

## Formation Dates for the Surrounding Communities

**Covington Twp - 1818** was formed from Wilkes-Barre Township while part of Luzerne County. The area of the original township embraced all the lower portion of the county below Scranton.

**Dunmore - April 10, 1862**  
Dunmore Village became the Borough of Dunmore

**Elmhurst - 1883** Dunning name changed to Elmhurst by Col Schoonmaker after purchasing much of the land for real estate development.

**Elmhurst - May 27, 1889** the town was incorporated as a borough.

**Jefferson Twp - 1836** was formed from Blakely Twp. Settled in 1781 by Connecticut men.

**Madison Twp - August 7, 1849** was formed from Covington and Jefferson Townships when part of Luzerne County.

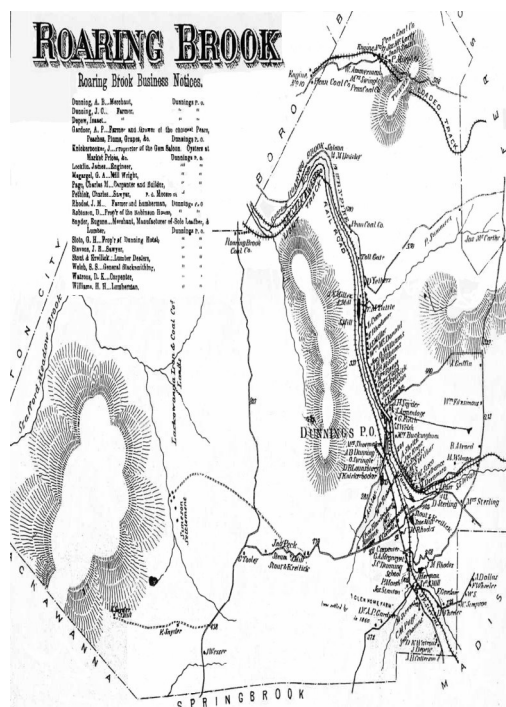
**Moscow - 1908** incorporated from Covington Twp. Settled by Rev. Peter Rupert, Lutheran clergyman in 1830.

**Roaring Brook Twp - May 24, 1871** was formed from the borough of Dunmore and the townships of Jefferson and Madison in Luzerne County

**Springbrook Twp - November 22 1853** was formed from Covington and Pittston Townships. The earliest distinctively Welsh settlement in the county, dating from 1831.

## HISTORY OF ROARING BROOK TOWNSHIP

Prior to 1840 or thereabouts the area today known as Roaring Brook Township was uninhabited, or practically so. Much of the land in the western part of the township was purchased in the early 1840's from the Bank of North America of Philadelphia by the Lackawanna Iron & Coal Company. This land was supposed to be underlaid with valuable iron ore. The iron company began an operation not far from the present Lake Scranton and was known as "Ore Mine Spring". A little village sprang up around the works. The ore, however, proved practically useless and in a few years the operation was abandoned and the settlement fell into decay.



Before and after the Drinker Turnpike was built the township had very little settlement. When the turnpike was made passable the men employed on it moved along with the work. The Drinker Turnpike was built through the area around 1827, connecting with the Philadelphia and Great Bend Turnpike. Colonel Henry W. Drinker, with state aid, linked Providence (Scranton) with New York City. Traveling by stage by way of Stroudsburg this trip reportedly took three days.

The town known today as Elmhurst is said to have been first settled on by a man named Meade and called by his name. But there is no record found prior to 1847, except that of Barney

Carey, who lived near where the Cobb Road joined the turnpike. He was the toll gate keeper on the Drinker Turnpike and is probably the earliest settler in the township. There was a ledge on the side of the mountain nearby that became known as "Barney's Ledge." He thought that there was a silver mine there and he laid claim to the ledge. Not too far from the toll gate was a spring called "Indian Spring" which was surrounded by trees said to be carved with many names and initials of settlers fleeing the Wyoming Massacre.

