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# Monaca, Pennsylvania

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Coordinates: 40°41′02″N 80°16′37″W﻿ / ﻿﻿ / ﻿

Monaca (pronounced /miːˈnækə/ *mi-NAK-ə*) is a borough in Beaver County, Pennsylvania, United States along the Ohio River, 25 miles (40 km) northwest of Pittsburgh. Monaca was first incorporated as Phillipsburg in 1840, and had been known by that name since the 1820s. In 1892, the name of the borough was changed to Monaca in honor of the Native American Indian Monacatootha<sup>[1]</sup>. Monacatootha (which means "Great Arrow"), also known as Scarouady, was an Oneida warrior chief, and was a representative of the Iroquois Confederacy with the authority to supervise affairs among the Delawares and Shawnees in that area.<sup>[2]</sup> He met with George Washington in Logstown in 1753. He was a strong friend of the English and campaigned against the French. Monaca Borough took its name from a Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad station at the east end of town. Fire clay is found in large quantities in the vicinity. In 1900, the population was 2,008; in 1910, 3,376; and in 1940, 7,061 people were residents. The population was 6,286 at the 2000 census.

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## History

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The Borough of Monaca has a history dating back to the 18th century. A grant of land on which Monaca now stands was granted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania by patent, bearing the date September 5, 1787, to Colonel Ephraim Blaine (1741–1804), who served in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War, from 1778 to 1782 as commissary-general of the Northern Department<sup>[1]</sup>, and paternal great-grandfather of James G. Blaine. In the patent, this tract was called "Appetite." On August 1, 1813, the land was bought by Francis Helvidi (or Helveti, Helvedi, Helvety), described as a Polish nobleman who was exiled from his native country and immigrated to America. Helvidi, who may have been the first white settler

### Monaca, Pennsylvania

— Borough —



Former New Philadelphia Society's church, which was founded and led by Bernhard Müller from 1832 to 1833.



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Country	<a href="#">United States</a>
State	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>
County	<a href="#">Beaver</a>
Settled	1787
Incorporated	1840
Government	
<span> </span> - <span> </span> Type	Borough Council
<span> </span> - <span> </span> Council President	Thomas "Norm" Ely
<span> </span> - <span> </span> Mayor	John Antoline
Area	
<span> </span> - <span> </span> Total	2.5 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi (6.5 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> )
<span> </span> - <span> </span> Land	2.1 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi (5.4 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> )
<span> </span> - <span> </span> Water	0.4 <span> </span> sq <span> </span> mi (1 <span> </span> km <sup>2</sup> )
Elevation	938 <span> </span> ft (286 <span> </span> m)
Population (2000)	
<span> </span> - <span> </span> Total	6,286
<span> </span> - <span> </span> Density	3,004.0/sq <span> </span> mi (1,159.9/km <sup>2</sup> )
Time zone	<a href="#">Eastern (EST) (UTC-5)</a>
<span> </span> - <span> </span> Summer (DST)	<a href="#">EDT (UTC-4)</a>
Zip code	15061

in Monaca, bought the large "Appetite" tract and raised [sheep](#) on it, but his venture was unsuccessful. [Harmony Society](#) leader [George Rapp](#), one of Helveti's [creditors](#), complained in 1815 "about the risk Helvety is taking with the sheep," and in 1821, the property was sold at [Sheriff's sale](#) to [Rapp](#).

Area code(s)	724
Website	<a href="#">Monaca</a> <span><span><span></span></span></span>

In 1822, the beginnings of a town began when Stephen Phillips and John Graham purchased the property and established their "extensive boat yards" there. It was first named for Phillips, and was long known as Phillipsburg.<sup>[2]</sup> Phillips and Graham built numerous steamboats, including the "William Penn," which carried the [Harmonites](#) from their second settlement in [New Harmony, Indiana](#), to [Beaver County](#) and their third and final home at [Economy](#). In 1832, Phillips and Graham sold the entire tract of land to seceders from the [Harmony Society](#) at [Economy](#), and moved their boat yards to what is now [Freedom](#). The seceders from the Harmony Society were led by [Bernhard Müller](#), known as Count de Leon. The group consisted of [German](#) immigrants who formed a [communal](#) religious society. In 1832, after leaving Economy, with about 250 former [Harmony Society](#) members, Bernhard Müller and his followers started a new community in [Phillipsburg](#) (now Monaca) with the money they obtained in the settlement with the Harmony Society. Here they established the [New Philadelphian Congregation \(New Philadelphia Society\)](#), constructing a church, a hotel, and other buildings. They soon renamed this community [Löwenburg](#) (Lion City). Perhaps because of ongoing litigation, and other financial problems, Müller's group decided to sell their communal land in [Pennsylvania](#) in 1833. Some community members stayed in Monaca, while others followed Müller and his family down the [Ohio River](#) on a [flatboat](#). A number of the ones who followed Müller and his family eventually ended up at the [Germantown Colony](#) near [Minden, Louisiana](#). Many stayed in Monaca, however, and not long after Müller and his followers left, a new religious speaker named [William Keil](#) showed up in the area in the early 1840s. Keil was able to attract some followers who were former [Harmony Society](#)/[New Philadelphia Society](#) members, and his group eventually ended up moving away and settling the communal town of [Bethel, Missouri](#) in 1844, and later settled the town of [Aurora, Oregon](#) in 1856. Nevertheless, a number of former Harmony Society/New Philadelphia Society members stayed in Monaca, and perhaps some of their descendants live in the area to this day. In 1840, the area was incorporated as the "Borough of Phillipsburg" from the [Moon Township](#) site. The first burgess was Frederick Charles Speyerer, and the first council Edward Acker, Jacob Schaffer, Henry Jung, George Forstner, and Adam Schule.

