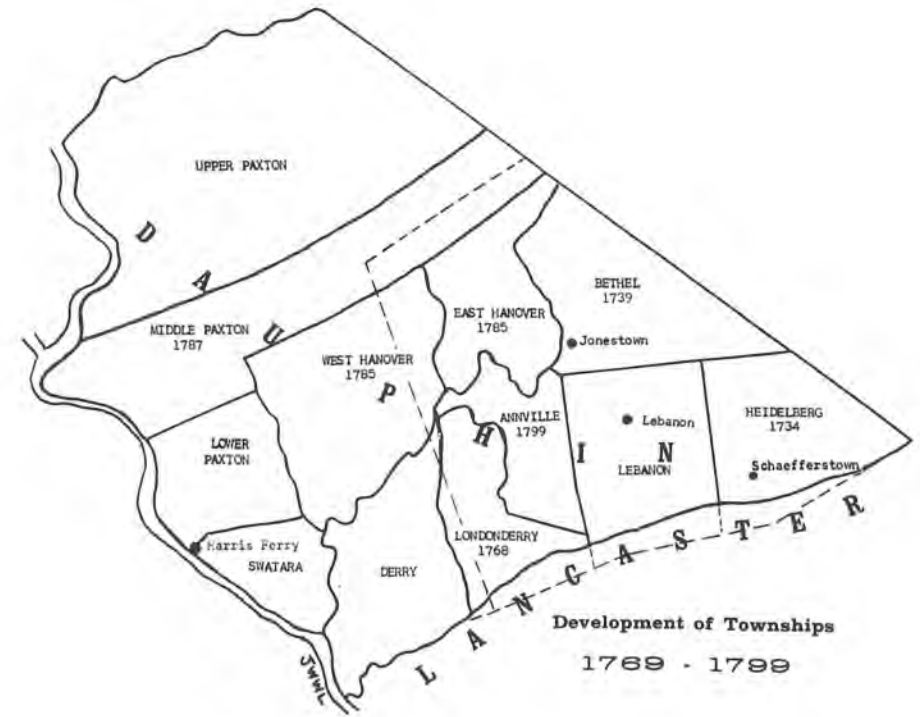




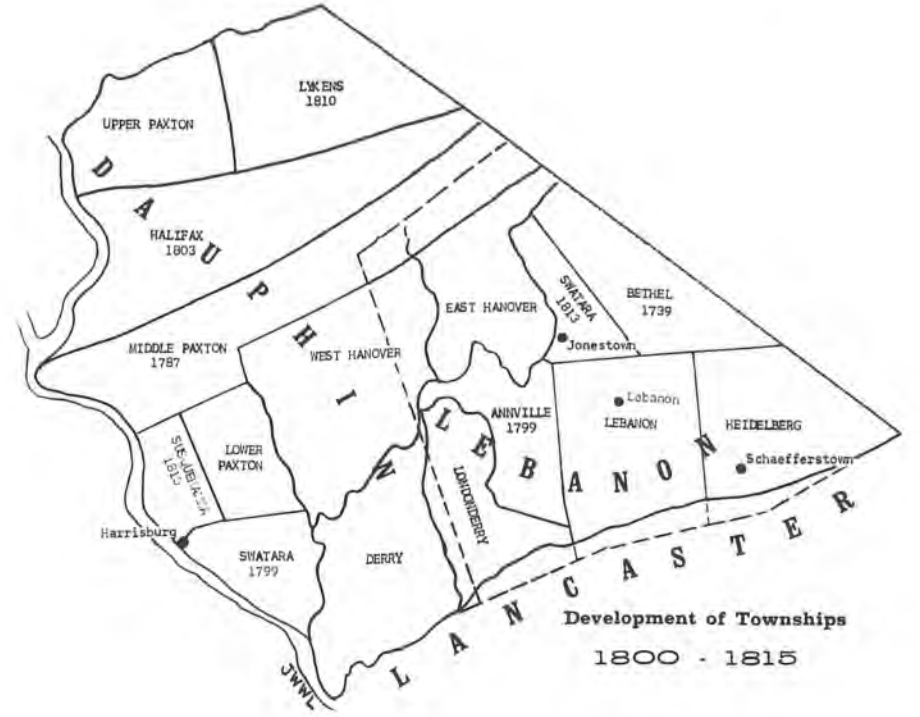
The western limit of Lancaster County at the time of its establishment on 9 June 1729 was the western boundary of Pennsylvania. The Octorara Creek and Schuylkill River formed the eastern boundary of the new county, and the West Branch of the Susquehanna River vaguely formed the northwest limits. Until a purchase of land from the Indians was made in 1736, Lancaster County was pretty well confined to the area southeast of the South and Blue Mountain Range. As the settlers moved north and west, townships were created in the new areas by the Lancaster County Court. What are now York, Adams, Perry, and Cumberland counties had been organized into townships between 1729 and 1749. North of Lancaster County were the original townships of Peshtank (Paxtang, or Paxton), Lebanon and Derry. Along the Schuylkill River were two districts settled but not formally organized into townships.



Development of Townships
1730 - 1768



Development of Townships
1769 - 1799



Development of Townships
1800 - 1815

Berks County was created 11 March 1752, and the Lancaster County townships organized along the Schuylkill River were taken into the new county. It will be noted the new county line divided several of the townships. Inasmuch as knowledge of the land and exact surveying techniques were lacking, many of the early townships were defined vaguely, causing difficulties which were resolved eventually by new surveys. The above map shows the positions of the township lines as accurately as research will permit. Hanover Township was divided into East and West in 1785, but when Lebanon County was established in 1813, the county line separated West Hanover, requiring the changing of names once more. Londonderry Township was a particularly vexing situation because the early survey was totally inaccurate. Later the Dauphin County Londonderry was extended westward to compensate for the loss of the major portion to Lebanon County.

