

Columbia County

Created on March 22, 1813 from part of Northumberland County. Its name is a poetic allusion to America.

Bloomsburg, the county seat since November 30, 1847, was incorporated as a town on March 4, 1870, and is the only incorporated town in the state. Its name comes from Bloom Township, which was named for Samuel Bloom, a commissioner of Northumberland County. Danville, the county seat from 1813 to 1846, is now the seat of Montour County.

Native American communities had long lived here along the Susquehanna River, and the first white settlement was south of the river. Berwick was laid out in 1783. As a North Branch Canal depot and then a railroad station, Catawissa grew and served a thriving farm region. Anthracite mining and a lumber boom arose but, like Columbia's farming, yielded to competition in the 1930s. Abandoned deep coal mines have burned for decades beneath the town of Centralia. ACF's railroad car complex and Bloomsburg's silk and carpet works prospered until the national trend toward deindustrialization began in recent decades. ACF manufactured tanks during World War II. The county's farming has emphasized fruit and field crops; in 1992 Columbia ranked 37th among all 67 counties in value of farm crops. Farms cover 37 percent of the county's area. There were Underground Railroad stations at Berwick and Millville. Some of the accused Molly Maguires were tried in Bloomsburg in 1877.

COLUMBIA COUNTY - 6th Class

Formed on March 22, 1813 from Northumberland County

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Benton	1894	S 1833	Benton Township
Berwick	Jan. 29, 1818	S 1769	Briar Creek Township
Bloomsburg	Mar. 4, 1870	S 1802	Originally Bloom Township
Briar Creek	Mar. 19, 1917		Briar Creek Township
Catawissa	Dec. 1892	1787	Catawissa Township
Centralia	Apr. 13, 1866	S 1841	Conyngham Township
Millvale	Apr. 14, 1892	S 1770	Greenwood Township
Orangeville	Feb. 1900	1822	Orange Township
Stillwater	Sept. 25, 1899	S 1832	Fishing Creek Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Beaver	Nov. 1845	1774	Mifflin Township
Benton	Apr. 1850 ¹ Aug. 1850 ²	1791	Fishing Creek Township
Briar Creek	Aug. 1797	1793	Fishing Creek Township
Catawissa	1785	1774-1778	Incorporated while part of Northumberland County
Cleveland	1893		Locust Township
Conyngham	1856	1830	Locust Township
Fishing Creek	Aug. 1789	1783	Incorporated while part of Northumberland County
Franklin	Apr. 1843	1783	Catawissa Township
Greenwood	Aug. 1799	1770	Fishing Creek Township
Hemlock	1801	1770	Mahoning Township
Jackson	Nov. 1838	1800	Greenwood and Sugarloaf Townships
Locust	Apr. 18, 1853	1794	Catawissa Township
Madison	Apr. 1817	1772	Greenwood Township
Main	Jan. 1844	1772	Mifflin and Catawissa Twps.
Mifflin	1799	About 1779	Erected while part of Northumberland County
Montour	Nov. 1837	1788	Hemlock Township
Mt. Pleasant	Jan. 1818	About 1778	Bloom, Greenwood and Fishing Creek Townships

COLUMBIA 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>
North Centre	May 7, 1923	1771	Centre Township
Orange	Apr. 1839	1780	Bloom, Fishing Creek and Mt. Pleasant Townships
Pine	Jan. 15, 1853	1796	Derry and Madison Twps.
Roaring Creek	Jan. 1832	1774	Catawissa Township
Scott	Sept. 1853	1774	Bloom Township
South Centre	May 7, 1923	1771	Centre Township
Sugarloaf	1812	1792	Fishing Creek Township

1 Godcharles

2 John G. Freeze, Esq., A History of Columbia County, Pennsylvania (Bloomsburg, Pa.: Elwell and Bittenbender, Publishers, 1883).

3 Historical and Biographical Annals of Columbia and Montour Counties, Pennsylvania vol. I, (Chicago: J. H. Beers and Company, 1915).