

Lackawanna County

Created on August 13, 1878 from part of Luzerne County, was the last county to be created. It was named for the Lackawanna River, a name meaning “stream that forks.” Scranton, the county seat, was laid out in 1841, incorporated as a borough in 1856, and became a city on April 23, 1866. It was named for the Scranton family, its founders. The county adopted a home rule charter in April 1976.

The last county created, Lackawanna lies in the area bitterly disputed with Connecticut settlers in the Yankee Pennamite Wars and with the Indians who treasured the Wyoming Valley. Scranton, founded 1840 at Slocum Hollow, was Wilkes Barre’s rival and as the northern anthracite field expanded became wealthier. The Scranton family has been leaders for more than a century. The Scranton brothers developed anthracite iron smelting which led to the Lackawanna Iron and Steel Company, a major economic factor until it was moved to New York in 1902. The area was a center of labor unrest in 1877 and in all the major anthracite mine strikes. The coal industry declined greatly in the late 1920s, revived during World War II, and fell again in the 1960s. A small amount of coal is still surface mined. Railroads once flourished, as the principal means of exporting the coal. Textiles—silk, succeeded by rayon, followed by nylon—have been important products. Lumber is still produced, but Lackawanna is not a significant farming county; 14 percent of the land is farmland. Unemployment became a problem for the region after World War II. William Warren Scranton, banker and politician, was among the first to plan an economic recovery after the coal industry collapsed in the 1960s, emphasizing a diversified business environment.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY - 3rd Class

Formed on April 17, 1878 from part of Luzerne County

Second Class A City

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Scranton	Apr. 23, 1866	Incorporated as a borough in 1856. Chartered as a city by the consolidation of Hyde Park, Providence and Scranton Boroughs and Providence Township

Third Class City

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Carbondale	Mar. 15, 1851	First settled in 1824. Chartered as a city from Carbondale Twp.

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>
Archbald	1877	1831	Blakely Township
Blakely	Aug. 27, 1867	1786	Blakely Township
Clarks Green	May 12, 1914		South Abington Township
Clarks Summit	Aug. 30, 1911		South Abington Township
Dalton	Feb. 4, 1895		North Abington Township
Dickson City	1875	About 1859	Blakely Township
Dunmore	Apr. 10, 1862	S 1816	Providence Township
Jermyn	Jan. 3, 1870		Blakely Township
Mayfield	1891		Carbondale Township
Moosic	1890 ¹ 1899 ²		Lackawanna Township
Moscow	1908	S 1830	Covington Township
Old Forge	Apr. 28, 1899	About 1800	Old Forge Township
Olyphant	Jan. 1877	S About 1850	Blakely Township
Taylor	Nov. 23, 1893		Lackawanna and Old Forge Townships
Throop	Apr. 16, 1893		Blakely Township
Vandling	Nov. 14, 1899		Fell Township
Winton	1877	S 1855	Blakely Township

LACKAWANNA COUNTY - 3rd Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Abington	Aug. 1806	1797	Incorporated while part of Luzerne County
Benton	1839 ¹ 1838 ²	1810 or 1811	Incorporated while part of Luzerne County
Carbondale	1831	1802	Incorporated while part of Luzerne County
Clifton	Dec. 14, 1873	About 1840	Covington Township
Covington	1818	1815	Incorporated while part of Luzerne County
Elmhurst	Apr. 27, 1941		Incorporated as a borough on May 27, 1889 but gave up borough status
Fell	Nov. 1845	Spring 1818	Carbondale Township
Glenburn	1877	1848	
Greenfield	Jan. 1816	1797	Abington Township
Jefferson	1836	1781	Blakely Township
La Plume			Incorporated as a borough on Apr. 22, 1885 but gave up borough status
Lehigh	1833	1842	Called Bucks Twp. until 1880
Madison	Aug. 7, 1849	1830	Covington and Jefferson Twps.
Newton	1842 ¹ 1844 ²	1803	Incorporated while part of Luzerne County
North Abington	Oct. 8, 1867	About 1801	Abington Township
Ransom	1849	1769	Incorporated while part of Luzerne County
Roaring Brook	May 24, 1871	1847	Dunmore Borough and Jefferson and Madison Twps.
Scott	1846	1800	Greenfield Township
South Abington	Oct. 8, 1867	About 1775	Abington Township
Spring Brook	Nov. 22, 1853	1831	Covington and Pittston Twps.
West Abington	1895	About 1775	Abington Township

¹ Godcharles

² Thomas Murphy, Jubilee History of Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania Vol. I (Indianapolis, Ind.: Historical Publishing Company, 1928).

History of Luzerne, Lackawanna, Wyoming Counties, Pennsylvania (New York: W. W. Munsell and Company, 1880).