

Clearfield County

Formed on March 26, 1804, from parts of Huntingdon and Lycoming Counties, and named for Clearfield Creek. The name alluded to openings or deer fields in its vicinity. For many years Clearfield County functioned as part of Centre County, not electing its own commissioners until 1812. It was organized for judicial purposes in 1822. Clearfield, the county seat, was incorporated as a borough on April 21, 1840.

The first settlement was Capt. Edward Rickert's in 1784, on the site of Coalport. The Erie Pike, which ran from Milesburg, Centre County, to Erie County, opened up Clearfield after 1804. The production of logs and cut lumber dominated the economy until 1910, and these, especially white pine and hemlock, were floated down the West Branch of the Susquehanna from 1837 to 1917. In 1920 the population reached 103,236, its all time peak. In 1871 lumber king John Dubois Jr. opened up the northwest of the county with ventures that included a box factory, iron mill, and tannery, but by 1900 all the trees on the Dubois family lands had gone. The McCrory's chain of five-and-dime stores began in the town of Dubois. Low sulfur bituminous coal was mined all over the county until the peak year of 1918. This is still the state's fourth largest bituminous producer; nearly all the coal now comes from strip mines. There is a strong United Mine Workers tradition. Railroads arrived, reaching the county seat, Clearfield, in 1879 and Dubois in 1874. The New York Central and the Buffalo, Rochester, and Pittsburgh Railroads connected with the county to obtain coal, and railroad maintenance shops arose in Dubois. Firebricks and construction bricks are manufactured. In recent decades light metal manufacturing and printing have been mainstays of the economy. The periods of lumbering and mining brought in large numbers of European immigrants, many of whose descendants have remained. There were Underground Railroad stations at Grampian Hills and Burnside Township. Gov. William Bigler started a newspaper in Clearfield and represented the county in the State Senate. Five-and-dime merchant John J. McCrory and musical composers Philip Paul Bliss and George Rosencranz came from this county. Only 8 ½ percent of the area is farmed, and Clearfield ranks between 55th and 60th in cash receipts from agriculture.

CLEARFIELD COUNTY - 6th Class

Formed on March 26, 1804 from part of Lycoming County

Third Class City

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Du Bois	Dec. 23, 1914	Settled in 1812. Laid out as a town in 1872. Incorporated as a borough in Jan. 1881

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Brisbin	Jan. 8, 1883	S 1854	Woodward Township
Burnside	Oct. 5, 1874		Beccaria Township
Chester Hill	Mar. 1883	1849	Decatur Township
Clearfield	Apr. 21, 1840	1805	Lawrence Township
Coalport	Sept. 24, 1883	1876	Beccaria Township
Curwensville	Feb. 3, 1832 ¹ Feb. 3, 1851 ^{2, 3}	1812	Pike Township
Glen Hope	1878		Beccaria Township
Grampian	Dec. 6, 1885	S 1805	Penn Township
Houtzdale	Mar. 20, 1872	1870	Woodward Township
Irvona	Sept. 2, 1890		Beccaria Township
Lumber City	1857	S 1835	Penn Township
Mahaffey	1889	S 1841	Bell Township
Newburg	1885		Chest Township
New Washington	Apr. 13, 1859		Burnside and Chest Twps.
Osceola	Sept. 27, 1864	1857	Decatur Township
Ramey	1878		Gulich Township
Troutville	1890	1854	Brady Township
Wallaceton	1873	S 1813	Boggs Township
Westover	Oct. 2, 1895 Sept. 6, 1895	S 1840	Chest Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Beccaria	1807 ^{1, 2} 1830 ³	1798 or 1799	Chingleclamouche Twp.
Bell	Feb. 4, 1835 ^{1, 3} May 4, 1835 ²	1820	Chest and Pike Townships

CLEARFIELD 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>
Bigler	1883		Beccaria, Gulich, Knox and Woodward Townships
Bloom	Jan. 14, 1860	1815	Penn, Pike, Brady and Union Townships
Boggs	1838	1810	Bradford, Jordan and Decatur Townships
Bradford	Aug. 1807		Chingleclamouche Twp.
Brady	1826	1785	Chest Township
Burnside	Feb. 4, 1835	1816	Chest Township
Chest	Oct. 16, 1826		Beccaria and Pike Twps.
Cooper	Jan. 18, 1884	1828	Morris Township
Covington	Apr. 1817	1817	Lawrence Township
Decatur	1828	1797	Bradford Township
Ferguson	Feb. 1, 1839 Feb. 7, 1839	1806	Penn and Jordan Townships
Girard	Sept. 1832	1818	Covington Township
Goshen	Jan. 10, 1845 ¹ May 5, 1845 ^{2, 3}	1820	Lawrence and Girard Townships
Graham	Aug. 22, 1856	1822	Bradford and Morris Twps.
Greenwood	Mar. 19, 1875	1828	Bell, Ferguson and Penn Townships
Gulich	1858	1840	Beccaria Township
Huston	1839	1812	Lawrence Township
Jordan	Feb. 5, 1835	1819	Beccaria Township
Karthus	Feb. 3, 1841	1814	Covington Township
Knox	May 19, 1854	1806	Jordan, Pike and Ferguson Townships
Lawrence	Apr. 1813 ¹ Nov. 1813 ^{2, 3}	1797	Bradford Township
Morris	Feb. 4, 1835 ¹ Apr. 3, 1836 ²	1830	Pike Township
Penn	Feb. 4, 1835 ¹ Feb. 4, 1834 ^{2, 3}	1805	Pike Township
Pike	Nov. 18, 1813	1797	Chingleclamouche Twp.
Pine	Apr. 10, 1873		Lawrence Township

CLEARFIELD 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>
Sandy	Oct. 28, 1878 ¹ Sept. 1878 ^{2, 3}	1812	Brady and Huston Twps.
Union	Dec. 1848	1809	Brady and Pike Townships
Woodward	Feb. 3, 1848	1818	Decatur Township

1 Godcharles

2 Roland D. Swoope, Jr., Twentieth Century History of Clearfield County, Pennsylvania (Chicago, Richmond-Arnold Publishing Company, 1911).

3 Lewis Case Aldrich (ed.), History of Clearfield County, Pennsylvania (Syracuse, N. Y., D. Mason and Company, 1887).