

A Summer Getaway

By Cyan Fink, DLNHC Inventory Coordinator

June brings the official start of summer and with it, the heat and humidity. While the summer heat for us can feel unbearable, we are lucky enough to be able to escape to our air conditioning. However, people of yesteryear had to be a little more creative to get away from the “summer in the city.” Some wealthier families would flee to the mountains where the trees were plentiful, the water clean, and the air fresh. With the help of trolleys and trains, resorts, hotels, and parks opened to welcome many from Philadelphia and the Lehigh Valley. Below is a list of some of the places people in our corridor may have spent their summers.

Kittatinny Hotel – Delaware Water Gap

As the oldest of the Pocono resorts, it started as a public house in 1829. The hotel was first a stagecoach stop, but later had daily stops by trains coming from New York and Philadelphia. By the 1880s the hotel had a barroom, a ballroom, and over 200 rooms for guests. The hotel was known for its beautiful scenery which drew hikers, fishers and swimmers. Later it boasted its own steamboat for guests to relax as it took passengers down the Delaware River.

The Water Gap House – Delaware Water Gap

Built as a rival to the Kittatinny Hotel, The Water Gap House was built by Luke W. Broadhead in 1872. It had a large porch which gave visitors “views for 30 miles in every direction...”

Glenwood House – Delaware Water Gap

The Glenwood opened in 1862 and is still open and operating as an Inn today. The house boasted a capacity between 200 and 400 guests.

Castle Inn – Delaware Water Gap

This beautiful oasis was built in 1906 and ran as a hotel until 1952. The property then had a second life as the as music hub for Fred Waring, “America’s Singing Master.” When it opened, the Inn boasted 112 rooms. There was also an ice cream parlor, recreation room for billiards, and a bowling alley and a ballroom. Today, the property is used as an event space and a shopping destination. Visitors to the area can get historic tours on the weekends.



The Kittatinny on the Delaware Water Gap, c. 1900-1910. The Water Gap House can be seen in the upper left-hand corner. Photograph from the Library of Congress (Library of Congress (loc.gov))

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