

## Schuylkill County

Created on March 1, 1811 from parts of Berks and Northampton Counties and named for the Schuylkill River. “Schuylkill” is Dutch for “hidden stream.” Parts of Columbia and Luzerne Counties were added on March 3, 1818. Pottsville, the county seat after December 1, 1851, was incorporated as a borough on February 19, 1828 and became a city in 1910. It was named for the Pott family, early settlers. The original county seat was Orwigsburg.

Germans from Berks County arrived two years before the land was purchased from the Indians in 1749. This was the scene of Indian raids and frontier forts in the French and Indian and Pontiac Wars, and of brief Indian raids during the Revolution. Necho Allen in 1790 discovered that anthracite coal would burn, and Col. George Shoemaker proved in 1812 that it could fire a rolling mill. In 1822 the first shipment of anthracite on the Schuylkill Canal spurred mining. The county has some of both the Southern and Middle anthracite fields. From 1880 to 1940 it was second only to Luzerne in production. In 1842, the Reading Railroad arrived, but the canal carried coal also until 1881. A second generation began mining the northern area using inclined planes. The railroads owned the majority of the mines. Mining technology was first worked out in Schuylkill, also the scene of early mine labor troubles. Pottsville did not develop an anthracite elite comparable to Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, and Mauch Chunk, because most of its capital came in from Philadelphia. The coal strikes of 1902 and 1925–1926 destroyed consumer confidence and alternative heating fuels cut into anthracite’s market. Despite a World War II revival, the industry collapsed. The population peaked at 235,505 in 1930. Strip mining began shortly after 1900. Bootleg coal operators prevailed between 1930 and 1940 due to the collapse of the old corporations. In the heyday of anthracite production, the county competed with Lackawanna as the state’s second-most productive county. In 1990 Schuylkill produced half of Pennsylvania’s 3.4 million tons. Other county products have included explosives, textiles, apparel, and shoes. One-fifth of the land is farmed, and the county has a strong position in the production of swine and potatoes.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY - 4th Class

Formed on March 11, 1811 from parts of Berks and Northampton  
Counties

Third Class City

<u>Name of City</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Prior Status</u>
Pottsville	Dec. 1, 1913	Laid out as a town in 1816. Incorporated as a borough on Feb. 19, 1828. Granted a city charter on March 22, 1911 but city government did not go into operation until December 1, 1913

Boroughs

<u>Name of Borough</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Town Laid Out or Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Ashland	Feb. 13, 1857 <sup>1, 3</sup> 1847 <sup>2</sup>	1847	Butler Township
Auburn	June 5, 1857		South Manheim Township
Coaldale	1871 <sup>1</sup> Feb. 26, 1906 <sup>2</sup>		Rahn Township
Cressona	Feb. 2, 1857	1847	North Manheim Township
Deer Lake	June 1, 1936		
Frackville	Apr. 10, 1876	1861	Butler, West Mahanoy and New Castle Townships
Gilberton	Mar. 1, 1873 <sup>1, 3</sup> Dec. 2, 1872 <sup>2</sup>		Mahanoy Township
Girardville	June 4, 1872 <sup>1, 3</sup> 1873 <sup>2</sup>	1832	Butler Township
Gordon	Apr. 1891	1856	Butler Township
Landingville	Nov. 14, 1887 <sup>2</sup> 1900 <sup>1</sup>		North Manheim Township
Mahanoy City	Dec. 16, 1863	1859	Mahanoy Township
McAdoo	July 9, 1896		Kline Township
Mechanicsville	Jan. 5, 1914 <sup>1</sup> Dec. 29, 1913 <sup>2</sup>		Port Carbon Borough
Middleport	1859	1829	Blythe Township
Minersville	Apr. 1, 1831 <sup>1, 4</sup> May 2, 1831 <sup>2</sup>	1830	Branch and Norwegian Twps.
Mount Carbon	1864	1828	North Manheim Township

