

## **Mifflin County**

Created on September 19, 1789, from parts of Cumberland and Northumberland Counties and named for Governor Thomas Mifflin. Lewistown, the county seat, was laid out in 1790 and incorporated as a borough on April 11, 1795. However, the charter apparently was not accepted, for it was reincorporated on February 6, 1811. It was named for William Lewis, local ironmaster.

The first legitimate settlers had barely arrived after the Albany Purchase of 1745 when the area was involved in the Indian raids of 1755 to 1763. Fort Granville fell to Indian assault in 1756. Lewistown and Mifflintown were rivals for designation as the county seat because there was topographical division at the Narrows. The formation of Juniata County settled the matter. The Pennsylvania Canal arrived in 1829 followed twenty years later by the Pennsylvania Railroad, and the county was also favored by being on the route of the William Penn Highway (later U.S. 22). Despite mountains, the Kishacoquillas Valley is fertile, and limestone, glass quality sand, silica sand, and ganister are profitable. A silk industry was converted to rayon, then to nylon, and now to polyester. In the 1930s Vicose Silk had 4,000 employees, 10 percent of the county's population. Iron and steel were once produced, leaving in their trail the current trades of fabricated forgings, rolled rings, and railroad wheels and axles. Forty percent of the work force is still engaged in manufacturing. One-third of the area is in farmland, and egg and dairy production is high.

MIFFLIN COUNTY - 7th Class

Formed on September 19, 1789 from parts of Cumberland and  
Northumberland Counties

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Burnham	June 26, 1911		Derry Township
Kistler	1925		Wayne Township
Lewistown	Apr. 11, 1795	1790	
McVeytown	Apr. 9, 1833	1795	Oliver Township
Newton Hamilton	Apr. 12, 1843	1802	

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Armagh	Jan. 1770	1766	Incorporated while part of Cumberland County
Bratton	1850	1766	Oliver Township
Brown	Jan. 1837	About 1750	Incorporated while part of Cumberland County
Decatur	Jan. 1813	1763	Derry Township
Derry	July 1766	About 1750	Incorporated while part of Cumberland County
Granville	Apr. 1833	1755	Derry Township
Menno	Jan. 1837	1754	Union Township
Oliver	Apr. 1835	About 1762	Wayne Township
Union	1790	About 1754	Armagh Township
Wayne	July 1782	About 1755	Derry Township

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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).

A History of the Juniata Valley, Vol. I (Harrisburg, Pa.: National Historical  
Association, Inc., 1936).