

## Venango County

Created on March 12, 1800 from parts of Allegheny and Lycoming Counties. Its name comes from the Indian name for French Creek. It was attached to Crawford County until April 1, 1805. Franklin, the county seat, was laid out in 1795 at Fort Franklin, which had been built in 1787 by United States troops. Both were named for Benjamin Franklin. Franklin was incorporated as a borough on April 14, 1828 and as a city on April 4, 1868.

What is now Franklin was the site of a French fort (1754–1759), a British Army fort (1760–1763), and the U.S. Army's Fort Franklin (1787). The area was purchased from Indians at Ft Stanwix in 1784 (the "Last Purchase"). The land west of the Allegheny River was Donation Land intended for Revolutionary army veterans. The Holland Land Company's titles were disputed by "actual settlers," and these cases dissuaded many from moving in to establish farms. Before the 1859 oil boom, pig iron was main the main export product. When Colonel Drake struck oil, boomtowns arose overnight. Oil City is one that survived, but Pithole City and others did not. Oil City's oil exchange was a major national economic player, but it closed in 1909. Refineries and oil equipment manufacture continued to flourish, and railroads rushed to the oil areas. Bad floods occurred in 1865, 1883, 1892, 1913, 1926, 1936, 1981, and 1982. A dam that collapsed above Titusville wiped out much of Oil City in 1892, but it was rebuilt. Peak population was achieved in 1950: 65,328. Today the refineries are gone, though some oil well tools are still made. The energy crises of the 1980s brought renewed attempts to produce more oil, although major amounts were not forthcoming. Venango is a minor bituminous producer. Farms cover 15 percent of the county.

VENANGO COUNTY - 6th Class

Formed on March 12, 1800 from parts of Allegheny and Lycoming  
Counties

Third Class Cities

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Franklin	Apr. 4, 1868	Laid out as a town on April 18, 1795. Incorporated as a borough on April 14, 1828
Oil City	Mar. 3, 1871	Settled about 1824 and laid out as a town 1859-1860. Incorporated as a borough on January 10, 1862

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Clintonville	Jan. 28, 1878	S 1833	Clinton Township
Cooperstown	Nov. 25, 1858	S 1797	Jackson Township
Emlenton	Jan. 27, 1859	S 1820	Richland Township
Pleasantville	Mar. 22, 1850	S 1820	Oil Creek Township
Polk	Aug. 23, 1886	1839	French Creek Township. First called Waterloo
Rouseville	1900		Cornplanter Township
Utica	Nov. 1863	1830	French Creek Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Allegheny	Oct. 6, 1800	About 1796	
Canal	Nov. 28, 1833	1797	Sugar Creek Township
Cherrytree	1817	1797	Originally established in 1806 but combined with Plum Township as one unit until 1817
Clinton	Apr. 1855	1798	Scrubgrass and Irwin Twps.
Cornplanter	Nov. 28, 1833	1795	
Cranberry	Apr. 1830	About 1825	French Creek Township
Frenchcreek	March 1806	1796	
Irwin	Oct. 6, 1800	1796	

VENANGO COUNTY - 6th Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships (cont'd)

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Jackson	1845	About 1796	Plum, Oakland, Canal and Sugar Creek Townships
Mineral	Oct. 24, 1870	About 1797	Sandy Creek and French Creek Townships
Oakland	1841 <sup>1,2</sup> Nov. 1840 <sup>3</sup>	About 1798	Cornplanter, Plum and Sugar Creek Townships
Oil Creek	Aug. 30, 1866	1796	Cornplanter and Allegheny Townships
Pinegrove	Feb. 1824	About 1805	Farmington and Toby's Creek Townships
Plum	1817	About 1800	Sugar Creek Twp. Originally established in 1806 but combined with Cherrytree Twp. as one unit until 1817
President	Apr. 3, 1850	About 1798	Pinegrove, Cornplanter and Tionesta Townships
Richland	1806	1796	
Rockland	1817	1809	First called Rock Township. Established in 1806 but attached to Richland Twp. for governmental purposes until 1817
Sandycreek	Mar. 1806	1797	French Creek Township
Scrubgrass	Mar. 1806	1795	
Sugarcreek	Oct. 6, 1800	About 1796	Incorporated while part of Crawford County
Victory	Sept. 6, 1876	1796	Sandy Creek Township

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1 Godcharles

2 Charles A. Babcock, Venango County, Pennsylvania - Her Pioneers and People, Vol. I (Chicago: J. H. Beers and Company, 1919).

3 History of Venango County, Pennsylvania (Chicago: Brown, Runk and Company, 1890).