

## Bucks County

One of the three original counties created by William Penn in November 1682. Bucks is named for Buckinghamshire in England, where the Penns had lived for generations. Doylestown replaced Newtown as the county seat in 1812 and was incorporated as a borough on April 16, 1838. It was named for William Doyle, an innkeeper.

Most original settlers were Quakers, and William Penn's estate was at Pennsbury Manor. During the religious Great Awakening the log college at Neshaminy educated clergymen. In 1776–1777, Washington used Newtown and Keiths as bases for his Trenton and Princeton campaigns, crossing the Delaware on Christmas at McConkey's Ferry and in 1778 his army camped at Doylestown. Bristol was the first county seat, succeeded by Newton and then Doylestown. Fries' Rebellion occurred in 1798 in opposition to a federal tax on windows. Bucks has a long tradition of high quality farming, including selling seeds that are used all across the nation. Dairying became strong toward the end of the nineteenth century. Wealthy estates have acquired much of the farming area; 22 percent of the land is currently farmland. Textiles, pottery, and decorative tile making flourished. The U. S. Steel Company built a plant after World War II, and then the population increased sharply. Many found homes in the new housing complex of Levittown. Explorer Zebulon Pike, writer Pearl Buck, and War of 1812 general Jacob Brown were all from Bucks. There were Underground Railroad stations in four towns.

BUCKS COUNTY - 3rd Class

One of the three original counties into which William Penn divided  
Pennsylvania in 1682

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Boroughs</u>		<u>Incorporated From</u>
		<u>Town Laid Out</u> <u>or Settled</u>		
Bristol	1720 Sept. 16, 1785 and 1851		1697	Bristol Township. First borough charter was granted in 1720, borough was rechartered in 1785 and again in 1851
Chalfont	June 11, 1901	S About	1765	New Britain Township
Doylestown	1838	S About	1735	Doylestown Township
Dublin	1912			Bedminster and Hilltown Twps.
Hulmeville	1872		1796-1799	Middletown Township
Ivyland	1904		1873	Warminster Township
Langhorne	Dec. 2, 1890	About	1724	Middletown Township
Langhorne Manor	1890			Middletown Township
Morrisville	Mar. 29, 1804		1798	Falls Township
New Britain	1928	S About	1715	Doylestown and New Britain Twps
New Hope	Apr. 26, 1837	S	1707	Solebury Township
Newtown	1838	S	1733	Newtown Township
Penndel	1874			Middletown Twp. Called South Langhorne Borough until 1948
Perkasie	May 20, 1879		1870	Rockhill Township
Quakertown	1855	S	1700	Richland Township
Richlandtown	1890	S About	1804	Richland Township
Riegelsville	May 24, 1916		1834	Durham Township
Sellersville	1874	S	1738	Rockhill Township
Silverdale	1896			Hilltown Township
Trumbauersville	1901			Milford Township
Tullytown	June 4, 1908 1891		1816	Falls Township
Yardley	1895	About	1807	Lower Makefield Township

First Class Township

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Became First Class Twp.</u>	<u>Incorporated as a Twp.</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Bristol	Jan. 1, 1951	1692	1679	Called New Buckingham Township between 1697 and 1705

BUCKS COUNTY - 3rd Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Bedminster	1742	1720	Plumstead Township
Bensalem	1692	1688	
Bridgeton	1890	1775	Nockamixon Township
Buckingham	1703	1690	Buckingham Township
Doylestown	Nov. 1818	1722	New Britain, Buckingham and Warwick Townships
Durham	1743	1723	It was not governed as a township until Nov. 1775
East Rockhill		1720	Rockhill Twp. which was incorporated in 1740
Falls	1692	1677	
Haycock	1763	1738	Rockhill, Bedminster, Tincum, Nockamixon and Springfield Townships
Hilltown	1722	1718	
Lower Makefield	1737	1682	Makefield Township
Lower Southampton	1928	1685	Southampton Twp. which was incorporated in 1703
Middletown	1692	1682	
Milford	Oct. 22, 1734 <sup>1, 2, 4</sup> 1752 <sup>3</sup>	1720 - 1730	Richland Township
New Britain	1723	1683	Hilltown Township
Newtown	1703	1680	
Nockamixon	Apr. 1746	1740	Tincum Township
Northampton	1722	1686	
Plumstead	1725	1708	Buckingham Township
Richland	1734	1710	
Solebury	1702	1690	
Springfield	1743		Richland Township
Tincum	1738 <sup>1</sup> 1747 <sup>4</sup>	1699	Plumstead Township
Upper Makefield	1737	1692	Makefield Township
Upper Southampton	1928	1685	Southampton Township
Warminster	1692	1684	
Warrington	1734		Warminster Township
Warwick	1743	1684	

BUCKS COUNTY - 3rd Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships (cont'd)

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
West Rockhill		1727	Rockhill Township which was incorporated in 1740
Wrightstown	1703	1684	

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1 Godcharles

2 William W. H. Davis, The History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania Vols. II and III,  
(New York, N. Y.: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1905).

3 Bucks County Association of Township Officials, "The Program of the Bucks County  
Association of Township Officials, 54th Annual Convention," Saturday, March 10, 1962

4 J. H. Battle, History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Penna: A. Warner  
and Company, 1887).