

History

The New River Valley has a rich and varied history. Montgomery County is the oldest County in the New River Valley, formed from Fincastle County in 1777. The County was named for General Richard Montgomery, a Revolutionary War hero. The first settlement was near what is now Blacksburg, the frontier of Virginia's Southwest at the time. Christiansburg, the County seat, was incorporated in 1792 and was an important post on the Wilderness Road. Blacksburg was incorporated as a Town in 1871.

Floyd County, which was formed in 1831 from Montgomery County, was named for John Floyd, Governor of Virginia at the time. The County consists of 380 square miles and is situated in the Blue Ridge uplands. The traditional agricultural economy of Floyd County is well adapted to the local topography. The town seat, originally known as Jacksonville for President Andrew Jackson, changed its name to Floyd in 1896. The Town of Floyd consists of approximately 270 acres and is located in the central section of the County.

Giles County, formed in 1806 from Montgomery, Tazewell, and Monroe (WV) Counties, was named in honor of William B. Giles, Governor of Virginia from 1827-1830. The County was the site of several battles during the Civil War. The County seat is Pearisburg, which was incorporated in 1914. Giles County originally comprised a territory of about 100 miles in length and 20 miles in width, giving it an area of approximately 3,000 square miles. The present land area is 362 square miles.

The area presently known as Pulaski County was explored by Abraham Wood in 1654, but it was not settled until 1745 by a group of German settlers known as Dunkards. This settlement became known as Dunkard's Bottom and is presently covered by Claytor Lake. This territory was under the jurisdiction of the County of Fincastle until 1777, when Montgomery and Wythe Counties were partitioned from Fincastle. Pulaski County was formed in 1839 from Montgomery and Wythe counties. The County was named in honor of Count Casimir Pulaski, a Polish patriot and an American Revolutionary War hero. From 1756 until 1895, Newbern was the location of the County seat. In 1895, the County seat was moved to the Town of Pulaski where it remains today.

Radford, formerly called Ingles Ferry, was incorporated as a Montgomery County town in 1885 and was named after Dr. John B. Radford. The Town achieved City status in 1892. The City consists of 9.63 square miles and is centrally located between the four counties that comprise the New River Valley.