

Carbon County

Created on March 13, 1843 from parts of Northampton and Monroe Counties. Its name alludes to its deposits of coal. Jim Thorpe, the county seat, was originally incorporated on January 26, 1850 as the borough of Mauch Chunk, an Indian named meaning Bear Mountain. It was renamed in 1954 for the famous Indian athlete, Jim Thorpe, who is buried there.

Consisting largely of land Pennsylvania obtained by the Walking Purchase from the Delaware Indians in 1737, it was the scene of Moravian missions to the Indians, frontier fighting during the French and Indian War, and Tory raids during the Revolution. The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, formed in 1822, built an economic base, and Mauch Chunk flourished. Wealthy canal boat builder Asa Packer led the movement to create the county. In 1851 he formed the Lehigh Valley Railroad and broke the Navigation Company's control, although it revived after another railroad opened the Lackawanna Valley as a route for transporting coal to New York. When New York tycoon J.P. Morgan bought the Lehigh Valley Railroad in the late 1890s, millionaires left Mauch Chunk and the area declined. Deep coal mining lasted until 1973. Always producing high quality anthracite, the county still is an area for surface mining. Zinc mining became important after 1898, and the forests produce good lumber. But this is not an agricultural county; only 9 percent of the land is farmed. The population peak, 63,380, occurred in 1930. The Northeast Extension of the Pennsylvania Turnpike and the thriving tourist attractions of Mauch Chunk sustain the present economy. Women's clothing is the largest manufacturing business. The value added to the economy by manufacturing in this county increased 67 percent between 1987 and 1992.

There was an Underground Railroad station at Palmerton. Carbon County was the scene of much of the Molly Maguires movement against coal mine owners.

CARBON COUNTY - 6th Class

Formed on March 13, 1843 from parts of Northampton and
Monroe Counties

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Beaver Meadows	1897		Banks Township
Bowmanstown	1808		Lower Towamensing Township
East Side	Jan. 22, 1892		Kidder Township
Jim Thorpe	Jan. 1956		Consolidation of East Mauch Chunk and Mauch Chunk Boros.
Lansford	1877		Mauch Chunk Township
Lehighton	Jan. 2, 1866	S 1746	Mahoning Township
Palmerton	1912	1898	Lower Towamensing Township
Parryville	1875		Franklin Township
Summit Hill	Jan. 14, 1880		Mauch Chunk Township
Weatherly	1863		Lehigh Township
Weissport	June 3, 1867		Franklin Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Banks	Jan. 1842		Incorporated while part of Luzerne County
East Penn	1768	1750	Towamensing Township
Franklin	Jan. 2, 1851	1758	Towamensing Township
Kidder	Mar. 7, 1849		Penn Forest Township
Lausanne	1808		Penn Township
Lehigh	1875		Lausanne Township
Lower Towamensing	1841	1750	Towamensing Township
Mahoning	1842	1745	East Penn Township
Mauch Chunk	Aug. 23, 1827		East Penn and Lausanne Twps.
Packer	1847	1790	Lausanne Township
Penn Forest	1842		Tobyhanna Township while part of Monroe County
Towamensing	1768		Northampton Twp. while part of Northampton County

1 Godcharles

2 Fred Brenckman, History of Carbon County, Pennsylvania (Harrisburg, Penna.:
James J. Nungesser, 1913).