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**

- 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

**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

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

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

**BRYN MAWR SUMMER SCHOOL FOR WOMEN WORKERS IN INDUSTRY**

A pioneering liberal arts school for working women was held here on the campus of Bryn Mawr College, 1931-1938. Led by Hilda Worthington Smith, it graduated over 1,700 students from diverse racial, ethnic, and geographic backgrounds; some became community, labor union, and public leaders. The school served as a model for workers’ and labor education programs at colleges and universities across the nation.