

Westmoreland County

Created on February 26, 1773, from part of Bedford County and named for a county in England. Greensburg, the county seat after 1785, was incorporated as a borough on February 9, 1799 and as a city in 1928. It was named for General Nathanael Greene. The British and Indians burned Hannastown, the original county seat on July 13, 1782.

Ligonier and Bushy Run were posts licensed by the British Army in 1758, along the Forbes Road, before the full county area was acquired by Pennsylvania from the Indians in the New Purchase in 1768. At Bushy Run, in 1763, one of the few field engagements against Indians resulted in a British and colonial victory. Robert Hanna and Arthur St. Clair led the move to erect a Pennsylvania county to thwart the extension of Virginia's political control of the area. Rivalry with Virginia became violent in 1774–1775, but Virginia finally yielded its claim in 1779. This area was also involved in Dunmore's War and in Indian fighting during the Revolution. Hannastown, burnt by Indians in 1782, was not rebuilt because Greensburg was growing rapidly. The county's location on both the Forbes and Braddock Roads was vital to the rise of Pittsburgh. Railroads later followed, using approximately the same routes. Railroad yards grew at Monessen and Latrobe. Greensburg and Ligonier were farm products centers.

The Connellsville Coke region, opened in the 1840s, led to the rise of Mount Pleasant and Scottdale. The valuable Pittsburgh Vein bituminous underlay the county. After coke making developed, there were booms in iron, steel, tinplate, aluminum, manufactured metal items, and glass. Silk, wool, paper, and rubber products followed. Natural gas was used by many industries. Ligonier continued to be a center for dairying and flour; auto parts were produced in Mount Pleasant, and tires in Jeannette. Since the 1960s, deindustrialization has been acute in the steel, aluminum, tinplating, and coke sectors. The peak of coal production occurred from 1925 to 1945; the county now is a minor coal producer from surface mines. In 1920 agriculture cash receipts were 11th in the state, and among these grain production was 8th in the state. Grain production was greatly reduced after WWII. In 1989, the county's farms are about 26th in total receipts among Pennsylvania counties, with strong meat, dairying, and mushroom production. Many small farms cover one-fourth of the land, and the county is a leader in eggs, oats, and alfalfa. Today, some steel is still produced and glass and metal products are important, but retail establishments are especially strong. Many residents are Pittsburgh workers.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY - 3rd Class

Formed on February 26, 1773 from part of Bedford County

Third Class Cities

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Arnold	1939	Incorporated as a borough from New Kensington Borough on Nov. 16, 1895
Greensburg	1928 ¹ 1926 ²	Laid out as a town in 1782. Incorporated as a borough in 1799
Jeannette	1938	Laid out as a town in April, 1888. Incorporated as a borough from Penn Township on June 7, 1889
Lower Burrell	1958	Incorporated as a township in 1879
Monessen	1921	Settled about 1897 and incorporated as a borough on Sept. 3, 1898
New Kensington	1934	Incorporated as a borough from Lower Burrell Township on Nov. 26, 1892

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Adamsburg	Mar. 5, 1841		Hempfield Township
Arona	Nov. 11, 1895		Hempfield Township
Avonmore	Mar. 4, 1893		Bell Township
Bolivar	Nov. 25, 1863		Fairfield Township
Derry	Oct. 22, 1881	About 1870	Derry Township
Donegal	Aug. 20, 1867	1796	Donegal Township
East Vandergrift	Dec. 18, 1901		Vandergrift Borough
Export	Nov. 11, 1911 ¹ 1912 ²		Franklin Township
Hunker	1929		Hempfield Township
Hyde Park	Sept. 3, 1898		Allegheny Township
Irwin	Nov. 14, 1864	Sept. 1853	North Huntingdon Township
Latrobe	May 24, 1854	May 1851	Derry Township
Ligonier	Apr. 10, 1834	1817	Ligonier Township
Madison	Oct. 3, 1876		Hempfield Township
Manor	1884 ¹	1873	North Huntingdon Township

WESTMORELAND COUNTY - 3rd 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>
Mount Pleasant	Feb. 7, 1828	About 1797	East Huntingdon Township
New Alexandria	Apr. 10, 1834		Derry Township
New Florence	May 27, 1865		St. Clair Township
New Salem	1833	1814	Salem Township
North Belle Vernon	Feb. 26, 1876	S 1758	
North Irwin	Dec. 29, 1894		North Huntingdon Township
Oklahoma	1931		
Penn	1865	1859	Penn Township
Scottdale	Feb. 1874	1872	East Huntingdon Township
Seward	Jan. 23, 1904		St. Clair Township
Smithton	Feb. 2, 1901		South Huntingdon Township
South Greensburg	Jan. 10, 1891 ¹ 1890 ²		Hempfield Township
Southwest Greens- burg	Nov. 15, 1890 ¹ 1892 ²		Hempfield Township
Sutersville	1902	1870	Sewickley Township
Trafford	Aug. 29, 1904		North Huntingdon Township
Vandergrift	1896 1897	1895	Allegheny Township
West Leechburg	1928		Allegheny Township
West Newton	Feb. 26, 1842	Jan. 1796	South Huntingdon Township
Youngstown	Apr. 2, 1831		Unity Township
Youngwood	Nov. 10, 1902		Hempfield Township

First Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Became First Class Twp.</u>	<u>Incorporated as a Twp.</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
North Huntingdon	Nov. 4, 1952	Apr. 6, 1773	1760	
Penn	Nov. 5, 1957	Feb. 23, 1855		Hempfield, Salem, Franklin and North Huntingdon Townships
Rostraver	Nov. 4, 1958	Apr. 6, 1773	1754	

WESTMORELAND COUNTY - 3rd Class (cont'd)

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Allegheny	1796	1790	
Bell	1853	1800	Loyalhanna and Salem Twps.
Cook	1855	1809	Donegal Township
Derry	Apr. 1775	1763	Fairfield Township
Donegal	Apr. 6, 1773		
East Huntingdon	1798	1790	South Huntingdon Township
Fairfield	Apr. 6, 1773	1769	
Franklin	Jan. 1786	1759	
Hempfield	Apr. 6, 1773		
Ligonier	1882	1773	Fairfield and Donegal Twps.
Loyalhanna	1833		Salem, Derry and Washington Townships
Mt. Pleasant	Before 1773	1770	
St. Clair	1856	1776	Fairfield Township
Salem	About 1788	1765	Hempfield Township
Sewickley	1835	1778	Huntingdon Township
South Huntingdon	Jan. 1790	1752	
Unity	Sept. 23, 1789	1760	Mt. Pleasant Township
Upper Burrell	1879	1791	Burrell Township
Washington	1789		Salem Township

Frederic A. Godcharles, Pennsylvania, Political, Governmental, Military and Civil: Political and Civil History Volume (New York: American Historical Society, Inc., 1933).

C. M. Bomberger, Short History of Westmoreland County (Jeannette, Pa.: Jeannette Publishing Company, 1941).

John N. Boucher, Old and New Westmoreland, Vol. III (New York: The American Historical Society, Inc., 1918).