The early history of Roaring Brook Township is so interwoven with that of present day Elmhurst Township, that to present a faithful picture of one, material must be largely drawn upon the other. In fact, during the beginning of the 18th century, the village of Dunnings was the most populated portion of Roaring Brook Township. Much of the active history of Roaring Brook Township centers in and around Dunnings

Gilbert Dunning bought all the land in and around the village in 1847 and was the first settler in the village. He raised the first crops and built the first frame house. During the same year John C. Dunning built a log house. John S. Finch, S.S. Welsh, and W. B. Edwards also settled in the village. Isaac Depew located south of the village. These men settled and worked at building a lumber manufacturing community. There is a tannery and a store owned by J.H. Snyder, a Baptist church, a school-house, two hotels, the blacksmith shops of B. E. Whitman and Partridge, the carriage and coffin factory of W.B. Edwards and the planning-mill of C.C. Clay.



**Banks** - There were no banking houses. Moscow and Dunmore were the nearest banking towns.

**Churches - Methodist Episcopal** - The first preaching service in Roaring Brook was in 1853, by a Methodist minister, at the house of J.M. Stevens whose place was at Forest Hill, about a mile below Dunnings. In the summer, services were held in the school-house on the Cobb road, and at the house of J.M. Stevens during the winter. No regular study class was formed until 1856 when meetings were held in the village school house in Dunning. The first class was formed, however, in a small building at Dunning, owned by S.S. Welsh and used as a school-house. This was in 1856. William C. Robinson was appointed leader. The other members were Margaret and Jennie Robinson, and J.M. Sarah W. and Elenora A. Stevens. The class was transferred in 1857 to the Forest Hill school-house, at the south side of the Forest Hill camp ground. The Sunday-school was organized in the Forest Hill school-house in 1858, with William C. Robinson as Superintendent and 16 pupils. The first pastor was David Davis, appointed in the spring of 1854. Rev G. A. Cure was appointed in the spring of 1880. Rev David Davis was the first pastor.

## Chronological Dates of Events impacting the Township's Development

**1820 - "Cobb Road"** is chartered and completed in 1827. It remained a toll road until January 1855

**1848 - 1850 - Gravity Railroad** built in little under two years. First coal car traversed it length, from Port Griffith to Hawley, a distance of 45 miles in May, 1850.

**1876 - Blue Shutter Restaurant** built - originally a general store from 1881 to 1903

**1890 - Elmhurst Reservoir** built - inundated a shingle factory - chair factory and a saw mill. Cemetery was moved

**Churches - Baptist** - A baptist congregation was organized in 1869 in the school house in dunnings The first church established was organized March 19, 1869, by Rev. J. C. Sherman, a Baptist minister. The first meeting was held in the school house, and there the Baptist church of Dunning Was organized. In 1870 they dedicated their own house of worship, lot and edifice being the gift of Eugene Snyder. The first superintendent of the Sunday school was Phineas Tuthill. This church was organized March 19th, 1869, in the district school-house at Dunning, by Rev. J. C. Sherman. Eugene Snyder, Phineas Tuthill, Stephen and Elizabeth Vail, E.G. Hamilton, A.L. and M.A. Burns, R.B. Wallace, S.E. Snyder and T.Secor were the members. The church edifice and lot were donated by Eugene Snyder, and the building was dedicated in 1870. The furniture was provided by the ladies of the church. The church and furniture cost \$2,500. The pastors since Mr. Sherman have been Revs. George C. Craft, Charles M. Fowler, C.W.O. Nyce, P.S. Brewster and I.P. Fergens. The value of the church property is \$2,500. The membership of the society is 30. The first superintendent of the Sunday-school was Phineas Tuthill, who had 60 scholars. The present superintendent is C.C. Clay, and there are 70 pupils.

**Churches - Roman Catholic** Roman Catholics in the village and township early on went to Dunmore or Moscow to church.

**Glen Home** - The first and for a long time the only resident physican in Roaring Brook Twp was Dr. A. P. Gardner whose farm and residence, "Glen Home" was situated about one mile south of Dunnings. "Glen Home" was a show place in the 1870 and 1880.

**Post Office** The post office was established in 1858 with D. J. Peck as the first postmaster and kept the office in the tannery office.

**Hotel** The first hotel was built by Harrison Rhodes The last named hotel, at the depot, was built in 1872 or 1873 by Crockett Robinson and was owned and kept by Jacob Grman, who purchased it from Truxell, of Wilkes-Barre, in 1875. George Slote kept the hotel built by Rhodes until it was burned.

