

Lawrence County

Created March 20, 1849, from parts of Beaver and Mercer Counties and named for Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry's first flagship, the U.S. Brig *Lawrence*, which had been named for Captain James Lawrence, a naval hero. New Castle, the county seat, was laid out in 1802, incorporated as a borough on March 25, 1825, and chartered as a city on February 25, 1869. It is not certain whether it was named for Newcastle, England, or New Castle, Delaware.

This area was formally acquired from Native Americans by the 1784 Treaty of Fort Stanwix, the "Last Purchase," and migrants from Allegheny County began to settle in 1793. Newcastle quickly grew to be an industrial center because the county had limestone quarries, iron ore, and coal. Its stone blast furnaces for making iron, started in 1838, were located in both Beaver and Mercer Counties, and the county was created to eliminate that confusing situation. Canals arrived in the 1830s and the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1850. Connection with Youngstown, Ohio was very important. The 1890s were the "Golden Age of Industry," as Lawrence became the world's leader in tin plating. Lawrence also produced hardware, paper, pottery, cement, and linseed oil. There was some oil production. The industrial complex brought vast numbers of southern and eastern Europeans, beginning in 1875. The population peaked at 113,000 in 1960, but deindustrialization became pronounced in the 1970s.

As in Berks County, there was always farming outside the factory areas. Today, 42 percent of the county is farmland. It ranks about midway in value of farm products among the sixty-seven counties.

LAWRENCE COUNTY - 5th Class

Formed on March 20, 1849 from parts of Beaver and Mercer Counties

Third Class City

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
New Castle	Feb. 25, 1869	Laid out as a town in 1802 and incorporated as a borough on March 25, 1825

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Bessemer	June 9, 1913		North Beaver Township
Ellport	Feb. 15, 1929		Wayne Township
Enon Valley	June 17, 1899	1839	Little Beaver Township
New Beaver	Nov. 18, 1959	S 1797	Big Beaver Township
New Wilmington	Apr. 24, 1863 ^{1, 2} Apr. 4, 1863 ³		Wilmington Township
South New Castle	Apr. 1, 1901		Shenango Township
Volant	June 6, 1893	1872	Wilmington Township
Wampum	Feb. 19, 1876	S 1796	Big Beaver Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Hickory	1859-1860	1798	Neshannock Township
Little Beaver	1849	1796	
Mahoning	1805-1806	About 1793	Incorporated while part of Mercer County
Neshannock	1805	About 1798	Incorporated while part of Mercer County
North Beaver	1849	1797	
Perry	1849	About 1796	
Plain Grove	Feb. 14, 1855	1798	Slippery Rock Township
Pulaski	1849	1797-1799	Mahoning Township
Scott	Apr. 13, 1854	1798	Slippery Rock Township
Shenango		About 1796	Incorporated while part of Beaver County
Slippery Rock		1813	Incorporated while part of Beaver County

LAWRENCE COUNTY - 5th Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships (cont'd)

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Taylor	Feb. 19, 1853	1770	Shenango and North Beaver Townships
Union	Sept. 10, 1859	1798	Neshannock and Mahoning Townships
Washington	Feb. 15, 1859 ¹ Apr. 13, 1854 ²	1797	Plain Grove and Scott Townships
Wayne	1849	1796	North Sewickley Township
Wilmington	Feb. 1846	1798	Incorporated while part of Mercer County

¹ Godcharles

² Aaron Hazen, (ed.), 20th Century History of New Castle and Lawrence County, Pennsylvania and Representative Citizens (Chicago: Richmond - Arnold Publishing Company, 1908).