

Luzerne County

Created on September 25, 1786 from part of Northumberland County and named for the Chevalier de la Luzerne, French minister to the United States. Wilkes-Barre, the county seat, was laid out in 1772 and named for two members of the English Parliament, John Wilkes and Isaac Barre, both advocates of American rights. It was incorporated as a borough on March 17, 1806 and as a city on May 4, 1871.

Pennsylvania settlers, Indians, and a Connecticut settlement company engaged in a three-way struggle for the Wyoming Valley. The Yankee Pennamite Wars were fought here from 1769 to 1782. In 1786 Connecticut's acceptance of the federal award to Pennsylvania allowed Pennsylvania to form the county, and a 1799 statute compromised the land titles claimed by Connecticut families. Led by the Delaware, "King" Teedyuscung, Indians committed the first Wyoming Massacre of settlers on Oct. 15, 1763; with British assistance Indians perpetrated the second Wyoming Massacre on July 3, 1778. In 1808, Judge Fell proved anthracite coal's burning potential, and in 1834 the North Branch Canal began to make coal exporting practical. Many canals and railroads followed, and Luzerne's two anthracite fields flourished. In time the city of Scranton rivaled Wilkes Barre, which led to the creation of Lackawanna County in 1887. Textiles and metal products manufacturing developed. Textile factories depended on miners' families for their laborers. Coal strikes of 1902 and 1925–1926 were so bitter that consumers sought alternate fuels, and mining declined. World War II revived anthracite prices, but the Knox Mine disaster of January 22, 1959, was the death knell of deep anthracite mining. Presently, Luzerne produces about one-fourth of the anthracite coal in the state, mostly by surface operations. Economically, the county has had heavy unemployment since World War II, although new mining machines had made mining labor-efficient long before the market diminished in the 1960s. Only about one-eighth of Luzerne is farmed; harvested crops are more valuable than animal products, especially potatoes.

LUZERNE COUNTY - 3rd Class

Formed on September 25, 1786 from part of Northumberland County

Third Class Cities

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Hazleton	Dec. 4, 1919	Settled in 1780 and laid out as a town in 1836. Incorporated as a borough on April 3, 1851
Nanticoke	1926	Settled about 1800. Incorporated as a borough on Jan. 31, 1874
Pittston	1894	Settled in 1770 and laid out as a town in 1772. Incorporated as a borough on April 11, 1833
Wilkes-Barre	May 24, 1871	Settled in 1769 and laid out as a town in 1770. Incorporated as a borough on March 17, 1806

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Ashley	Dec. 5, 1870	S 1830	Hanover Township
Avoca	1889	S 1871	Pittston Township
Conyngham	Oct. 19, 1921	About 1806	Sugar Loaf Township
Courtdale	Sept. 6, 1897		Kingston Township
Dallas	Apr. 21, 1879	S 1797	Dallas Township
Dupont	Mar. 26, 1917		Pittston Township
Duryea	May 28, 1891		Marcy Township
Edwardsville	June 16, 1884		Plymouth and Kingston Twps.
Exeter	Feb. 8, 1884		Exeter Township
Forty-Fort	1887	About 1778	Kingston Township
Freeland	Sept. 11, 1876	1868	Foster Township
Hughestown	Apr. 7, 1879	S About 1836	Pittston Township
Jeddo	Oct. 23, 1871		Foster Township
Kingston	Nov. 23, 1857 ^{1, 3} 1858 ²	S 1769	Kingston Township
Laflin	Sept. 10, 1889		Jenkins Township
Larksville	Nov. 10, 1909		Plymouth Township
Laurel Run	1881		Wilkes-Barre Township
Luzerne	1882	S 1807	Kingston Township
Nescopeck	Jan. 27, 1896	1786	Nescopeck Township
New Columbus	Apr. 11, 1859	1819	Huntington Township
Nuangola	Nov. 16, 1908		Wright Township

LUZERNE COUNTY - 3rd Class (cont'd)

Boroughs (cont'd)

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Plymouth	Apr. 23, 1866	S 1766	Plymouth Township
Pringle	Jan. 17, 1914		Pringle Township
Shickshinny	Nov. 30, 1861	S About 1857	Salem and Union Townships
Sugar Notch	Apr. 3, 1867		Hanover Township
Swoyersville	Nov. 27, 1888		Kingston Township
Warrior Run	Jan. 25, 1895		Hanover Township
West Hazleton	1889		Hazle Township
West Pittston	1857	About 1778	Exeter Township
West Wyoming	June 23, 1898		Kingston Township
White Haven	1842 ^{1,2} 1843 ³	S 1824	Dennison Township
Wyoming	June 1885	S 1780 or 1781	Kingston Township
Yatesville	May 20, 1878	S 1809	Jenkins Township

First Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Became First Class Twp.</u>	<u>Incorporated as a Twp.</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Hanover		1790	1772	
Newport		1790	1772	
Plains		1851	1762	Wilkes-Barre and Pittston Townships
Wilkes-Barre		1790	S 1758	

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Bear Creek	1856	1786	Wilkes-Barre, Pittston, Bucks, Plains and Jenkins Townships
Black Creek	Aug. 8, 1848	1810	Sugarloaf Township
Buck	1833	1782	Covington Township
Butler	1839	1784	Sugarloaf Township
Conyngham	1875	1795	Hollenback Township
Dallas	1817	1797	Kingston Township
Dennison	1839	1833	Hanover Township
Dorrance	1840	1785	Newport Township

LUZERNE COUNTY - 3rd Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships (cont'd)

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Exeter	1790	1785	
Fairmount	1834	1792	Huntington Township
Fairview	Feb. 9, 1889	1798	Wright Township
Foster	1855	1824	Dennison Township
Franklin	1843	1782	Kingston, Exeter and Dallas Townships
Hazle	1839	1836	Sugarloaf Township
Hollenback	1845	1789	Nescopeck Township
Hunlock	Jan. 8, 1877	1778	Union and Plymouth Twps.
Huntington	1793 ^{1, 2} 1799 ³	1775	Salem Township
Jackson	1834 ¹ 1844 ^{2, 3}	1795	Plymouth Township
Jenkins	June 24, 1852	1794	Pittston Township
Kingston	1790	1769	
Lake	1841	1792	Lehman and Monroe Twps.
Lehman	1829	1801	Dallas Township
Nescopeck	1792	1786	Newport Township
Pittston	1768	1776	
Plymouth	Dec. 28, 1768	1769	
Rice	1928		Wright Township
Ross	1842	1795	Lehman and Union Twps.
Salem	1786		
Slocum	1854	1785	Newport Township
Sugarloaf	1809		Nescopeck Township
Union	July 1813	1790	Huntington Township
Wright	1851	1798	Hanover Township

¹ Godcharles

² Stewart Pearce, Annals of Luzerne County, (2nd ed.) (Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Company, 1866).

³ H. C. Bradsby (ed.), History of Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (Chicago: S. B. Nelson and Company Publishers, 1893).