

40 State historical markers commemorate labor

Society Director Ken Wolensky, of the Pennsylvania Historic Museum Commission, compiled and distributed a detailed list of all of the markers in the Commonwealth commemorating individuals, organizations and events associated with the labor movement.

Noteworthy is the loss of life among working people. Markers for mine disasters commemorate some 600 deaths from 1859 to 1959 out of the tens of thousands of miners who were killed in Pennsylvania mines. They also commemorate events where over one hundred workers were killed in labor's struggles. The following is a compilation of the list, with the county, marker name and locations:

Allegheny County

1909 McKees Rocks Strike, 812 Island Ave. McKees Rocks Bridge, at Pressed Steel Car, Stowe Twp.

Bost Building, headquarters of the 1892 strike committee, Borough of Homestead

Founding Convention of the AFL, in Pittsburgh, 1881, NW corner of Mellon Park, opposite the William Penn Hotel, Pittsburgh

Founding Convention of the CIO, in Pittsburgh, 1928, North Commons Drive, above Allegheny Center, Pittsburgh

The Great Steel Strike of 1919, 350,000 strikers, United Steelworkers Hall on Braddock Avenue, Braddock

United Steelworkers of America founding, 1936, Grant Street, between 3rd and 4th Avenues, Pittsburgh

Founding of Ironworkers Union in 1896, Grant Street and Boulevard of the Allies, Pittsburgh

Homestead Strike: the Battle at the Pump House, Waterfront Drive, Homestead

Homestead Strike Victims: six buried in Munhall, 22nd Avenue and Main Street, Munhall

The Great Railroad Strike of 1877, militia shoots 26, 28th Street Crossing off Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh

Beaver County

NLRB v. Jones & Laughlin, Supreme Court ruling upholding NLRA, Franklin Avenue & Route 51, Aliquippa

Berks County

Reading Railroad Massacre, 1877, militia kills 10, 7th & Penn streets, Reading

Cambria County

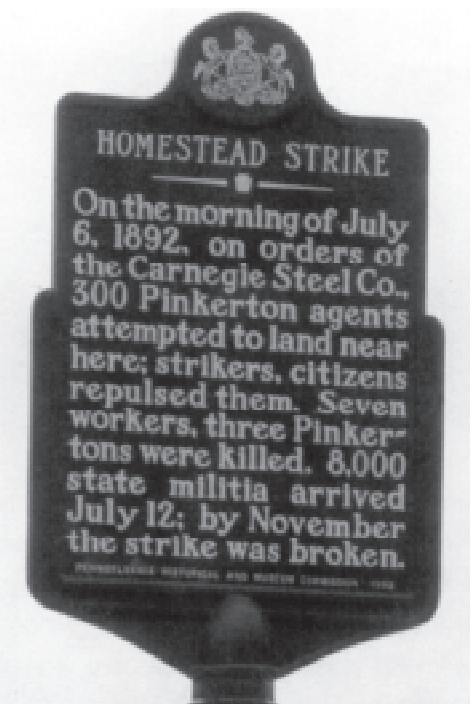
John Brophy, miners and CIO leader, Triangle Park, Route 721, Armaugh

Centre County

John Montgomery Ward, founded first Baseball Players Union, 236 East Lamb Street, Bellefonte

Indiana County

William H. Sylvis, Iron Molders founder, National Labor Union president, Keith Hall, Indiana University of Pa.



Battle of Homestead marker was one of 20 that the Society sponsored since 1974.

Lackawanna County

Anthracite Mine Disaster, 72 killed in 1911, In front of Throop Borough Building, Charles and Sanderson Avenue, Throop

Terence W. Powderly, Grand Master Workman, Knights of Labor, North Main Avenue, near Mears Street, West Scranton

Thomas J. Foster, early mine safety advocate, Wyoming Avenue, near Ash Street, Scranton

Luzerne County

Avondale Mine Disaster, 110 miners died in 1869, US 11 near junction PA 29, Plymouth Township

Concrete City, early 'model' for industrial housing, Front Street in Hanover section of Nanticoke

Knox Mine Disaster, 12 died in illegal mine below river, St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church on Main Street, Port Griffith, Jenkins Township

Lattimer Massacre, 19 killed by deputies in 1897, PA 924 at Harwood

Lattimer Massacre, violence against strikers' march killed 19, off SR 3028, just East of Lattimer Crossroads

Min L. Matheson, ILGWU organizer and community leader, Public Square, Wilkes-Barre

Rev John J. Curran, championed labor in 1902 strike, Holy Savior Church, 43 Penn Street, Wilkes-Barre

Twin Shaft Disaster, 58 killed, 1896, North Main and Union Streets, Pittston

Montgomery County

Bryn Mawr Summer School for Women Workers In Industry, Bryn Mawr, PA

Philadelphia County

Mother Jones, the march of the factory children, North Broad Street and John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Philadelphia

Society had role in approval of half of state markers for labor

New Century Guild, Pioneer women's labor guild, 1307 Locust Street, Philadelphia

Local 274, First Black Musicians Union, 912 South Broad Street, Philadelphia

Pike County

Unity House, ILGWU labor education retreat, 1919-1989, Bushkills Falls Road at Unity House entrance, Bushkill Falls

Somerset County

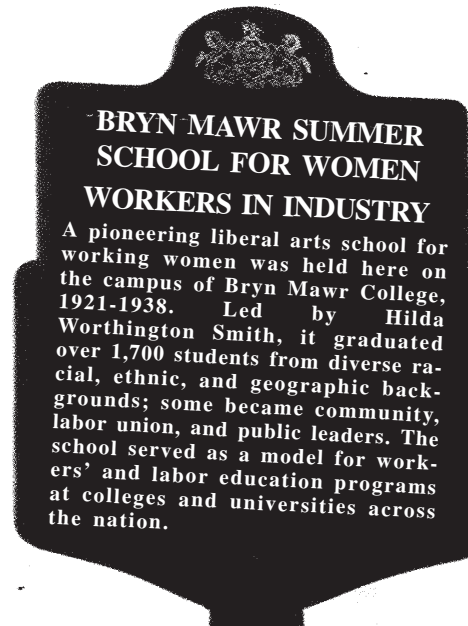
Windber, bituminous coal company town, 501 15th Street, Windber

Tioga County

William B. Wilson, UMW leader, first Labor Secretary, US 15 just south of Blossburg

Williamson Road, road builders block house, SR 2005 (old US 15) south of Liberty

Williamson Road, 1792 rescue of road builders, Business 15 south of Mansfield at Canoe Camp



Washington County

Cement City, Donora Steel worker housing, McKean Avenue (PA 837), South Donora

Joseph A. "Jock" Yablonski, assassinated UMW leader, 3rd and Wood Streets, California

Westmoreland County

Darr Mine Disaster, 71 of 239 killed in 1907 buried here, Olive Branch Cemetery, PA 981 between PA 51 and Smithton

Fannie Sellins, UMW organizer, murdered in 1919, Union Cemetery, PA 386, Arnold

Mammoth Mine Explosion, 109 miners killed at Frick mine, St. Johns' Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant

Morewood Massacre, in 1891 eleven strikers shot by Frick police, Rte 219 overpass on Rte 981