**Saw Mills** The whole region was a virgin forest abounding with hemlock and pine. Saw mills were soon erected along the Roaring brook, and where water power could not be procured steam saw mills were built. Gilber Dunning built the first water power saw mill there. The next was built by Peck & Stevens, further down the stream. They later sold out to Dr. Benjamin H. Throop, who built two mills at Throopville.

The first steam saw-mill was built by Dr. A. Gardner in 1857, a little south of Forest Hill. The next steam saw-mill was built by Stout & Kreistick, on the mountain two miles southwest from Dunning; it is now owned by John Peck. The third steam saw-mill was then built by Eugene Snyder, about five miles southwest from Dunning, and now owned and operated by J. Rhodes.

**Store** The first store was built by Strong & Robinson, who also operated the tannery and the next by Eugene Snyder, who also had a store at Dunning

**Tannery** In 1856, a portion of the "Dunning property" was purchased by A.M. Maynard, for tannery purposes. It was built in 1857 or 1858, by L. Maynard. He subsequently sold it to Major E.P. Strong and D.T. Peck, Esq., trading as Strong Robinson & Co. It was then sold to Shultz, Southwick & Co., of New York. This tannery was 350 feet in length, 40 feet wide, and had an addition of 150 feet. It was capable of converting 50,000 raw hides annually into leather, worth over \$200,000.

**Tavern** Three public houses cater to the traveling and thirsty public. A settlement sprung up at the foot of Mt Cobb Road. Hunter Range is a settlement of a tavern, a one room School, and a few homes. The pioneer tavern was at "Hunter Range," a mile below Dunning, at the intersection of the Cobb road with the turnpike. This place was once famed for trout fishing, the tavern for its whisky, and was a place of resort for the early settlers on rainy days. The next tavern was built by Harrison Rhodes at Dunning. It was burned a few years later. It stood opposite the Railroad House.

When the lumber development of the region, known as **Roaring Brook Township**, was at its height in the last 1860s and very early 1870s an agitation arose to secure a township charter. This was granted by the Luzerne County Court May 24, 1871. Land to form the township was taken out of Dunmore Borough, Jefferson and Madison townships. James Locklin and Joshua S Miller were the first justices in the township.

With the passing of the timber supply these industries all fled and Dunning morphed into a community of homes and farms. In addition to Dunning there were additional small settlements located throughout the township

"Forest Hill" was a hamlet about a mile south of Dunning where the Forest Hill Cemetery is located. The first monument was that of Charles Thompson, who died March, 1875. Here also was the only grist-mill in Roaring Brook Township - it was owned by J.M. Rhodes, and was built in 1876. Mr Rhodes also has a saw-mill, a store and a blacksmith shop at Forest Hill. The first school house was built in 1855 and was known as the Forest Hill schoolhouse.

"Simenson" was located west of the center of the township on Spring Brook Road in the southwestern part of the township. A school, a boarding house and several homes populated the area. Hazard School was the last school to remain open in Roaring Brook. It was closed in 1927 and the children were transported to the newly-built school in the borough of Elmhurst.

Another settlement was located just off Route 590 on a road to the left, just opposite the now-closed-iron bridge on the upper end of the reservoir. This one room school, the Oak Run School, was closed in 1921



## Chronological Dates

*March 4, 1681 Pennsylvania's three original counties, Philadelphia, Chester, and Bucks, were formed.*

*March 11, 1752 Northampton County was formed from part of Bucks County*

*March 21, 1772 Northumberland County formed from parts of Lancaster, Cumberland, Berks, Bedford and Northampton Counties*

*September 25, 1786 Luzerne County was formed from Northumberland County*

*March 21, 1797 Wayne County was formed from Northampton County*

*February 21, 1810 Susquehanna County was formed from Luzerne County*

*March 26, 1814 Pike County was formed from Wayne County*

*April 1, 1836 Monroe County was formed from Northampton and Pike Counties*

*April 4, 1842 Wyoming County was formed from Luzerne County*

*August 13, 1878 Lackawanna County was formed from Luzerne County.*

## Genealogy of Northeastern Pennsylvania Counties

**Pennsylvania was conceived in 1680 when William Penn petitioned the Privy Council for a grant of land in the new world. The colony was born on March 4, 1681 when the charter was signed. The three original counties were Philadelphia, Chester, and Bucks.**



**Bucks County** had as its original northern boundary the Kittatinny Mountains, or as far as any land might be purchased from the Indians -- a very indeterminate line.

