



1727 Founding of Durham Furnace in Bucks County. The furnace produced pig and bar iron and during the American Revolution cannons, ballshot, and other military equipment for George Washington's army.

1791 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.

1818 Josiah White and Erskine Hazard form the Lehigh Coal Company and the Lehigh Navigation Company and gain navigational rights on the Lehigh River from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

1819 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.

1820 White's bear trap lock system allows coal arks 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.

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.

1829 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.

1832 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.