Dr. Edward Acker established a "Watercure Sanatorium" in Phillipsburg in 1848, and in 1856 when the borough's first post office was established, it took the name "[Water Cure](#)." In 1865, Reverend William G. Taylor bought the Sanatorium buildings for his Soldiers' Orphans Home. The Home, according to one of the students, consisted of a "dormitory, dining room, schoolhouse, bathhouse, woodshed, carpenter shop and a two-acre playground. " It burned in 1876. There's a historical marker, located near the point where Fourth Street meets Route 18, which reads: "Water Cure Sanatorium founded 1848 by Dr. Edward Acker. Used [hydropathy](#) or water to heal. First hospital in [Beaver County](#). Town's first post office, 1856. Phillipsburg Soldiers Orphans School founded 1866 by Rev. William Taylor. Destroyed by fire 1876. Beaver County Historical Research & Landmarks Foundation".

[Thiel College](#) was founded here in 1866, and moved to [Greenville](#) five years later. There's a historical marker in town, located on Fourth Street, which reads: "Site of [Thiel College](#) endowed by A. Louis Thiel and founded in 1866 as Theil Hall by [Rev. William A. Passavant](#). Chartered in 1870 as Thiel College of The [Evangelical Lutheran Church](#) with Rev. Henry W. Roth as first president. Moved to [Greenville, PA](#), 1871. Beaver County Historical Research & Landmarks Foundation".

In 1892, the name of the [borough](#) was changed from Phillipsburg to Monaca in honor of the [Native American Indian](#) Monacatootha<sup>[3]</sup>  (who was also known as [Scarouady](#)).

In the borough's history, manufacturers made tons of enameled porcelain ware, glass, tile, tubing, drawn steel and wire. Today, [Phoenix Glass Company](#)/[Anchor Hocking](#) Plant #44 is located in Monaca.

In early November 2003, the largest [hepatitis A](#) outbreak in [American](#) history occurred due to contaminated [green onions](#) at the defunct [Chi-Chi's](#) Mexican restaurant in the [Beaver Valley Mall](#) in Monaca. There were at least 660 confirmed cases, and four deaths.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Geography

[[edit](#)]

Monaca is located at 40°41′2″N 80°16′37″W﻿ (40.683966, -80.276986)<sup>[4]</sup>.

According to the **United States Census Bureau**, the borough has a total area of 2.5 square miles (6.5 km²), of which, 2.1 square miles (5.4 km²) of it is land and 0.4 square miles (1.1 km²) of it (16.40%) is water.

## Demographics

[[edit](#)]

As of the **census**<sup>[5]</sup> of 2000, there were 6,286 people, 2,709 households, and 1,741 families residing in the borough. The **population density** was 3,004.0 people per square mile (1,161.3/km²). There were 2,892 housing units at an average density of 1,382.1/sq mi (534.3/km²). The racial makeup of the borough was 97.1% **White**, 1.9% **African American**, 0.2% **Asian**, 0% from **other races**, and 0.7% from two or more races. **Hispanic** or **Latino** of any race were 0.6% of the population.

There were 2,709 households out of which 26.8% had children under the age of 18 living with them, 47.6% were **married couples** living together, 12.7% had a female householder with no husband present, and 35.7% were non-families. 32.2% of all households were made up of individuals and 18.8% had someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.31 and the average family size was 2.93.

In the borough the population was spread out with 22.0% under the age of 18, 6.8% from 18 to 24, 26.9% from 25 to 44, 23.2% from 45 to 64, and 21.1% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 41 years. For every 100 females there were 87.3 males. For every 100 females age 18 and over, there were 83.4 males.

The median income for a household in the borough was \$33,706, and the median income for a family was \$45,046. Males had a median income of \$35,436 versus \$24,375 for females. The **per capita income** for the borough was \$17,001. About 8.1% of families and 8.9% of the population were below the **poverty line**, including 16.7% of those under age 18 and 3.1% of those age 65 or over.

## Notable natives

[[edit](#)]

- **Brad Davis**, Professional Basketball player
- **Ed DeChellis**, head coach of the **Penn State men's basketball** team
- **Dusty Drake**, country music artist
- **Mike Manzo**, former chief of staff to **Bill DeWeese**
- **Teddy Yarosz**, **Boxing**, former Middleweight Champion of the World
- **Bill Zopf**, **NBA** player for the **Milwaukee Bucks**

## See also

[[edit](#)]

- **List of cities and towns along the Ohio River**

## Gallery

[[edit](#)]



The house where **Bernhard Müller** lived in Monaca, PA, from 1832 to 1833.



The **Pump House** along the **Ohio River** in Monaca. Erected 1895. Reconstructed 1940. **W.P.A.** Project No. 21284.



Entrance of **Anchor Hocking** Plant #44 in Monaca.



The **Phoenix Glass Company/Anchor Hocking** Plant #44 in Monaca.

## References

[[edit](#)]

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Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area

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v • d • e

Municipalities and communities of Beaver County, Pennsylvania

[[show](#)]

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