

## Tioga County

Created March 26, 1804 from part of Lycoming County and named for the Tioga River. Tioga is derived from an Indian word meaning “the forks of a stream.” Wellsboro, the county seat, was laid out in 1806 and incorporated as a borough on March 6, 1830. It was named for the Wells family,

Soldiers on the Continental Army’s Sullivan Expedition in 1779 saw the potential of the area, but not until the Trenton Decree in 1782 abolished Connecticut’s claims and the Ft. Stanwix Treaty of 1784 (the “Last Purchase”) took title away from the Indians, did many settlers arrive. The Williamson Road, from Williamsport to Bath, was opened in 1793. The State Road to Wellsboro in 1800 brought in about five hundred settlers, mostly from Connecticut and New York. These residents did not advocate creation of the new county. In 1802 Aaron Bloss settled Blossburg and mined the high quality Bloss vein bituminous coal. An east-west road, begun in 1807, was essential. Forestry and agriculture controlled the economy from the first, but not until gristmills, sawmills, tanneries, distilleries, and iron works appeared in the 1840s was economic growth significant. The Corning and Blossburg Railroad was opened in 1840. By 1883 railroads connected coal fields with outlets on all four sides of county. 1890 saw the all time peak population: 52,313. The white pines were exhausted by 1865, but hemlock became marketable until it too was depleted, around 1900. Tanning leather was a major industry while there was hemlock; only one company remains today. Tobacco production and cigar making flourished from 1880 to 1900. Celery was a major product from 1900 to 1950. The coal-mining operators experienced labor unrest from the beginning. Now, mining has almost ceased. In the 1930s natural gas was discovered, sold off, and is now exhausted. Today dairying, corn, and maple sugar produce income. Farms cover 31 percent of the county. Corning Glass Works, two manufacturers of pipe fittings and related metal items, Wundies Corporation producing lingerie, and Borden Food Products, are major employers. In the years 1987 to 1992, the value added to the economy by this county’s manufactures increased 71 percent. Hunting, fishing, water sports, and other tourism are strong, and there are extensive state forest reserves.

TIOGA COUNTY - 7th 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>
Blossburg	Aug. 29, 1871	S 1802	Covington Township
Elkland	May 1850 <sup>1</sup>	S 1806	Elkland Township
	Apr. 10, 1849 <sup>2, 3</sup>		
Knoxville	May 1851 <sup>1</sup>	1835	Deerfield Township
	Apr. 19, 1850 <sup>2, 3</sup>		
Lawrenceville	May 1831	S 1793	Lawrence Township
Liberty	July 3, 1893		Liberty Township
Mansfield	Feb. 1857	1824	Richmond Township
Roseville	Feb. 3, 1876	S 1806	Rutland Twp. Reverted back to a township in 1910 and reincorporated as a borough about 1930
Tioga	Feb. 1860	About 1798	Tioga Township
Wellsboro	May 1830 <sup>1</sup>	About 1806	Delmar Township
	Mar. 16, 1830 <sup>3</sup>		
Westfield	Feb. 1867	S 1809	Westfield Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Bloss	June 1841	About 1806	Covington Township
Brookfield	Feb. 1827	About 1809	Westfield Township
Charleston	Dec. 1820	1842	Delmar Township
Chatham	Feb. 1828	1818	Deerfield Township
Clymer	Dec. 1850	About 1815	Westfield Township
Covington	Feb. 15, 1815	1801	Tioga Township
Deerfield	1814	About 1785	Delmar Township
Delmar	1808 <sup>2</sup>	1802	
	1805 <sup>3</sup>		
Duncan	Dec. 1873	About 1870	Delmar, Charleston and Morris Townships
Elk	Feb. 1856	About 1799	Delmar and Morris Townships
Elkland	1814	1806	Delmar Township
Farmington	Feb. 1830	1820	Elkland Township
Gaines	Dec. 1837 <sup>1, 3</sup>	1804	Shippen Township
	1838 <sup>2</sup>		

TIOGA COUNTY - 7th Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships (cont'd)

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Hamilton	Dec. 7, 1871 <sup>2</sup> Dec. 5, 1871 <sup>3</sup>	About 1853	Bloss and Ward Townships
Jackson	Sept. 1815	1800	Tioga Township
Lawrence	Dec. 1816	1816	Tioga and Elkland Twps.
Liberty	Feb. 1823	1792	Covington and Delmar Twps.
Middlebury	Sept. 1822	1800	Delmar and Elkland Twps.
Morris	Sept. 1824	1800	Delmar Township
Nelson	Dec. 1857	About 1800	Elkland Township
Osceola	Jan. 1857	About 1795	Elkland Township
Putnam	1892		
Richmond	Feb. 1824	About 1794	Covington Township
Rutland	Feb. 1828	About 1806	Sullivan and Jackson Twps.
Shippen	Feb. 1823	1804	Delmar Township
Sullivan	Feb. 1816	About 1806	Covington Township
Tioga	1797	About 1792	Incorporated while part of Lycoming County
Union	Feb. 1830	1803	Sullivan Township
Ward	Feb. 1852	About 1837	Sullivan and Union Townships
Westfield	Dec. 1821	About 1809	Deerfield Township

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1 Godcharles

2 History of Tioga County, Pennsylvania (New York: W. W. Munsell and Company, 1883).

3 History of Tioga County, Pennsylvania (R. C. Brown and Company, 1897).