

# Small Historic Towns Across America.

By Christina Welch



## Brief History of Danville, Pennsylvania

Danville was established in 1792. William Montgomery purchased land and created a trading post named the Montgomery's Landing. Montgomery also built a house in Danville that is still standing and now a museum.

This town is best known for its iron ore works. There are many iron and coal mines in the surrounding mountains that supported the local economy. North of Danville was a large lumber harvesting operation, the Susquehanna river, which flows beside Danville, was used as a method to transport logs south. Danville was a resting point for the loggers traveling with the timber.

There is an old charm in Danville with the 19th-century architecture. Many shops and restaurants line the main road in the town.

But there is also many outdoor activities including an amusement park not far from the town, kayaking, hiking and so much more.



## Location and Driving Directions from closest major U.S. Airport(s).

From Harrisburg International Airport (MDT) take route 15 north to Sunbury then route 54 into Danville. About a one hour drive.

## Who was President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at that time?



The time the town was founded George Washington was re-elected as the president of the United States for a second term. There were 15 states that made up the United States at this time. The United States Postal Service was created and the cost of a stamp was between 6 cents and 12 cents. The price was dependent on the distance the letter was being sent.

Politics were still being developed and political parties were being formed in order to create a system of checks and balances, the way it was meant to be according to the newly written Constitution.

## **Oldest businesses/largest businesses today.**

The oldest business in Danville is the Post-Office. It was built in 1806 with William Montgomery as the first postmaster. Today Geisinger is the largest business in Danville. It is a world famous hospital and is also where the Ronald McDonald house was founded.

## **City Government**

A borough council that consists of a Mayor and 8 council chairs manages the town of Danville. The town meetings are held every other week.

## **Historic attractions in the area. Festivals and Events.**

The Iron Heritage Festival is an annual event celebrating the town's heritage and the invention of the iron rail. Participants enjoy displaying technics used back in the 1800's to make iron, weave cotton and even built a log raft and float it down the river.

Some of the attractions in the surrounding area are covered bridges and a classic old amusement park called Knobels Grove that still operates some of the original rides today.

## **Where can we stay if we visit Danville?**



**Abigail House Bed and Breakfast** This Victorian home was built in 1871 and originally owned by Abigail Geisinger. This bed and breakfast is just minutes away from the center of Danville plus many more enjoyable destinations. The house is also only six blocks for the Geisinger Hospital. There are four charming rooms in the bed and breakfast along with many other rooms to make you feel at home. This house has many reviews online rating it five stars for their customer service and enjoyment.

## **Why would I want to visit this historic small town.**

My father inherited the family farm, which he grew up on in Danville. To this day we visit the farm frequently even though we live in Virginia. When we visit Danville we often have lunch at the local sub shop and walk through town. There are many antique shops and friendly faces that line the streets. We know a lot of people in the town and so it is fun to go back and see old family friends.

## **Links you may wish to visit.**

<http://www.ironheritagefestival.net/index.html>

<http://www.danvilleboro.org/Pages/Home.aspx>

<http://www.abigailhousedanville.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppxcgJbVVKA>

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