

Cumberland, Franklin, Mifflin, and Perry County Township Formations

The purpose of this paper is to document and separate family members that migrated west across the Susquehanna River during the 18th century. To do this we 1st broke our research into distinct timeframes, working backwards; 1900 to 1850, 1850 to 1800; 1750 to 1800, and 1700 to 1750.

Below is a chronological order of how the early Pennsylvania Counties were formed. We start by getting a lay of the land, the formation of the counties, townships, and adjoining vicinities. ¹ They are:

Pennsylvania County Formations:

- 1682 – Bucks, Chester, and Philadelphia were formed as the original Counties
- 1729 – Lancaster was formed from Chester
- 1749 – York formed from Lancaster
- 1752 – Berks formed from Bucks, Lancaster, and Philadelphia Counties
- 1750 – Cumberland formed from Lancaster in 1750
- 1752 – Northumberland formed from Berks County
- 1785 – Dauphin formed from Lancaster County
- 1800 – Adams formed from York County in 1800
- 1784 – Franklin formed from Cumberland
- 1789 – Mifflin formed out of Cumberland and Northumberland
- 1820 – Perry formed from Cumberland
- 1831- Juniata formed from Mifflin County

Cumberland County: Formed in 1750 out of Lancaster.

On maps dated preceding and including 1750, Cumberland County would have been known by the name, "North Valley," and would have embraced East and West Pennsborough, Hopewell, Antrim and Middleton Townships.

The date of the formation of the succeeding townships is as follows:

- 1766 – Allen
- 1767 – Newton
- 1783 – Southampton
- 1784 – Shippensburg
- 1785 – Dickinson
- 1787 - Silvers' Spring
- 1795 – Frankford
- 1797 – Mifflin
- 1810 - North and South Middleton

¹ The Handy Book for Genealogists, United States of America, 8th Edition, published by The Everton Publishers, Inc., Logan, Utah.] [County Courthouse Book, compiled by Elizabeth Petty Bentley, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD, 1990.

- 1825 – Monroe
- 1828 – Newville
- 1845 – Hampden
- 1849 - Upper and Lower Allen
- 1859 – Middlesex
- 1859 – Penn
- 1872 - Cook

Its original Townships and Towns included everything that made up Franklin, Perry, Juniata, and parts of Mifflin, Bedford and Northumberland-Now part of Snyder.

- 1735 – Hopewell, Original Township, Part of Lancaster County,
 - Part of original area went to Franklin County in 1784
- 1735 – Pennsborough, Original Township, Part of Lancaster County
- 1741 – Antrim, created from Hopewell, and is now part of Franklin County formed in 1784
- 1743 – Lurgan, separated 1760/61, and is now part of Franklin County formed in 1784
- 1745 – West Pennsborough, formed from original Township, Part of Lancaster County
- Prior 1751 – Peters, and is now part of Franklin County formed in 1784
- 1751 – Guilford, now part of Franklin County formed in 1784
- 1752 – Hamilton, now part of Franklin County formed in 1784
- 1754 – Fannett, now part of Franklin County formed in 1784
- 1754 – Fermanagh, now part of Mifflin County form in 1789
- 1754 – Lack, now part of Mifflin County form in 1789
- 1754 – Tyrone, now part of Perry County form in 1820
- 1754 – Air, formed from Bedford County form in 1771
- 1761 – Letterkenny, formed from Lurgan Township, now part of Perry County form in 1820
- 1763 – Tobyne, (Upper Tyrone), formed from Tyrone, now part of Perry County form in 1820
- 1766 – Rye, formed from Tyrone, now part of Perry County form in 1820
- 1767 – Dublin, formed from Bedford County form in 1771
- 1767 – Greenwood, a portion became part of Mifflin County formed in 1789
 - Remainder became part of Perry County formed in 1820
- 1767 – Penn(s) – was assigned to Northumberland in 1772, but in now part of Snyder County
- 1767 – Derry – part of Mifflin County formed in 1789
- 1767 – Cumberland, part of Bedford County form in 1771
- 1767 – Bedford, , part of Bedford County form in 1771
- 1767 – Coleraine, , part of Bedford County form in 1771
- 1767 – Newton, formed from original Township Hopewell
- 1767 – Baree, disputed between Bedford and Cumberland 1771-79
 - Assigned to Bedford County in 1779
- 1768 – Milford, part of Mifflin County formed in 1789
- 1770 – Armagh, formed from Lack, part of Mifflin County formed in 1789
- 1779 – Washington, formed from Antrim, part of Franklin County formed in 1784
- 1781 – Montgomery, formed from Peters, part of Franklin County formed in 1784

- 1782 – Shippensburg, formed from Hopewell, separated in 1819
- 1782 – Wayne, formed from Derry, part of Mifflin County formed in 1789
- 1783 – Middleton, Carlisle Area, Laid out in 1751
- 1783 – Southampton, formed from Hopewell and Lurgan,
 - ½ went to Cumberland County and ½ went to Franklin County formed in 1784
- 1785 – Dickinson, formed from original Township West Pennsborough
- 1793 – Juniata, formed from Rye, part of Perry County formed in 1820
- 1795 – Frankford, formed from original Township West Pennsborough
- 1799 – Buffalo, formed from Greenwood, part of Perry County formed in 1820
- 1817 – Saville, formed from Tyrone, part of Perry County formed in 1820

Mifflin County; Formed in 1789 out of Cumberland and Northumberland, and it included former Cumberland County Townships of Derry, Lack, Fermanagh, Milford, and Turbett which was formed out of Milford, and Greenwood.

