

The Delaware Canal 1834 and Morris Canal connect with the Lehigh Navigation (completed in 1829) at Easton. The three-canal system carried anthracite to the Philadelphia and New York markets.

## 1838

The Upper Grand section of the Lehigh Navigation is built from Mauch Chunk to White Haven. With 20 dams and 29 locks, this waterway overcame a difference in elevation of more than 600 feet.

The American 1840 **Industrial Revolution** begins with the first large-scale production of iron using anthracite coal and local iron ore, at the Lehigh Crane Iron Works in what is now Catasauqua.

Slate quarrying be-1848 gins rapid growth with the founding of Bangor by Welsh immigrant Robert Jones. The "Slate Belt" extends through central Northampton County from Slatington to Bangor.

## 1855

The peak year of anthracite coal transport on the Lehigh and Delaware canals; 1.3 million tons of anthracite are delivered from northern mines. The Lehigh Valley Railroad opens late in the year.

## 1862

June 3-5, the Lehigh River region's worst-ever natural disaster, destroys the Upper Grand section, the upper Lehigh lumbering industry, and much of the Lehigh Canal.

The Great Flood of

The Bethlehem Iron 1863 Company begins production of iron railroad rails at its South Bethlehem location. Bethlehem Iron Company was the predecessor of the Bethlehem Steel Company.

Fire at the Avondale 1869 Mine near Plymouth, Luzerne County, kills 110 miners. In response, Pennsylvania enacts the first mine safety laws in the United States, but the disaster spurs mine union activity.