

Cambria County

Created on March 26, 1804, from parts of Huntingdon, Somerset, and Bedford Counties and named for Cambria Township of Somerset County. Cambria is an ancient name for Wales. It was attached to Somerset County until 1807. Ebensburg, the county seat was incorporated as a borough on January 15, 1825 and named by Reverend Rees Lloyd for his deceased eldest son, Eben.

First permanent settlement was on the site of Loretto in 1788, and population growth was very slow until the 1830s. Then came the beginnings of coal mining (1825), the Allegheny Portage Railroad (1834), iron production (1841), and the Pennsylvania Railroad (1854). Always a large bituminous producer—today about seventh in the state—the county's iron ore was once also worth mining. Cambria Iron Works were formed in 1852 and bought out by Bethlehem Steel in 1922. The area witnessed pioneer projects in the Bessemer method and the open-hearth steel making processes, and in rolling steel rails. Disasters recurred: the Johnstown floods of 1889 and 1936, and mine disasters in 1902 (Johnstown), 1922 (Spangler), and 1940 (Portage). Labor unions made little progress in Cambria until the passage of the federal Wagner Act in 1937. Because it was so strongly committed to heavy industry, deindustrialization has been pronounced in Cambria since the 1970s. Welsh, Irish, and German groups were among the pre-industrial population, and the Russian prince-priest Demetrius Gallitzin ministered at Loretto from 1799 to 1829. Industrial employment resulted in the appearance of a medley of European ethnic groups.

CAMBRIA COUNTY - 4th Class

Formed on March 26, 1804 from parts of Huntingdon and Somerset
Counties

Third Class City

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Johnstown	Dec. 18, 1889	Laid out as a town in 1800. Incorporated as the Borough of Conemaugh on January 12, 1831. Name changed to Johnstown on April 14, 1834

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Ashville	Mar. 9, 1887 ¹ June 6, 1887 ²	S 1842	Gallitzin Township
Barnesboro	Mar. 5, 1893 ¹ Mar. 5, 1894 ²		Susquehanna Township
Brownstown	June 10, 1908		Lower Yoder Township
Carrolltown	Mar. 30, 1858		Carroll Township
Cassandra	Sept. 23, 1908		Washington Township
Chest Springs	Apr. 19, 1858 ¹ May 10, 1858 ²		Allegheny Township
Cresson	June 7, 1902 ¹ Dec. 4, 1905 ²		Cresson Township
Daisytown	June 9, 1893	S 1776	Conemaugh Township
Dale	Mar. 9, 1891		Stonycreek Township
East Conemaugh	Sept. 10, 1868		Taylor Township
Ebensburg	Jan. 15, 1825	S 1796	Cambria Township
Ehrenfield	Aug. 4, 1956		Croyle Township
Ferndale	June 1, 1896	S 1785	Upper Yoder Township
Franklin	Mar. 9, 1868		Conemaugh Township
Gallitzin	Dec. 3, 1873		1849 Gallitzin Township
Geistown	1930	S 1812	Richland Township
Hastings	Apr. 16, 1894 ¹ Dec. 4, 1894 ²		1889 Elder Township
Lilly	June 11, 1883	S 1806	Washington Township
Lorain	Nov. 4, 1915		Stonycreek Township
Loretto	Mar. 8, 1845		1816 Allegheny Township

CAMBRIA COUNTY - 4th Class (cont'd)

Boroughs (cont'd)

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Nanty-Glo	Sept. 2, 1918	S 1797	Blacklick and Jackson Twps.
Patton	Sept. 4, 1893	S 1844	Carroll, Chest, Clearfield and Elder Townships
Portage	Oct. 7, 1890		Portage Township
Sankertown	June 11, 1906		Cresson Township
Scalp Level	Nov. 16, 1898	S Before 1835	Richland Township
South Fork	Aug. 3, 1887		Croyle Township
Southmont	June 2, 1919	S About 1850	Upper Yoder Township
Spangler	Nov. 13, 1893 ¹ Dec. 13, 1893 ²		Susquehanna Township
Summerhill	Sept. 6, 1892 ¹ Sept. 4, 1892 ²	1810	Croyle Township
Tunnelhill	Dec. 5, 1876		Gallitzin Township
Vintondale	Sept. 4, 1907		Jackson Township
Westmont	June 13, 1892	S About 1788	Upper Yoder Township
Wilmore	Feb. 10, 1859	1831	Summerhill 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>
Stonycreek		Jan. 4, 1876		Conemaugh Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Adams	Jan. 5, 1870		Richland Township
Allegheny	1807	1788	
Barr	Sept. 4, 1872		Blacklick, Cambria and Susquehanna Townships
Blacklick	Oct. 10, 1850		Cambria, Carroll and Jackson Townships
Cambria	1798		
Chest	Dec. 10, 1853		White and Susquehanna Twps.
Clearfield	Dec. 31, 1822		Incorporated while part of Allegheny County
Conemaugh	1801		

CAMBRIA COUNTY - 4th Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships (cont'd)

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Cresson	Dec. 4, 1893		Washington Township
Croyle	Sept. 9, 1858	1802	Summerhill Township
Dean	July 10, 1877		Clearfield Township
East Carroll	Sept. 5, 1910		Carroll Township
East Taylor	June 2, 1884		Taylor Township
Elder	Feb. 12, 1878	About 1800	Chest Township
Gallitzin	June 4, 1866	About 1800	Allegheny Township
Jackson	Jan. 3, 1828		Cambria and Summerhill Townships
Lower Yoder	Sept. 1, 1879	1820	Yoder Township
Middle Taylor	June 30, 1908		West Taylor Township
Munster	Dec. 9, 1854		Allegheny, Cambria and Washington Townships
Portage	Mar. 4, 1878		Summerhill and Washington Townships
Reade	Sept. 1, 1879		White Township
Richland	Apr. 2, 1833	About 1780	Conemaugh Township
Summerhill	Feb. 7, 1810 ¹	1792	Cambria Township
	Feb. 10, 1810 ²		
Susquehanna	Jan. 6, 1825		Allegheny and Cambria Twps.
Upper Yoder	Sept. 1, 1879	1820	Yoder Township
Washington	1834 ¹		Allegheny, Cambria and Summerhill Townships
	Jan. 6, 1831 ²		
West Carroll	Sept. 5, 1910		Carroll Township
West Taylor	June 2, 1884		Taylor Township
White	July 6, 1838	Before 1850	Clearfield Township

¹ Godcharles

² Cambria County Historical Society, A Brief History Commemorating the Sesquicentennial of Cambria County (Ebensburg, Pa.: Cambria County History Society, 1954).