- 1767 - Derry was previously part of Cumberland County.
- 1770 - Armagh was previously of Cumberland County, and was named from County Armagh in Northern Ireland. Part of the Kishacoquillas Valley. A court order permitted those people who lived in the Kishacoquillas Valley at that time to have their own township separate from Derry Township.
- 1782 – Wayne was formed from portions of Derry. It is believed Barnabas Barnes was first settler to live on land that is now Wayne Township.
- 1790 – Union was formed after Mifflin County was established in 1789. Originally called Greenwood, but renamed for the new union of the Thirteen Colonies, with the adoption of the U. S. Constitution. The largest settlement is Belleville, named by a local blacksmith, because it meant “beautiful village.” This is the area where the first settler of the Kishacoquillas Valley, James Alexander, is believed to have settled in 1752.
- Decatur Township was carved from Derry in 1813 and is named for Stephen Decatur, naval hero of the War of 1812.
- This township was formed in 1834 from part of Wayne.

Perry County: Formed 1820 out of Cumberland County, and included seven townships. Because the families intersected in Perry, it’s critical to lay out the Perry Counties early formations for our timeframes. There were 7 original Townships affiliated to Cumberland County prior to Perry being establishment in 1821.

- 1754 - Tyrone formed and included all land lying west of the Juniata River.
- 1763 - Toboyne formed from a portion of Tyrone Township. (Toboyne is later used to form Madison and Jackson. Toboyne is the only township in Perry County that borders on 3 other counties: Franklin on the west; Juniata on the north; and Cumberland County on the south.
- 1766 - Rye formed from a portion of Tyrone Township (Rye is later used to form Juniata; Wheatfield; portions of Centre and Carroll; Oliver; Penn; Miller; Tuscarora.

- 1767 - Greenwood was formed in 1767 from a portion of Fermanagh Township (Fermanagh was an original Cumberland County township which is now Juniata County.) It included the portion of Perry County, east of the Juniata River and south of Cocolamus Creek. The township had 2 valleys: Pfoutz and Perry (Wildcat).
- 1791 - Juniata was formed from a portion of Rye. (Juniata is later used to form Tuscarora; Oliver; and portions of Miller and Centre.
- 1799 - Buffalo was formed from lands of Greenwood. (Buffalow later was used to form Watts and Howe.
- 1817 - Saville was formed from Tyrone. (Saville was later used to form Centre and Madison.

Juniata County: Formed in 1831

- 1750 - Lack and Fermanagh Townships (of current day Juniata County) were erected as part of Cumberland County, and on July 6th 1754 the Townships were purchased from the Indians.
- 1767 - Milford and Greenwood Townships were established out of the northern portion of Lack and the southern portion of Fermanagh.

By 1790 Cumberland County Census for the area:

- Hopewell, Newton, Tyboyne, and West Pennsboro. Some records spell Tyboyne as Tyborn, but I have later determined through the Land Grants in the area, where their divisions of the area, and other census records are for; Hopewell, Newton, Tyboyne, and West Pennsboro.
- Eastern Part of Cumberland County, which was later determined to included all the other known townships of Cumberland County, which would have include Tyrone, Rye, and Greenwood.

By 1790 Mifflin County Census for the area:

- Derry, Armagh, Lack, Fermanagh, Milford, Turbett, and Union (Greenwood was renamed to Union in 1789.

York County: Formed August 19th 1749 from Lancaster County.

- Hellam Township (c. 1736); all others were sub-divided from this first designated township

Original thirteen Townships (and founding dates) were:

- 1736 - Hellam: included all of York and Adams Counties
- 1740 - Manchester: included West Manchester (1799), and East Manchester (1887)
- 1742 - Shrewsbury: included Springfield (1835); Hopewell (1767) - and from Hopewell: East Hopewell (1885) and North Hopewell (1885)
- 1742 - Newberry: included Fairview (1803).
- 1744 - Warrington: included Washington (1802).
- 1745 - Monaghan: included Franklin (1809) and Carroll (1831).
- 1745 - Fawn: included Peach Bottom (1815).
- 1747 - Manheim: Heidelberg (1749), West Manheim (1858) and Penn (1880).
- 1747 - Codorus: included Codorus and North Codorus (1838).
- 1747 - Paradise: Jackson (1853)

- 1747 - Chanceford (1747): included Chanceford and Lower Chanceford (1806) Townships; York (1745): included York, Windsor (1758), and Lower Windsor (1838) Townships;
- 1745 - Dover: included Conewago (1818)
- Until 1800, Adams County (to the west) was part of York County.