

## Mountain Top Area Time Line

- 1675 - Delaware Indians move north in search of safety, food and shelter in Wyoming Valley. They hunt and fish the Wapwallopen watershed and travel on the Warrior Trail through the Mountain Top area.
- 1682 - Mountain Top becomes part of Bucks County.
- 1737 - William Lutsey builds the first framed house in Hanover Twp. in an area that will later become part of Slocum Twp.
- 1738 - Phillip Myers builds a log cabin in an area of Hanover Twp. that will later become part of Slocum Twp. It is used as a Public School and meeting house.
- 1752 - Northampton County is formed from part of Bucks County.
- 1755 - A great drought prevails with no rain for 8 weeks, ruining the crops in all of Hanover Twp., parts of which will become Wright, Slocum and Dorrance Townships.
- 1772 - Northumberland is carved out of Northampton County.
- 1769 - Wapwallopen is founded.
- 1770 - Nanticoke, one of the five original settling communities in Luzerne County, is renamed Hanover Twp.
- 1785 - Settlers from Northampton County move to Dorrance.  
John Lutsey settles in an area of Hanover Twp. that would become Slocum Twp.
- 1790 - Newport Twp. is founded.
- 1798 - Conrad Wickiser becomes the first settler in Mountain Top.
- 1799 - The following are rated as taxable in the Township of Newport: John Alden, John Lutsey, James Millage, Jacob Mullen, James Mullen Jr., Henry Fritz, and Jeremiah Vandermark. This area will later become Slocum Twp.
- 1811 - *The Gleaner*, a Wilkes-Barre newspaper, gives the account of finding the human bones near the Three Corner Pond (now called Lake Nuangola) of a man named Parker, missing since 1799, the location hence called "Dead Man's Bones."
- 1820 - James Wright builds the first sawmill in Wright Twp.
- 1833 - Cornelius Garrison builds a saw mill on the Wapwallopen Creek.
- 1836 - Mrs. John Ogin is the first person buried in Slocum Twp.

- 1838 - John Rosencranz is the first teacher in Hanover Twp., in an area that will become Slocum Twp.
- 1840 - Dorrance Twp. is formed out of Newport Twp.  
In Wright Twp. the first schoolhouse is built of logs, near S. B. Stiver's in the northwest part of the Twp.  
Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad is completed from White Haven to Fairview.
- 1841 - Dorrance Twp. elects Matthew Engler Justice of the Peace.
- 1843 - Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company completes the building of the Ashley Planes.
- 1844 - John Ogin is the second person buried in Slocum twp.
- 1848 - Silas Alexander opens a small store in Newport Twp. in an area that will become Slocum Village.
- 1849 - The Slocum Evangelical Church is founded.
- 1850 - According to the Luzerne County census, the population of Dorrance Twp. is 420.
- 1851 - Wright Twp. is formed out of Hanover Twp. on April 12<sup>th</sup>.
- 1852 - George Carey is elected Justice of the Peace in Wright Twp.
- 1854 - Slocum Twp. is carved out of Newport Twp., a farming population numbering 377.
- 1856 - Dorrance Twp. elects Samuel I. Horlacher Justice of the Peace.
- 1858 - Stephen Lee is elected Justice of the Peace in Wright Twp.  
According to Luzerne County Report of Superintendents: Dorrance Twp., has 4 schools, with a total of 154 Students, at a cost of \$898.86; Wright Twp., 3 schools, 50 students, cost \$538.17; Slocum Twp., 2 schools, 64 students, cost \$ 141.71
- 1860 - Methodist Episcopal Church is dedicated in Slocum Twp.  
According to the Luzerne County census Dorrance's population is 553, and Wright Twp.'s is 278.
- 1861 - Benjamin Lear is elected Justice of the Peace in Slocum Twp.
- 1863 - Aron Boyd is commissioned Justice of the Peace.
- 1865 - Slocum Twp. School District files a report with the governor written in German.

There are two one-room schools in the district.

