

## **Mercer County**

It was created on March 12, 1800, from part of Allegheny County and named for General Hugh Mercer. It was attached to Crawford County until February 1804 when it was formally organized. Mercer, the county seat, was laid out in 1803 and incorporated as a borough on March 28, 1814.

Included in the Last Purchase of 1784, the land that became this county was intended to be Donation Land awarded to compensate Revolutionary veteran soldiers. Settlers slowly arrived in the 1790s, but the county was created before there was much population. The towns of Mercer (at first a tavern), Sharon, Greenville, and Grove City, all began between 1796 and 1798. Distilleries and grist and sawmills marked the early economy. A canal to the Allegheny River opened in 1834, and one to Erie in 1844. These stimulated coal and iron mining. The low quality iron ore soon was abandoned, but Mercer's famous block coal sold well. Railroads began to arrive in 1864. Using the block coal, blast furnaces began in 1838, and the Sharon Iron Company began a rolling mill and foundry in 1851. Iron rails, nails, and bars were the main products until the industry was jolted by the Panic of 1873. The first steel mill opened in 1887; the Sharon Steel works in 1896. After World War II, the Army's Camp Reynolds was turned into an industrial park. Pymatuning Dam in 1934 and Shenango Dam in 1967 rearranged the county's topography. Sheep and dairy farming persist, some on it on Amish farms. Farms cover 42 percent of the county, and oats and sheep are produced in abundance.

MERCER COUNTY - 5th 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>
Farrell	Jan. 4, 1932	Laid out as a town in 1899 and called South Sharon. Incorporated as a borough on Nov. 21, 1901. Name changed to Farrell in 1911
Sharon	Dec. 17, 1916	First settled in 1802 and laid out as a town in 1815. Incorporated as a borough on October 6, 1841

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Clarksville	May 5, 1848	1829	South Pymatuning Township
Fredonia	Aug. 1876		Delaware Township
Greenville	May 29, 1837	1819	West Salem and Hempfield Townships
Grove City	Jan. 4, 1883		Pine Township
Jackson Center	June 5, 1882		Jackson Township
Jamestown	1854		Greene Township
Mercer	Mar. 24, 1814	1803	
New Lebanon	Aug. 22, 1866		Mill Creek Township
Sandy Lake	Aug. 20, 1859	1849	Sandy Lake Township
Sharpsville	June 9, 1874		Hickory Township
Sheakleyville	Mar. 11, 1851	1820	Sandy Creek Township
Stoneboro	Aug. 25, 1866	1825	Lake Township
West Middlesex	1864	1836	Shenango Township
Wheatland	Feb. 21, 1872	1865	Hickory 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>
Hickory	Nov. 2, 1954	1833		Shenango and Pymatuning Townships

MERCER COUNTY - 5th Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Coolspring	1805 <sup>1</sup> 1802 <sup>2</sup>	1795	
Deer Creek	Apr. 7, 1851	1800	Sandy Creek Township
Delaware	1805	1800	Pymatuning Township
East Lackawannock	Aug. 1849	1800	Lackawannock Township
Fairview	Sept. 21, 1850	1798	Coolspring Township
Findley	Aug. 1849	1796	Springfield Township
French Creek	1805	1802	Sandy Creek Township
Greene	1844	1799	West Salem Township
Hempfield	May 1856	1796	Salem and West Salem Twps.
Jackson	Sept. 21, 1850	1796	Coolspring Township
Jefferson	Apr. 1850	1798	
Lackawannock	1805	1798	Neshannock Township
Lake	Sept. 21, 1805	1796	Coolspring Township
Liberty	Feb. 17, 1851	1797	Wolf Creek Township
Millcreek	Nov. 1849	1796	French Creek Township
New Vernon	Apr. 7, 1851	1798	Sandy Creek Township
Otter Creek	Apr. 21, 1858	1800	Salem Township
Perry	Apr. 7, 1851	1796	Sandy Creek Township
Pine	Feb. 1851	1796	Wolf Creek Township
Pymatuning	1802	1801	Salem Township
Salem	1801	1796	
Sandy Creek	1802	1796	Sandy Lake Township
Sandy Lake	1805	1797	Coolspring Township
Shenango	1805	1796	Neshannock Township
South Pymatuning	Dec. 2, 1914		Pymatuning Township
Springfield	1805	1797	Wolf Creek Township
Sugar Grove	Nov. 1856	1798	Greene and Salem Twps.
West Salem	1805	1796	Salem Township
Wilmington	1846	1798	Lackawannock and Neshannock Townships
Wolf Creek		1797	
Worth	Nov. 10, 1849	1795	Wolf Creek Township

<sup>1</sup> Godcharles

<sup>2</sup> A 20th Century History of Mercer County, Pennsylvania, Vol. I (Chicago: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1909).