

Northumberland County

Created on March 21, 1772, from parts of Lancaster, Cumberland, Berks, Bedford, and Northampton Counties. It probably was named for the English county of the same name. Sunbury, the county seat was laid out in 1772, incorporated as a borough on March 24, 1797, and became a city in 1921. It was named for an English village near London.

The present county area is land acquired by purchases from Indians in 1749 and 1768, but until the formation of Lycoming County in 1795 it included a vast amount of north central Pennsylvania as far as the Allegheny River. Iroquois, Delaware, and Shawnee Indians once had sites along the Susquehanna River. Fort Augusta (at Sunbury) was a key point in frontier defense from 1756 to 1765, but permanent white settlement began in 1768. Tories and Indians chastised the population in 1778–1779.

The confluence of the East and West Branches of the Susquehanna made this a center for gathering lumber and other products to move south. Canals improved the arrangement. After 1835 rail cars carried anthracite coal to the river and the county became a mining leader in the 1850s. The older lumber and farming economy contrasted with the anthracite economy of Mt. Carmel and Shamokin; railroads rushed in to carry the coal directly to the east. The lumber industry was enlarged by Ario Pardee. The fourth largest anthracite producing county until 1952, Northumberland then rose to its present third place. Thomas Edison's electric lights in Sunbury in 1883 were a technical breakthrough paralleling Joseph Priestley's scientific discoveries, many of which were made in his Northumberland home. Shamokin was the center for agriculture in the central section of the county. Milton became the site of an American Car & Foundry (ACF) factory in the 1920s. County population has declined in each census since 1930, when it stood at 128,504. Silk, textiles, and cigars were once major products. Farms cover 43 percent of the land, and Northumberland is a leading county for producing chickens, swine, soybeans, and barley.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY - 5th Class

Formed on March 21, 1772 from parts of Lancaster, Cumberland,
Berks, Bedford and Northampton Counties

Third Class Cities

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Sunbury	Dec. 29, 1920	Laid out as a town on July 4, 1772. Incorporated as a borough on March 24, 1797
Shamokin	Jan. 1, 1950	Laid out on March 1, 1835 as a town. Incorporated as a borough in November, 1867

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Herndon	Aug. 29, 1902	1827	Jackson Township
Kulpmont			Mount Carmel Township
Marion Heights	1906		Mount Carmel Township
McEwensville	Nov. 7, 1857	1825	Delaware Township
Milton	Feb. 26, 1817	1792 ¹	Turbot Township
Mt. Carmel	Nov. 3, 1862	1853	Mount Carmel Township
Northumberland	Apr. 14, 1828 ¹ Jan. 16, 1828 ²	1772	Point Township
Riverside	May 4, 1871		Gearhart Township
Snydertown	May 26, 1871		Shamokin Township
Turbotville	Apr. 1858	1850	Turbot Township
Watsonstown	Nov. 4, 1867	1858-1859	Turbot 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>
Coal		Nov. 1837		Shamokin and Little Mahanoy Townships

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY - 5th Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Delaware	Apr. 15, 1843	1774	Turbot Township
East Cameron			Cameron Township
East Chillisquaque		1769	Chillisquaque Township
Jackson	Jan. 6, 1836	1775	Mahanoy Township
Jordan	Aug. 4, 1852	About 1778	Jackson and Upper Mahanoy Townships
Lewis	Apr. 15, 1843	About 1773	Turbot Township
Little Mahanoy	Aug. 19, 1813		Augusta and Shamokin Twps.
Lower Augusta	Apr. 13, 1846	1794	Augusta Township
Lower Mahanoy	Aug. 1806	1777	Mahanoy Township
Mt. Carmel	Nov. 14, 1854		Coal Township
Point	Feb. 1786	About 1756	Turbot and Mahoning Twps.
Ralpho	Feb. 5, 1883	1779	Shamokin Township
Rockefeller	May 7, 1880	1774	Lower Augusta Township
Rush	Aug. 18, 1819	About 1784	Shamokin Township
Shamokin	Aug. 1788	About 1774	Catawissa Twp. Called Ralpho Twp. until Aug., 1789
Turbot	Apr. 9, 1772	About 1750	
Upper Augusta	Apr. 13, 1846	1701	Augusta Township
Upper Mahanoy	Aug. 1806	1777	Mahanoy Township
Washington	Jan. 14, 1856	1774	Upper Mahanoy and Jackson Townships
West Cameron			Cameron Township
West Chillisquaque		1769	Chillisquaque Township
Zerbe	Mar. 11, 1853	About 1800	Coal Township

1 Godcharles

2 Herbert C. Bell, (ed.), History of Northumberland County, Pennsylvania (Chicago: Brown, Runk and Company, Publishers, 1891).