Dorrance has four saw mills, a grist mill, and a tavern on the Wapwallopen Creek.

1866 - A log road from Solomon's Gap to Ashley (Skunktown) is opened and will later become the Wilkes-Barre Hazleton Turnpike.

Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad opens the Back Track, from Solomon Gap to Ashley.

1867 - Lehigh Valley Railroad extends its line to Wilkes-Barre through Fairview.

1868 - Willard Ruger is elected Justice of the Peace in Wright Twp.

1869 - In Slocum Twp. the Evangelical Church is founded on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

1870 - According to the Luzerne County Census, Slocum Twp has a population of 317; Wright Twp., 603.

1871 - The Central Railroad of New Jersey leases the Lehigh & Susquehanna Railroad Division of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company.

1872 - Methodist Episcopal Church is founded. A church is built on the White Haven Road (now Woodlawn Avenue).

Cornerstone of the Stairville Methodist Episcopal Church is laid.

From Mountain Top to Dorrance there are nine sawmills in operation.

1873 - Crystal Spring Water Company constructs a reservoir on Wilkes-Barre Mountain near Penobscot to provide water for The Ashley Planes at Solomon Gap.

Slocum Post Office is established, and Ben Lear carries the mail to Nescopeck twice a week.

1874 - John B. Glover is elected Justice of the Peace in Wright Twp.

1876 - The Fairview Hotel (now the Mountain Top Hotel) is built by Harry Keeler.

1878 - Dorrance Twp. elects Abraham Guldin Justice of the Peace.

1879 - Morris Brush is elected supervisor and tax collector for Wright Twp.

1880 - According to the Luzerne County census, Slocum Twp. has a population of 377; Dorrance Twp., 639; Wright Twp., 881.

Presbyterian church is built on the White Haven Road.

1881 - The Methodist Episcopal Church erects a church on the White Haven Road (now Woodlawn Ave.)

1883 - George Smith is operating a blacksmith shop, Hotel and Post Office at Albert Corners.

- 1884 - Cornerstone is laid for St. Catherine's Catholic Church, Solomon Gap.  
J.E. Patterson opens the Glen Summit Water Company.  
John Trimble builds the Trimble Hotel and Restaurant in Solomon Gap.
- 1885 - The first lots are sold on the southwest shore of The Three Corner Pond (now Lake Nuangola) by Ben Meyers of Wilkes-Barre. C. B. Price builds one of the first cottages there.
- 1886 - Isaiah G. Coburn opens a drug store in Fairview Twp., which his brother operates.  
Construction of St. Catherine's Church is completed in the spring.
- 1888 - Fairview Twp. separates from Wright Twp. over a school matter.  
Construction of the Glen Summit Chapel is completed.
- 1890 - Luzerne County Census for Dorrance Twp. is 742. Fairview Twp. has 1008 people, with Fairview village at 961, and Wright Twp. at 152. The decline in population in Wright is due to Fairview Twp. separating from Wright Twp.
- 1891 - Mount Zion Church in Slocum is organized.  
Mountain Top Methodist Church is erected on Woodlawn Avenue.
- 1894 - Fairview (Mountain Top) Hotel burns, but is reconstructed.  
Lehigh Valley Railroad opens the Glen Summit Springs Hotel on Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>.
- 1895 -
- 1897 - Fairview School is built, including a three-year high school.
- 1898 -
- 1899 -
- 1900 - Nuangola Union Chapel is built, but is not dedicated till summer of 1904.  
John Fols builds a hotel called The Fols Mountain House.
- 1901 -
- 1903 - Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton Railway opens with service to Nuangola and Wright Twp. The train is known as the *Cannon Ball*.
- 1904 -
- 1905 -
- 1906 -
- 1907 -

