

Washington County

Created on March 28, 1781 from part of Westmoreland County and named in honor of George Washington. Washington, the county seat, was laid out in 1781, incorporated as a borough on February 12, 1810, and chartered as a city in 1924.

Indian ownership was yielded to Pennsylvania by the “New Purchase” deed at Ft. Stanwix in 1768, but Virginia claimed southwestern Pennsylvania (all the way to Pittsburgh) until she yielded the argument in 1780. Scots-Irish led by three Presbyterian clergy, founded Buffalo, Amity, and Canonsburg, about 1775. One, the Rev. John McMillan, became a strong political leader. Indian raids lasted until the 1790s. This was a center of the Whiskey Rebellion (1794), of which David Bradford was the leader, but after that distilling declined. In time, sheep created prosperity, increasingly so with the spread of the efficient Merino breed between 1820 and 1840. The National Road led to the founding of Centerville, Claysville, and Beallsville, but the arrival of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Pittsburgh, in 1852, eclipsed the prosperity that the National Road’s wagon route had stimulated. The opening of U.S. Route 40 early in the twentieth century benefited Washington. Small railroads entered the county in the 1850s; coal mining grew after 1865 and the county is still one of the major coal producers. Natural gas was harnessed for sale in 1884, the same

year oil was struck. Small steel mills began around 1900, and a glass industry flourished from the 1880s to the 1950s. Steel processing, steel products, and other metal products are strong businesses in the county. Today, Washington rivals Greene as top producing county for sheep and wool. Forty percent of the land is farmed, and the county is a significant producer of apples, cattle, and alfalfa and forage crops.

WASHINGTON COUNTY - 4th Class

Formed on March 28, 1781 from part of Westmoreland County

Third Class Cities

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Monongahela	Mar. 24, 1873	Settled about 1770, and laid out as a town 1795. Incorporated as a borough on April 8, 1833 and called Williamsport until April 1, 1857
Washington	1924	Laid out as a town on October 13, 1781. Incorporated as a borough on February 13, 1810

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Allenport	Oct. 19, 1931	1816	Allen Township
Beallsville	Feb. 16, 1852	1819	West Pike Run Township
Bentleyville	May 20, 1868	1816	Somerset Township
Burgettstown	Mar. 23, 1881	1795	Smith Township. First called West Boston
California	Nov. 26, 1853	1848	East Pike Run Township
Canonsburg	Feb. 22, 1802	1787	Chartiers Township
Centreville	Feb. 16, 1895	S 1821	East Bethlehem Township
Charleroi	Feb. 8, 1892	1890	Fallowfield Township
Claysville	Apr. 2, 1832	1817	Donegal Township
Coal Center	Apr. 9, 1834	1814	East Pike Run Township
Cokeburg	Sept. 17, 1906		West Bethlehem Township
Deemston	Nov. 12, 1894		East Bethlehem Township
Donora	Feb. 11, 1901	1900	Carroll Township
Dunlevy	Nov. 10, 1913		Allen Township
East Washington	Feb. 8, 1892		South Strabane Township
Elco	May 14, 1894		Allen Township
Ellsworth	Aug. 20, 1900		Somerset Township
Finleyville	Feb. 19, 1896	1788	Union Township
Houston	May 13, 1901	1871	Chartiers Township
Long Branch	Aug. 21, 1893		Allen Township
Marianna	Jan. 24, 1910	1907	West Bethlehem Township
McDonald	Nov. 11, 1889	1865	Cecil Township. Called Havelock until about 1870

WASHINGTON COUNTY - 4th Class (cont'd)

Boroughs (cont'd)

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Midway	Feb. 9, 1903	1866	Robinson Township
New Eagle	Sept. 9, 1912	1901	Carroll Township
North Charleroi	May 14, 1894	1885	Fallowfield Township
Roscoe	May 21, 1894 ¹ 1892 ²	1869	Allen Township
Speers	Feb. 12, 1894	1860	Allen Township
Stockdale	Apr. 28, 1894 ¹ Apr. 12, 1894 ²	1891	Allen Township
Twilight	Feb. 12, 1894		Allen Township
West Alexander	May 21, 1873 ¹ Aug. 18, 1873 ³	1796	Donegal Township
West Brownsville	Apr. 2, 1852 ^{1, 2} Aug. 1849 ³	1831	East Pike Run Township
West Middletown	Mar. 27, 1823 ¹	S 1795	Hopewell 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>
East Bethlehem	1916	July, 1781	1766	

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Amwell	July 15, 1781	1770	
Blaine	Nov. 4, 1894		Buffalo Township
Buffalo	May 8, 1799	About 1776	Donegal Township
Canton	June 10, 1791	About 1774	Morris, Hopewell, Strabane and Chartiers Townships
Carroll	Sept. 30, 1834	1771	Nottingham and Fallowfield Townships
Cecil	July 15, 1781	About 1777	
Chartiers	Mar. 23, 1790	1774	Cecil Township
Cross Creek	Dec. 10, 1789	About 1772	Hopewell Township
Donegal	July 15, 1781	1773	
East Finley	Dec. 24, 1828 ¹	1775	Finley Township
Fallowfield	July 15, 1781	1780	

WASHINGTON COUNTY - 4th Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships (cont'd)

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Hanover	Mar. 11, 1786	About 1780	Smith Township
Hopewell	July 15, 1781	1772	
Independence	Feb. 1856	1773	Hopewell Township
Jefferson	June 16, 1853	1776	Cross Fork Township
Morris	Mar. 13, 1788 ¹	1773	Amwell Township
	Sept. 1788 ³		
Mt. Pleasant	May 12, 1806	About 1770	Cecil, Canton, Hopewell and Smith Townships
North Bethlehem	Nov. 14, 1921	About 1774	West Bethlehem Township
North Franklin	Aug. 13, 1855	1785	Canton and Morris Twps.
North Strabane	May 3, 1831 ^{1, 3}	1774	Strabane Township
	Oct. 7, 1831 ²		
Nottingham	July 15, 1781	1772	
Peters	July 15, 1781	1774	
Robinson	July 15, 1781	1774	
Smith	July 15, 1781	1776	
Somerset	Apr. 3, 1782 ²	1777	Fallowfield, Nottingham, Strabane and Bethlehem Twps.
	Jan. 1782 ³		
South Franklin	Feb. 8, 1892	1785	Franklin Township
South Strabane	May 3, 1831	1782	Strabane Township
Union	Mar. 31, 1836	1773	Peters and Nottingham Twps.
West Bethlehem	Jan. 18, 1790	1774	Bethlehem Township
West Finley	Dec. 24, 1828	1780	Finley Township
West Pike Run	Mar. 9, 1839	1774	East Pike Run Township

¹ Godcharles

² Joseph F. McFarland, 20th Century History of the City of Washington and Washington County, Pennsylvania and Representative Citizens, (Chicago: Richmond-Arnold Publishing Company, 1910).

³ Boyd Crumrine, (ed.), History of Washington County, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia: L. H. Everts and Company, 1882).