

Montgomery County

Created on September 10, 1784 from part of Philadelphia County. Named perhaps for Montgomeryshire in Wales, for the Revolutionary hero Gen. Richard Montgomery, or for two legislators named Montgomery who advanced the bill to create the county. Norristown, the county seat, was laid out in 1784 and incorporated as a borough on March 31, 1812. It was named for Isaac Norris who owned land there.

Settled since 1685, the first residents were Germans, mainly pietists, in Germantown. Welsh, Scotch-Irish, English (mostly Quakers), and Swedes flocked to the area. The opening of the Schuylkill Canal in 1825 boosted the economy, followed by railroads. The Pennsylvania Railroad's Main Line passed through in the 1860s, giving rise to an elite residential area, "the Main Line." Intelligent farming has always been practiced on the county's good soil. Iron works arose in Norristown, Pottstown, and Conshohocken, and leather tanning was very important until the 1930s. Bernard McCready began a large textile factory in Norristown in 1826, with an enormous factory. Cigars, carriages, and paper were nineteenth-century Montgomery specialties, and marble is still quarried. From about 1900 to the 1970s steel, machinery, textiles, rubber, electrical, chemicals, and paint manufacturing were strong. The county is still a manufacturing giant. In 1992 it had the highest "value added from manufactures" figure of any Pennsylvania county. This was an amazing 9 ¼ billion dollars—more than double the figure for any other county. In addition, much personal income comes in from residents who work in Philadelphia. The county has the highest personal income rate and lowest percentage in poverty of the sixty-seven counties. Eighteen percent of the land is still farmed, and the county ranks eleventh in cash receipts from field crops. Both Republican Gov. Hartranft and Democratic presidential candidate Winfield Scott Hancock were natives.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - 3rd Class

Formed on September 10, 1784 from part of Philadelphia County

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Ambler	June 16, 1888	S 1832	Upper Dublin Township
Bridgeport	Feb. 27, 1851	S About 1800	Upper Merion Township
Bryn Athyn	Feb. 8, 1916		Moreland Township
Collegedale	Apr. 14, 1896	S About 1698	Upper Providence Township
Conshohocken	May 15, 1850	1832	Plymouth and Whitemarsh Twps.
East Greenville	Sept. 6, 1875	1851 - 1852	Upper Hanover Township
Green Lane	Dec. 10, 1875	S About 1730	Marlborough Township
Hatboro	Aug. 26, 1871	S About 1705	Moreland Township
Hatfield	June 27, 1898	S 1832	Hatfield Township
Jenkintown	Dec. 8, 1874	S About 1697	Abington Township
Lansdale	Aug. 24, 1872		Gwynedd and Hatfield Twps.
Narberth	Jan. 21, 1895	1847	Lower Merion Township
Norristown	Mar. 31, 1812	1784	Norriton Township
North Wales	Aug. 20, 1869	1867	Gwynedd Township
Pennsburg	1850 ¹	S About 1843	Upper Hanover Township
	Nov. 19, 1887 ²		
Pottstown	Feb. 6, 1815 ^{1, 4}	1752	Pottsgrove Township
	Feb. 5, 1815 ²		
Red Hill	Nov. 13, 1902	1836	Upper Hanover Township
Rockledge	Jan. 9, 1893	About 1890	Abington Township
Royersford	June 14, 1879	S 1718	Limerick Township
Schwenksville	Apr. 6, 1903	S 1739	Perkiomen Township
Souderton	1888 ¹		Franconia Township
	Dec. 15, 1887		
Telford	Dec. 17, 1897	1737	
Trappe	Sept. 21, 1896	About 1763	Upper Perkiomen Township
West Conshohocken	Dec. 8, 1874 ¹		Lower Merion Township
	Oct. 6, 1874 ²		

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>
Abington	1906	About 1702	1690	
Cheltenham	Mar. 5, 1900	July 1, 1683	1682	
Hatfield	Nov. 6, 1956	1742	1734	

MONTGOMERY COUNTY - 3rd Class (cont'd)

First Class Townships (cont'd)

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Became First Class Twp.</u>	<u>Incorporated as a Twp.</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Lower Merion	1900	About 1714	1682	
Lower Moreland	Jan. 1948	1916		Moreland Township
Lower Pottsgrove	Nov. 4, 1953	1889	1705	Pottsgrove Township
Plymouth	Feb. 6, 1922	1701	1686-1690	
Springfield	1901		1703	
Upper Dublin	Jan. 1, 1946	1719	1698	Abington Township
Upper Moreland	1930	Dec. 30, 1916		Moreland Township
West Norriton	Jan. 1926	1909	1704	Norriton Township
West Pottsgrove	1922	1900	1705	Upper Pottsgrove Twp.

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Douglass	About 1741	1736	
East Norriton	1909	About 1704	Norriton Township
Franconia	1731	About 1717	Salford Township
Horsham	1709	1709	
Limerick	About 1722	1709	
Lower Frederick	1919	1717	Frederick Township
Lower Gwynedd	1891	1749	Gwynedd Township
Lower Providence	1805	1701	Providence Township
Lower Salford	Mar. 1741	1717	Salford Township
Marlborough	1745 ¹	About 1730	Salford Township
	Mar. 1741 ^{2, 3}		
Montgomery	About 1700	1684	
New Hanover	1827 ¹	About 1734	Hanover Township
	1741 ²		
Perkiomen	1885	About 1702	
Salford	1892	About 1717	Original Salford Twp. was established in 1727. In 1741 it was divided into Upper and Lower Salford Townships. A new Salford Township was incorporated from part of Upper Salford Twp. in 1892
Skippack	1886 ^{1, 4}	About 1725	
	1885 ²		

MONTGOMERY 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>
Towamencin	Mar. 1728	June 1703	
Upper Frederick	1919	1717	Frederick Township
Upper Gwynedd	1891	1749	Gwynedd Township
Upper Hanover	Before 1741	1727	New Hanover Township
Upper Merion	About 1714	About 1702	Merion Township
Upper Pottsgrove	1889	1705	Pottsgrove Township
Upper Providence	1805	About 1700	Providence Township
Upper Salford	Mar. 1741	1716	Salford Township
Whitemarsh	About 1704	About 1685	
Whitpain	About 1701	1704	
Worcester	1733		

1 Godcharles

2 E. Gordon Alderfer, The Montgomery County Story, (Narberth, Pa.: Livingston Publishing Company, 1951).

3 Theodore W. Bean (ed.), History of Montgomery County, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1884).

4 Clifton S. Hunsicker, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania - A History, Vol. I New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company Inc., 1932).