SCHUYLKILL 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>
New Philadelphia	1868	1840	Blythe Township
New Ringgold	Sept. 24, 1877	1867	East Brunswick Township
Orwigsburg	1811 <sup>1</sup>	1796	West Brunswick Township
	1913 <sup>2, 3, 4</sup>		
Palo Alto	1854	1844	East Norwegian Township
Pine Grove	May 7, 1832	1830	Pine Grove Township
Port Carbon	Apr. 1852 <sup>1, 3, 4</sup>	1826	East Norwegian Township
	June 8, 1852 <sup>2</sup>		
Port Clinton	1850	1829	West Brunswick Township
Ringtown	June 7, 1909 <sup>1</sup>	1833	Union Township
	June 8, 1909 <sup>2</sup>		
St. Clair	Apr. 6, 1850 <sup>1, 4</sup>	1831	East Norwegian Township
	May 9, 1850 <sup>3</sup>		
Schuylkill Haven	May 23, 1840	1811	North Manheim Township
Shenandoah	Jan. 16, 1866	1862	West Mahanoy Township
Tamaqua	1832 <sup>1, 3</sup>	1829	Schuylkill and West Penn Twps.
	Apr. 8, 1833 <sup>2</sup>		
Tower City	Dec. 19, 1892	1868	Porter Township
Tremont	1866	1844	Tremont Township

Second Class Townships

<u>Name of Township</u>	<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Settled</u>	<u>Incorporated From</u>
Barry	1821 <sup>1, 3, 4</sup>	1808	Norwegian and Schuylkill Townships
	1822 <sup>2</sup>		
Blythe	1846	1805	Schuylkill Township
	Branch		
Butler	1838 <sup>2</sup>	1801	Barry Township
	1848		
Cass	1848		Branch Township
Delano	1882		Rush Township
East Brunswick	1834 <sup>1, 3, 4</sup>	1801	Brunswick Township
	1835 <sup>2</sup>		
East Norwegian	1811 <sup>1, 3</sup>		Norwegian Township
	1840 <sup>2</sup>		
East Union	1867	1802	Rush, Mahanoy and Union Townships

SCHUYLKILL 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>
Eldred	1848 <sup>1, 3, 4</sup> 1849 <sup>2</sup>	1805	Upper Mahantango Township
Foster	1855		Barry, Butler and Cass Townships
Frailey	1847		Branch, Barry, Porter and Lower Mahantango Twps.
Hegins	1853 <sup>1, 3</sup> 1854 <sup>2</sup>	1775	Lower Mahantango Township
Hubley	1853	1804	Lower Mahantango Township
Kline	1873 <sup>1, 4</sup> 1872 <sup>2</sup>	1791	Rush Township
Mahanoy	1849 <sup>1, 3</sup> 1850 <sup>2</sup>	1791	Rush Township
New Castle	1847	1800	Norwegian Township
North Manheim	1845	1770	Manheim Township
North Union	1867	1806	Union Township
Norwegian	1811	1780	
Pine Grove	1811	1750	Incorporated while part of Berks County
Porter	1840	1774	Lower Mahantango Township
Rahn	1860		West Penn Township
Reilly	1856 <sup>1, 3</sup> 1857 <sup>2</sup>	1790	Branch and Cass Townships
Rush	1811	1800	Incorporated while part of Berks County
Ryan	1868 <sup>1, 3, 4</sup>	1784	West Penn Township
Schuylkill	1811	1802	
South Manheim	1845	1777	Manheim Township
Tremont	1847 <sup>1, 3, 4</sup> 1848 <sup>2</sup>	1816	Pine Grove Township
Union	1818 <sup>1, 3</sup> 1833 <sup>2</sup>	1800	Rush Township
Upper Mahantango	1811	1780	
Walker	1878	1803	Schuylkill Township
Washington	1856	1790	Wayne and Pine Grove Townships
Wayne	1827	1759	Manheim and Pine Grove Townships

SCHUYLKILL 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>
West Brunswick	1827 1834 <sup>3</sup>		Brunswick Township
West Mahanoy	1874 <sup>1, 3, 4</sup> 1875 <sup>2</sup>		Mahanoy Township
West Penn	1811	1756	

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1 Godcharles

2 Herrwood E. Hobbs (ed.), The History of Schuylkill County (Pottsville Pa. :  
School District and City of Pottsville, 1950).

3 Samuel T. Wiley, Biographical and Portrait Cyclopedia of Schuylkill County,  
Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, : Rush, West and Company, 1893).

4 History of Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania (New York: W. W. Munsell and Company, 1881). ..