- 1908 - Construction on Route 170 begins. This will later become Route 309.  
Nuangola Borough is carved from Wright and Slocum Townships.  
Slocum United Methodist Church is moved to its present location on the Blue Ridge Trail by Stanley W. Stackhouse and his wife, Alice.  
Schutzen-Vereln Park opens on Richard Road (now Heslop Road).
- 1909 - The Glen Summit Hotel and Land Company sells properties to the cottage owners' newly formed Glen Summit Company.
- 1910 - Amos Storm and sons Edward and Perry start a General Store in Nuangola Borough.
- 1911 - Blytheburn, a planned community, is started by Thomas Wells along the Wilkes-Barre and Hazleton Railway, to rival Glen Summit and Lake Nuangola.
- 1912 - Ice is harvested from the Ice Lakes for the first time, then cut, stored and shipped on the Wilkes-Barre & Hazleton Railway.
- 1913 - In Nuangola Borough the Board of Health reports 14 cases of contagious disease: 13 cases of whooping cough and 1 case of scarlet fever.
- 1914 - Nuangola Borough draws up an ordinance prohibiting cattle and hogs from running at large, under penalty of one dollar a head and costs.
- 1915 - Glen Summit Company has the Glen Summit Hotel torn down, as it can no longer be run on a paying basis.
- 1916 - Dupont Powder Mill explodes in Fairview Twp., and the operation moves to Laurel Run.
- 1917 - The people of the Mountain Top Area learn that the United States enters World War I.
- 1918 - President Theodore Roosevelt stays at the Fairview (Mountain Top) Hotel.  
Mountain Top American Legion Post #781 is founded.
- 1919 - Nuangola Borough Council pays John Ambosie \$15.00 for the lighting of the 12 kerosene street lights for the month of July.
- 1920 - Political feud has one half of Blytheburn leaving Wright Twp. and going to Rice Twp.  
Blytheburn becomes second only to Glen Summit Springs for Mountain Top vacationing.
- 1921 -
- 1922 - Gracedale Park opens on Woodlawn Avenue in Fairview,
- 1923 - Department of Forestry builds a 65-foot fire tower on Penobscot Knob, at 2140 feet

elevation. A Mr. May is the first tower man.

- 1924 - Nuangola Borough enters into an agreement with Luzerne County for the oiling of the Borough's public roads at cost of \$500.00.
- 1925 - Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Reign of Pennsylvania conducts the dedication of the Slocum Twp. Public School Building.
- 1926 - Nuangola Lake Association pays \$62.50 per month from June 15<sup>th</sup> to Sept.15<sup>th</sup> toward policeman's salary.
- 1927 - Albert Methodist Church is dedicated, after being dismantled and moved from the Powder Glen at Wapwallopen.  
Rice Twp. is formed from Wright and Hanover Townships.
- 1928 - Presbyterian church is built on Chestnut Street.  
Albert Ayre starts a business that will become A&R Supply.
- 1929 - Nuangola Borough Council draws an order for \$20.00 payment to the state's Workmen's Insurance Fund for Workmen's Compensation.
- 1930 -
- 1931 - Nuangola Borough has 120 voters registered.  
Nuangola Borough decides to erect a two-room schoolhouse to replace the one-room building.
- 1932 -
- 1933 - Wilkes-Barre & Hazleton Railway closes down operations on July 17<sup>th</sup>.
- 1934 - Grove Theater opens in Nuangola Borough with play *Elizabeth Steps Out*.  
Nuangola School on Nuangola Road is of brick construction.
- 1935 - Ashley/Mountain Top Boulevard is replaced and realigned.
- 1936 - Nuangola Borough Council makes a payment of bills for equipment: clay picks, pick handles, sledge hammer handles, 6-lb hammer, 5-lb hammer, 3 garden rakes, 1 wheelbarrow, and 3 sprinkler cans, for a total of \$22.95.
- 1937 - Wright Twp. School on S. Main Rd holds a ground breaking in October.
- 1938 - Nuangola Borough receives permission to install a fire alarm switching device in the Luzerne Telephone Company building central office for telephone operators to activate.
- 1939 - Mountain Top Hose Company is founded.
- 1940 - After the Glen Summit Casino is destroyed by a fire in 1939, a new building is erected.

