Philip Ginder discovers anthracite coal on Sharp Mountain in Carbon County, later called Summit Hill. Ginder’s discovery became folk legend that was carried down through story and song.

The Abbott Street area of Easton becomes first industrial park in the United States, using water power from the Lehigh Canal. By 1840, over 1,000 men were employed at 12 industrial sites.

The Lehigh Canal, a two-way navigational system owned by the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, opens between Mauch Chunk and Easton, a distance of 46 miles. The canal was completed in two years.

White’s bear trap lock system allows coal ships to navigate the Lehigh River and enter the Delaware River at Easton. The one-way system lasted until 1826; construction of the Lehigh Canal began in 1827.

The Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company opens the Gravity Railroad, linking coal mines at Summit Hill to the Lehigh River at Mauch Chunk. The gravity railway lasted 100 years as a carrier of coal and tourists.

An open cut coal pit known as “The Old Mine”, in the Summit Hill area - was started by White and Hazard. This mine was located in the area of the “Mammoth Vein,” the most important coal deposit of the day.


