair, a prominent citizen. Hollidaysburg, the county seat, was incorporated as a borough on August 10, 1836, and named for Adam and William Holliday, early settlers.

Before the county's formation the area was located on the Frankstown Path and was dangerous to settle because of threats from Indians. It was visited by the Catholic priest Prince Demetrius Gallitzin. The Blair family appeared after the Revolution and led the movement to form the county. In 1831 Hollidaysburg became the terminal of the Portage Railroad that carried canal boats over the mountains to Johnstown. Altoona arose because of the Pennsylvania Railroad's yards founded there in 1846; this was the main employer in the county until the 1970s. Iron production diminished after 1865, but Blair has produced much bituminous coal, paper, and printing products, as well as the lumber used by the canal and the railroad. Its mountainous terrain is unfavorable for cultivation, but Blair ranks twenty-fourth among Pennsylvania's sixty-seven counties in income from livestock. One-fourth of the land is held in farms. Originally settled by German and Scotch-Irish groups, Altoona's railroad employment brought about a much wider ethnic mix.

BLAIR COUNTY - 5th Class

Formed on February 26, 1846 from parts of Bedford and Huntingdon Counties

Third Class City

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Altoona	Feb. 1868	First settled in 1849. Incorporated as a borough on Feb. 6, 1854

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Bellwood	Mar. 1, 1898 <sup>1</sup> Feb. 9, 1888 <sup>2</sup>	1877	Antis Township
Duncansville	Mar. 4, 1891	1831	Allegheny Township
Hollidaysburg	Aug. 1836	S 1768	
Martinsburg	Apr. 2, 1832	1815	North Woodbury Township
Newry	Jan. 1876	1793	Blair Township
Roaring Spring	Jan. 27, 1888	1865	Taylor Township
Tyrone	July 27, 1857	1851	Snyder Township
Williamsburg	1827	1794	Woodbury Twp. Surrendered charter in 1839, reincorporated as a borough in 1898

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Allegheny	Nov. 1793	About 1773	Frankstown Township while part of Huntingdon County
Antis	Aug. 1810	1787	Allegheny Township while part of Huntingdon County
Blair	Jan. 19, 1839	About 1773	Frankstown Township while part of Huntingdon County
Catherine	Feb. 26, 1846	1773	Morris Township while part of Huntingdon County
Frankstown	1787	1758	Incorporated while part of Bedford County
Freedom	1857 <sup>1</sup> Feb. 1, 1858 <sup>2</sup>	1787	Juniata Township
Greenfield	Before 1846	1770	Incorporated while part of Bedford County

BLAIR COUNTY - 5th Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships (cont'd)

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Huston	Aug. 19, 1842	About 1770	Woodbury Township
Juniata	Mar. 27, 1847	About 1800	Greenfield Township
Logan	1850	1770	Allegheny and Antis Twps.
North Woodbury	Before 1771	About 1754	Incorporated while part of Cumberland County
Snyder	1840	1770	Incorporated while part of Huntingdon County
Taylor	1855	1775	North Woodbury and Huston Townships
Tyrone	Before 1787	About 1775	Incorporated while part of Huntingdon County
Woodbury	Before 1787	1765	Incorporated while part of Bedford County

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1 Godcharles

2 Tarring S. Davis (ed.), A History of Blair County, Pennsylvania (Harrisburg, Pa: National Historical Association, Inc., 1931).