Paperwork of North End Road is presented for approval when the project is completed by the W. P. A.

1941-

1942 - Citizens and veterans of Wright Twp. erect its Honor Roll on the Wright Twp. School grounds.

1943 - Slocum Seventh Day Adventists build a church on the Blue Ridge Trail.

1944 - Nuangola Borough Council agrees to purchase the premises at the corner of County Highway and Lake Ave. from the heirs of Elizabeth Rader for \$1000.00 for the building of a community center.

1945 - The United States drops the atomic bomb on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, essentially ending World War II.

1946 - Peter and Ester Solutko build a restaurant called The Stage Coach Inn.

1947-Deets Holding Company starts as a tractor-trailer transportation business that will become Northeast Express.

Stiver School in Rice Twp. burns down on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

1948 - Ashley Planes are closed with the introduction of diesel engines by the Central Railroad of New Jersey on the Back Track.

1949 - George Yeager Funeral Home pens on Rte. 309 at the Triangle.

The Triangle Pharmacy is opened in June

A serious forest fire sweeps 400+ acres between Penobscot and Glen Summit.

1950 - Mountain Top Area Lions Club is established.

Town hall in Mountain Top is acquired by Fairview Twp.

Fairview Twp. Memorial Park is dedicated on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

1951 - The water carnivals at Nuangola Borough are resumed after a 25-year lapse.

1952 - Crestwood Industrial Park is established by the Committee of 100.

Mountain Top Area Ambulance Association is formed by residents Dr. Joseph T. Buckley, Nicholas Hollock, Burt Neal and George Yeager.

1953 - Rev. Edward P. Nolan becomes Chaplain of American Legion Post #781, an office he hold until 1993.

Foster Wheeler Corp. opens the first plant in the Crestwood Industrial Park.

1954- St. Jude Catholic Church is dedicated.

Rice Twp. Fire Department is established.

King Fifth Wheel opens in the Crestwood Industrial Park

- 1955 - Jointure of schools from Fairview, Wright, Rice, Dennison, Slocum, White Haven, Dorrance, Penn Lake and Nuangola becomes Central Luzerne County Joint School District.
- 1956 - The Eberhard Faber Co. opens in the Crestwood Industrial Park.
- 1957 - Mountain Top opens post office building on Kirby Avenue, leased from Abod family, now the site of the Rite-Aid Drug Store.  
First edition of *The Mountain Top News* is printed in January.
- 1958 - Elementary school and convent are built at St Jude.  
Dorrance Township Fire Company is chartered.  
Grove Theater at Nuangola closes.
- 1959 - Lehigh Valley's famed *Black Diamond* makes its last trip through Fairview Township on May 11<sup>th</sup>.  
Radio Corporation of America opens in the Crestwood Industrial Park.
- 1960 - Christ Methodist Church is completed and consecrated.
- 1961 - Natural gas lines reach Mountain Top.  
Fibrous Glass Products opens in the Crestwood Industrial Park.  
Lehigh Valley's train *The Maple Leaf* is the last passenger train to travel through Mountain Top.
- 1962 - Kiwanis Club of Mountain Top is formed.  
Alberdeen Road is paved.
- 1963 - Central Luzerne County Joint School District is dedicated.  
Crestwood Parent-Teacher Association is formed.  
Cable TV comes to Mountain Top. Abod's Hotel is built on Kirby Ave.  
Dana Perfume opens in Crestwood Industrial Park.
- 1964 - U.S. Rubber Company opens in the industrial park.  
Crestwood Pharmacy opens.  
Mountain Top Container opens in the industrial park.
- 1965 - Rte. 309 is reconstructed and made 4 lanes from Solomon Gap to Ashley.
- 1966 - Ground is broken for St. Paul's Lutheran Church.  
Bendix Corp. opens in the Industrial Park.
- 1967 - Interstate Route 81 opens through Rice and Dorrance Townships.
- 1968 - Crestwood High School football team is formed.
- 1969 - Central Luzerne County Joint School District is renamed Crestwood School District.

