

Montour County

Created on May 3, 1850 from part of Columbia County and named for Madame Montour, a woman of Indian and French descent who was prominent in the Indian affairs. Danville, the county seat, was laid out in 1792 and incorporated as a borough on February 27, 1849. It had been the county seat of Columbia County from 1813 to 1846.

The Mahoning Creek area was settled beginning in 1769. Danville is named for Daniel Montgomery, son of early settler General William Montgomery. It had been Columbia County's seat until 1845, but when Bloomsburg usurped Columbia County Danville wanted a new county so it could once more be a county seat. Newspaper activist Valentine Best went to the legislature and pushed the creation through. Danville became a highway, canal, and then rail link on the North Branch route from Sunbury to Wilkes-Barre. Danville's Big Mill, eventually owned by Bethlehem Steel, made iron and steel from 1838 to 1938, Rails were a specialty—the first T-rails made in the United States were made here. In 1873 a national financial panic eclipsed the mill's future, it lost out in competition with Bessemer process and Lake Superior ore, and in 1896 it experienced a major explosion. But iron and steel specialties production continued until the end of World War II. Silk and shirt-making factories were productive from the early 1900s. Half of the county's area is farmed.

MONTOUR COUNTY - 8th Class

Formed on May 3, 1850 from parts of Columbia County

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Danville	Feb. 1849	1792	Mahoning Township
Washingtonville	Apr. 28, 1870	1775	Derry Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Anthony	1849	1792	Derry Township
Cooper	1850 ¹ 1853 ²		
Derry	1786	1775	Incorporated while part of Northumberland County
Liberty	1816	1771	
Limestone	1816	1790	Derry Township
Mahoning	1786 ¹ 1775 ²		Incorporated while part of Northumberland County
Mayberry	1850	1783	Franklin Township
Valley	1839	1769	Mahoning Township
West Hemlock	1853		Derry Township

¹ Godcharles

² Historical and Biographical Annals of Columbia and Montour Counties, Pennsylvania,
Vol. I (Chicago: J. H. Beers and Company, 1915).