The first county to be organized in addition to the three original ones was Lancaster which was taken from the territory of Chester, May 10, 1729.

**Northampton County** was formed on March 11, 1752, from part of Bucks County and from part of the land William Penn bought on both sides of the Delaware River from the Delaware Indians. The next twenty years witnessed an expansion during which all or part of twenty additional counties were formed in the southeastern section of the Province.

In 1754, white explorers from Connecticut entered the area and soon recognized the potential being afforded by the fertile land, the hunting and fishing opportunities, and the rapidly running streams. Upon returning to Connecticut they formed a group called the "Susquehanna Company" whose purpose was to acquire and colonize these lands. They effected a purchase from the Indians, and therefore became the rightful owners of the land.

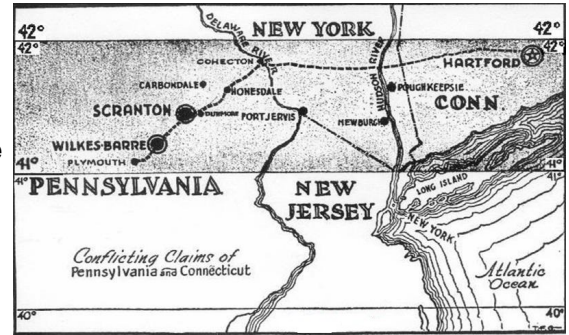
Although today, Wyoming is the name associated with a single valley, it was formerly used to designate all the land purchased by the Susquehanna Company, lying in what is now known as Luzerne, Wyoming, Susquehanna, and Wayne counties. All the inhabitants were designated as "Wyoming Settlers" and were part of Westmoreland County, Connecticut.

*Wayne was set off from Northampton March 21, 1797, when the northeastern corner was completed.*

*Susquehannawas erected February 21, 1810 from Luzerne.*

*Pike was cut from Wayne, March 26, 1814. Monroe was taken from Northampton and Pike April 1, 1836. Wyoming was erected from Luzerne April 4, 1842. The last of the sixty-seven counties was erected August 13, 1878, when Lackawanna was erected from part of Luzerne. Many of the counties received their names at times of some important event in history, or when a distinguished person seemed entitled to be thus honored.*

The charters granted by the English King, for lands on the new continent, were issued with the stipulation that the grantees, before occupying the territory, should obtain the Indian title by purchasing their lands. Some of William Penn's treaties with the Indians did not include the purchase of these lands. Hence, the charters of Pennsylvania and Connecticut conflicted over the land from the 41 to the 42 parallel of latitude. Connecticut claimed, by virtue of her charter, all lands lying between latitude 41 degrees to latitude 42 degrees 2" north while Pennsylvania claimed the same territory under the grant to William Penn. Most of Northeastern Pennsylvania, including the Lackawanna and Wyoming Valleys, lie between the 41 and 42 degrees of latitude.



Northumberland County was formed on March 21, 1772, from parts of Lancaster, Cumberland, Berks, Bedford, and Northampton Counties. Additional land purchases from the Indians now reached to the western boundary of the Province resulting in the limits of Northumberland County being extended to the

western and northern boundaries of Pennsylvania. This territory was so extensive that it became known as the "Mother of Counties", and all or part of thirty of the present-day counties have been carved from it



The year of 1786 marks the beginning of an important era in Northeastern Pennsylvania because of the removal of Indian

tribes and the peaceful solution of the Connecticut-Pennsylvania controversy. The colonies were now rapidly increasing in population and there arose a great hunger for good lands.

**Luzerne County** was formed out of a part of Northumberland County on September 25, 1786. It extended from the Nescopeck Falls to the northern boundary of the State. Within this area all of the New England colony west of New York, except for a few settlers along the Delaware and Paupack, were included. It

comprised within its boundaries all of present day Susquehanna, Wyoming, Columbia, and Lycoming, the greater part of Bradford, and a fractional portion of Sullivan and Montour Counties.

