

## Forest County

Created on April 1, 1848, from part of Jefferson County. Part of Venango County was added on October 31, 1866. It was named for its extensive forests. It was attached to Jefferson County until 1857 when Marienville became the county seat. Tionesta, the county seat after 1866, was incorporated as a borough on February 28, 1856, and was named for the Tionesta Creek.

Tom Cook acquired the first timber lands near Cooksburg. Cyrus Blood founded Marienville as a center for the lumber industry and succeeded in having the county formed by the legislature. Leather tanning was an important enterprise. Until about 1900 timber barons shaped events, but by then the original timber was largely gone. The state purchased the Cook family lands and preserves them for recreation. Today, the Allegheny National Forest covers over 40 percent of the area, and additional lands are owned for commercial lumber production. There was a brief oil boom, and glass was manufactured at Marienville from 1914 to 1982 relying on the abundance of natural gas, which produces intense heat quickly. The population peak of 11,000 occurred in 1900. Farming has never been very successful and is confined to only two percent of the countryside. The construction of the Tionesta Creek Dam considerably altered the topography. Forest County's border lines were not clearly defined until 1867.

FOREST COUNTY - 8th Class

Formed on April 11, 1848 from part of Jefferson County. In 1866,  
additional territory was added from Venango County

Borough

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Tionesta	Apr. 1805	S 1838	Tionesta Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Barnett	Jan. 8, 1854		
Green	Before 1866		Incorporated while part of Venango County
Harmony	Before 1866	About 1855	Incorporated while part of Venango County
Hickory	Before 1866		Incorporated while part of Venango County
Howe	1867		
Jenks		1833	
Kingsley	Before 1866	About 1860	Incorporated while part of Venango County
Tionesta		1795-1796	

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Frederic A. Godcharles, Pennsylvania, Political, Governmental, Military and Civil:  
Political and Civil History Volume (New York: American Historical Society, Inc., 1933).

History of the Counties of McKean, Elk and Forest, Pennsylvania with Biographical  
Selections (Chicago: J. H. Beers and Company Publishers, 1890).