1970 - Rice Elementary School is built.

Post Office moves to Kirby Avenue and North Main Street (the Wideman Lease).

Desiderio Funeral Home opens on South Mountain Boulevard.

1971 -

1972 - Agnes Flood strikes Wilkes-Barre, and hundreds of families migrate to the five townships which make up the Mountain Top Area.

1973 - The Grace Independent Baptist Church is founded in Slocum Twp. on Blue Ridge Trail under the direction of Rev. Harold Hildebrand.

1974 - Deets Holding Company pioneers a new form of travel with Auto-Bus.

1975 - Mountain Top Hose Company #1 dedicates its new building on Woodlawn Avenue.

1976 - McDonald's opens the first fast-food restaurant in Mountain Top.

Wright Township Park is built.

Mountain Top Regional Communication Center is formed.

Weis Markets opens a shopping center on the old Sunset Drive-in site.

1977 - Slocum Township Volunteer Ambulance Association is formed.

Mountain Top Joint Sewer Authority begins construction.

Fairview High School on Gracedale Avenue burns down.

1978 - Slocum Veterans' Memorial Park is built.

Dorrance Township opens a recreation park.

1979 -

1980 -

1981 -

1982 -

1983 -

1984 - Foster Wheeler Corporation announces the closing of its boiler and pressurized vessels plant in the Crestwood Industrial Park.

1985 - Marian Sutherland Kirby Library opens.

1986 - Mountain Top on the Move is established.

1987 -

1988 - Orloski's Quick Marts and Service Stations, Inc., is named Small Business of the Year by the US Small Business Association.

Mountain Top reaches a high of 104 degrees.

1989 - St. Paul's Lutheran Church opens the Mountain Top Free Clinic.

1990 -

1991 -

1992 -

1993 -

1994 -

1995 -

1996 - Methodist church building on Woodlawn Avenue burns down.

1997 -

1998 - New Little League Baseball and Softball Complex opens on part of the Laude Farm, in Albert, Wright Township.

1999 -

2000 -According to the U.S. Census, the population of Mountain Top area is as follows:

Dorrance Twp., 2109; Fairview Twp., 3995; Nuangola Borough, 671; Rice Twp., 2460; Slocum Twp., 1112; and Wright Twp., 5593.

2001 - Mountain Top Historical Society is chartered on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

2002-

2003-

2004 - Foster Wheeler Energy Corporation reports to Pennsylvania Environmental

Protection Agency that private wells of residents of Church Road are contaminated with TCE.

- 2005 - An F2 tornado cuts a 15-mile path through Mountain Top on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, destroying roofs, downing trees, and causing loss of power to most of the area. Mr. Z's grocery store and Crestwood High School incur extensive damage.
- 2006 - Sealy Corporation breaks ground for a 210,000-square-foot manufacturing facility in the Crestwood Industrial Park.
- 2007- WNEP-TV's transmission tower on Penobscot Knob collapses in a severe ice, wind, and snow storm on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>.
- 2008 - Mountain Top residents Lauren Powley and Sara Silveti play field hockey in the Summer Olympic games in Beijing China.  
Sisters Sherrie Garron and Lisa Eckert reopen the former Morris Family Restaurant as Rise and Shine on Rte.309.
- 2009 - Mountain Top Hotel, built in 1874, is donated to the Mountain Top Hose Company #1 by Kevin Foley.  
HPG Co. closes on Mar. 26<sup>th</sup>, filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. HPG started on Apr. 11<sup>th</sup>, 1994, when they purchased Huls America Inc., prior owners of the Dynamit Nobel and Harte & Company 1966. The company was sold to Chris Hackett, who will open its doors on May 15<sup>th</sup> as i2M.
- 2010 - Rise and Shine Restaurant on South Mountain Blvd. Rte.309 closes