Blossburg Route

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Blossburg Route

In 1792, a party of immigrants building the Williamson Road from Lycoming County to New York under the leadership of Robert and Benjamin Patterson discovered coal within the town limits of what is now Blossburg. When the group reached the Tioga River, they established a supply camp upon the banks.

Aaron Bloss, considered to be the first settler of Blossburg, moved to Tioga County in 1801. In1802, he moved to the area known as "Peter's Camp." Bloss made his first attempt to found the town by changing the name of Peter's Camp to Blossburg. Blossburg was finally recognized and incorporated as a borough in August 1871.

Shortly after 1810, when David Clemens made the first effort to mine and market coal, the real mining history evolved in Blossburg. Clemens opened a mine on Bear Run between 1812 and 1815, which at the time only served the Painted Post area. Due to the poor road conditions and poor navigating ability along the Tioga River, the first efforts of coal shipping were on a small scale. More important than the local runs, Blossburg Coal was being shipped to Albany where it influenced railroad and canal navigation legislation.

The railroad found its way through Covington, from Corning, in July of 1840. Later that year, the railroad opened for locomotives to travel throughout the Twin Tiers. For more than 150 years, coal has been a vital role in the development of Blossburg. The town now honors its history and heritage with an annual celebration known as the Coal Festival. This celebration takes place at the recreational complex known as Island Park.