

Erie County

Created on March 12, 1800, from part of Allegheny County and named for Lake Erie, which in turn had been named for the Indians of the same name. It was attached to Crawford County until 1803. Erie, the county seat, was so named because it was a port on Lake Erie. Laid out in 1795, it was incorporated as a borough on May 29, 1805 and as a city on April 14, 1851. The county adopted a home rule charter in November 1976.

Pennsylvania purchased this territory from the United States government in 1792. The city of Erie began to grow during the War of 1812. It was the point from which Commodore Perry's fleet sailed to fight the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813. Abundant running water led to the development of many sawmills and gristmills. There was a brief oil boom in the 1860s, and in the middle of the century Erie was the freshwater fishing capital of America. The Erie Extension Canal was opened in 1844, and railroads were introduced in 1864. As a Great Lakes port, Erie has declined since 1900. Once important for manufacturing such items as General Electric's locomotives and Hammermill Paper, Erie still turns out electrical products. Grapes grow well along the lakeshore; a significant wine making industry developed. Erie ranks fifth among the counties in value of crops and tenth in value of livestock product sales. Farms cover 36 percent of the landed area.

ERIE COUNTY - 3rd Class

Formed on March 12, 1800 from part of Allegheny County

Third Class Cities

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Corry	1866	Settled in 1861. Incorporated as a borough in 1863 from Wayne Twp.
Erie	May 16, 1851	Laid out as a town in 1795. Incorporated as a borough on Mar. 26, 1805

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Albion	1861	1797	Conneaut Township
Cranesville	Mar. 30, 1912	S 1800	Elk Creek Township
East Springfield	Sept. 5, 1887		Springfield Township
Edinboro	1840	S 1801	Washington Township
Elgin	Feb. 8, 1876	S 1800	Concord Township
Fairview	1868	S 1797	Fairview Township
Girard	1846		Girard Township
Lake City	1926	S 1863	North Girard Twp. Name changed from North Girard Borough on Mar. 28, 1954
Middleboro	1861	S 1810	McKean Township
Mill Village	1870		Le Boeuf Township
North East	Feb. 27, 1834	S 1800	North East Township
Platea	1870		Girard Township
Union City	1865	1856	Union Township
Waterford	Apr. 8, 1833	1795	Waterford Township
Wattsburg	1833	1828	Venango Township
Wesleyville	May 31, 1912	1828	Harbor Creek 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>
Lawrence Park	1926			Millcreek Township

ERIE COUNTY - 3rd Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Amity	1825	1796	Union Township
Concord	Mar. 12, 1800	1795	Brokenstraw Township
Conneaut	Mar. 12, 1800	1797	
Elk Creek	Mar. 12, 1800	1797	
Fairview	Mar. 12, 1800	1797	
Franklin	1844	1802	McKean, Washington and Elk
Girard	1832 ¹ 1846 ²	1798	
Greene	Mar. 12, 1800	1800	
Greenfield	Mar. 12, 1800	1797	
Harbor Creek	Mar. 12, 1800	1796	
Le Boeuf	Mar. 12, 1800	1795	
McKean	Mar. 12, 1800	1795	
Millcreek	Mar. 12, 1800	1795	
North East	Mar. 12, 1800	1705	
Springfield	Mar. 12, 1800	1796	
Summit	1854	1796	Greene, McKean and Waterford Townships
Venango	Mar. 12, 1800	1785	
Washington	Mar. 12, 1800	1796	First called Conneauttee Twp. Name changed in 1834
Waterford	Mar. 12, 1800	1795	
Wayne	1826 ¹ 1821 ²	1798	Concord Township

¹ Godcharles

² Nelson's Biographical Dictionary and Historical Reference Book of Erie County, Pennsylvania (Erie, Pa.: S. P. Nelson and Company, 1896).