

## Centre County

Created on February 13, 1800, from parts of Huntingdon, Lycoming, Mifflin, and Northumberland Counties. Its name refers to its geographical location at the center of the state. Bellefonte, the county seat, was incorporated as a borough on March 28, 1806. Its name, French for “beautiful spring,” alludes to a large spring there and is said to have been suggested by a visitor, the famous French statesman Talleyrand.

Early settlements at Bald Eagle’s Nest and Penns Valley occurred around 1770, but the discovery of iron ore in 1784 led to iron manufacturing, and Bellefonte was laid out in 1795. Iron making flourished until it was eclipsed by the high quality of Lake Superior iron ore. Centre County’s last furnace closed in 1921. Much bituminous coal has been produced, and the northern section of the county yielded abundant lumber that was used for charcoal and also floated southward. Because of the coal production railroads were constructed into the county. Paper manufacturing flourished in Bellefonte and Cerro Corporation opened a brass mill in 1915. Today lime and gypsum are produced. Agriculture has flourished, and Centre is now about fifteenth in the State in value of livestock and seventh in alfalfa production. Farms occupy 21 percent of the land. The Pennsylvania State University, which began as Farmer’s High School in 1855, has influenced the character of the county in many ways. Underground Railroad stations were at Bellefonte and Half Moon. Since 1912 the State Prison at Rockview has affected the county’s economy. Publications and electronic, clay, and glass products are manufactured in Centre County, and the value added to the economy by manufacturing increased 46 percent between 1987 to 1992.

Governors Bigler, Packer, and Curtin were born here. Governor Beaver attended school in Pine Grove, and Governor Hastings taught school in Bellefonte.

CENTRE COUNTY - 6th Class

Formed on February 19, 1800 from parts of Huntingdon, Lycoming,  
Northumberland and Mifflin Counties

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Bellefonte	Mar. 1806	1795	Spring Township
Centre Hall	1881 <sup>1</sup>	S 1847	Potter Township
Howard	May 3, 1864	1770	Howard Township
Milesburg	Mar. 3, 1843	S 1793	Boggs Township
Millheim	Feb. 3, 1879	1797	Penn Township
Philipsburg	1864	1797	Rush Township
Port Matilda	1926	S About 1836	Worth Township
Snow Shoe	Aug. 16, 1907	S 1850	Snow Shoe Township
S. Philipsburg	Nov. 23, 1891		Rush Township
State College	Aug. 29, 1896		College Township
Unionville	1859	1848	Union Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Benner	1853	1793	Spring Township
Boggs	Aug. 1814	About 1791	Spring Twp. First called Allen Twp. Name changed April, 1815
Burnside	Nov. 1856	1792	Spring and Howard Twps.
College	Nov. 25, 1857	1800	Howard Township
Curtin	Nov. 25, 1857	1800	Howard Township
Ferguson	Jan. 1801	About 1791	Patton Township
Gregg	Nov. 29, 1826	About 1766	Potter, Miles and Haines Townships
Haines	1801	1775	
Half Moon	1801	1784	Patton Township
Harris	Apr. 27, 1835	1802	Potter, Ferguson and Spring Townships
Howard	Jan. 1810	1778	Centre Township
Huston	Aug. 1838	1784	Patton Township
Liberty	Aug. 28, 1845	About 1790	Howard Township
Marion	Aug. 26, 1840	About 1785	Walker Township
Miles	1797	About 1791	
Patton	1801	1788	

CENTRE COUNTY - 6th Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships (cont'd)

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Penn	Nov. 30, 1844	1773	Gregg and Haines Twps.
Potter	1774	1767	
Rush	Apr. 1814		Half Moon Township
Snow Shoe	Jan. 31, 1840	1818	Boggs and Howard Twps.
Spring		1784	Originally Bald Eagle Twp. Name changed in 1801
Taylor	Jan. 27, 1847	1790	Half Moon Township
Union	Nov. 25, 1850	1770	Boggs Township
Walker	Jan. 1810	1792	Center Township
Worth	1848	1785	Taylor Township

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1 Godcharles

2 John Blair Linn, History of Centre and Clinton Counties, Pennsylvania  
(Philadelphia, Pa.: Louis H. Everts, 1883).