

Potter County

Created on March 26, 1804 from part of Lycoming County and named for General James Potter of Cumberland and later Northumberland Counties, hero of both the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars, and a member of the Supreme Executive Council and the Council of Censors. It was attached to Lycoming County until 1814 when it was authorized to elect commissioners jointly with McKean County. McKean and Potter Counties were separated in 1824, but Potter was still attached to McKean for judicial purposes. It was fully organized in 1835. Coudersport, the county seat, was laid out in 1807 and incorporated as a borough on February 7, 1848. It was named for Jean Samuel Couderc, an Amsterdam banker.

An uninhabited section of overly large Lycoming County, the county was created by the legislature on the same day as McKean and Tioga, to reduce Lycoming County to manageable size. John Keating of Philadelphia owned and developed much of the area. Many early settlers were New Englanders who came from New York; there were only twenty-three residents in 1810. The east-west road across the county sparked commercial progress. A lumber economy led to a population peak of 30,621 in 1900, but then it declined as the forests disappeared. A Norwegian colony started by utopian violinist Ole Bull failed in 1852–53. Before 1860 farmer-lumbermen using small water mills cut most of the lumber in northern section. The virgin white pines were all gone by 1880. Commercial lumbering began in 1837 at Millport. Goodyear Brothers of Buffalo, N.Y. started a second lumber boom in 1884, using railroads and power mills. There was a large tannery at Costello in 1886. Galeton, acquired by the Goodyears, had railroad shops, a tannery, a sawmill, and a brewery. The western section was exploited by a Scranton based company, which did not diversify as Galeton had. It died when the trees were gone, in 1912. Most of the tanneries closed before 1930. Acetate, charcoal, wood alcohol, and wood tar were produced from small hardwoods until about 1950. Gas, discovered after 1900, led to glass manufacture that lasted a few decades. Deep gas, discovered in the 1930s, was piped out and sold elsewhere. Today there is some dairy farming in the north, and potatoes have grown well since the 1920s; farms occupy 14 percent of the land. Carbon is now produced. The Bayless Paper Company, begun in 1901 near Austin, did well until its dam burst in 1911. Rebuilt, it carried on until a 1942 flood destroyed it again.

POTTER COUNTY - 8th Class

Formed on March 26, 1804 from part of Lycoming County

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Austin	June 14, 1888	1856	Portage Township
Coudersport	1848	1807	Eulalia Township
Galeton	Sept. 7, 1896	S 1810	Pike Township
Lewisville	Feb. 2, 1872	1831	Ulysses Township
Oswayo	Jan. 8, 1901	S 1820	Oswayo Township
Shinglehouse	1902	S 1808	Sharon Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Abbott	1851		Eulalia Township
Allegany	Sept. 1828		Eulalia Township
Bingham	1828	About 1820	Harrison Township
Clara	1828	1832	Eulalia Township. Called Milton Twp. until 1830
East Fork			
Eulalia	Dec. 5, 1810		Dunstable Township
Genesee	1828	About 1816	Eulalia Township. First called London Township
Harrison	Feb. 6, 1828	About 1812	Eulalia Township
Hebron	1828	About 1828	Eulalia Township
Hector	1828	1826	Eulalia Township
Homer	1853	1838	Eulalia Township
Keating	1856	1849	
Oswayo	1828	1829	Eulalia Township. First called Chester Township
Pike	Jan. 1828		Eulalia Township
Pleasant Valley	1847	1841	Clara Township
Portage	1860		Wharton Township
Roulette	Jan. 29, 1816	1831	Eulalia Township
Sharon	Dec. 1828	About 1827	Eulalia Township
Stewardson	1856	1852	Eulalia Township
Summit	1853		Wharton and Eulalia Twps.
Sweden	Feb. 1828	About 1808	Eulalia Township
Sylvania	1856	1828	Homer and Wharton Twps.

POTTER COUNTY - 8th Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships (cont'd)

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Ulysses	Dec. 1828	1827	Eulalia Township
West Branch	1856	1835	Eulalia Township
Wharton	May 3, 1826	1816	Eulalia Township

1 Godcharles

2 History of the Counties of McKean, Elk, Cameron and Potter, Pennsylvania
(Chicago: J. H. Beers and Company, 1890).