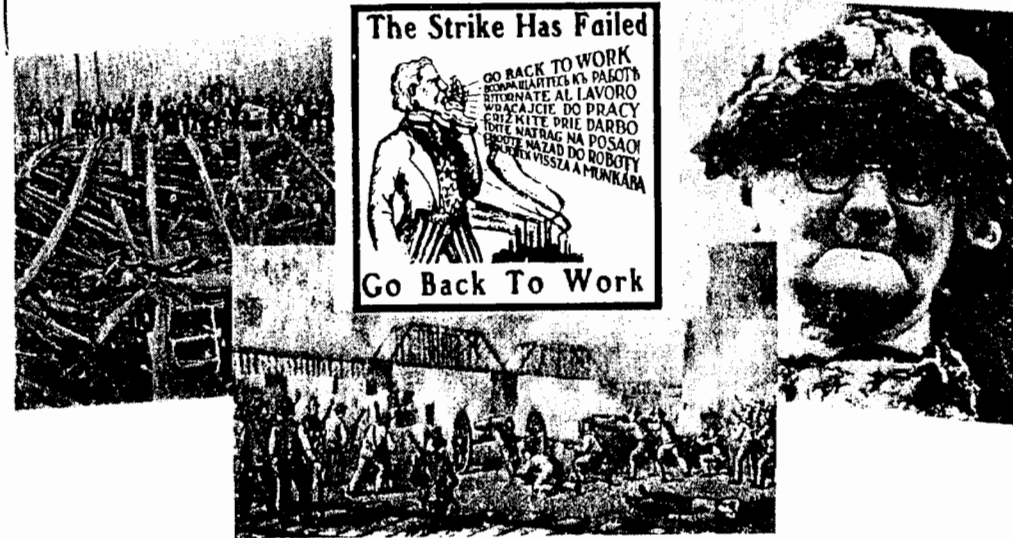


An Outline of
**PENNSYLVANIA LABOR
HISTORY
1780 – 2000**



With a list of Pennsylvania state historical markers relating to labor

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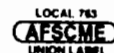
**The Pennsylvania Center for the Study of Labor Relations
Indiana University of Pennsylvania**

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Chronology of Pennsylvania Labor 1780 – 2000

- 1780 Pennsylvania Assembly passes a law providing for the emancipation of slaves.
- 1792 Philadelphia cordwainers (shoemakers) form first “permanent” union local.
- 1794 Federal Society of Journeymen Cordwainers formed in Philadelphia.
- 1806 Philadelphia Cordwainer’s Conspiracy Case: the organization of labor declared illegal. A similar trial was held in Pittsburgh in 1814.
- 1827 First city central labor organization:
Philadelphia Mechanics’ Union of Trade Associations.
- 1828 One of the first independent “labor parties,” Republican Political Association of the Workingmen of the City of Philadelphia is formed.
- 1833 Manayunk, Pennsylvania, Textile Strike.
- 1834 Formation of the first national labor federation, National Trades’ Union; Pennsylvania provides for tax-supported compulsory education.
- 1835 Philadelphia General Strike. First in the nation.
- The “Female Improvement Society” composed of 500 Philadelphia women of various trades won wage increases for seamstresses sewing uniforms for the U.S. Army.
- 1836 Philadelphia Bookbinder’s Strike.
- 1845/1848 Women textile workers go on strike in Pittsburgh for the ten-hour day. They forcibly eject strikebreakers from the cotton mills.
- 1848 Pennsylvania’s child labor law makes twelve the minimum age for workers in commercial occupations.
- Monongahela Valley coal miners go on strike against wage reductions. The same mines go on strike again in 1859 in attempt to have reliable scales to measure the coal mined.
- 1862 The arsenal explosion in Pittsburgh kills 79 young women and girl workers.
- 1866 Bill Sylvis, president of the Iron Molders Union organizes the National Labor Union. Sylvis dies in 1869.
- 1868 Anthracite Coal Strike.

1869 Pennsylvania enacts first mine inspection law for Schuylkill County
Avondale mine explosion kills 109.

Formation of Local Assembly #1 of the Noble Order of the Knights of Labor
in Philadelphia by Uriah Stephens.

1870 First written contract between coal operators and coal miners signed.

1875 Clearfield County coal strike results in serious confrontations between strikers
and strike-breakers. Union leaders John Siney and Xingo Parks are arrested.

1875-78 Union organizing in the Anthracite coalfields leads to the suppression of the
so-called Molly Maguires. Twenty of the Irish miners and their sympathizers
are hanged.

1876 Formation of the Socialist-Labor party in Philadelphia.

Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel, and Tin Workers founded in
Pittsburgh.

1877 Great Railroad Strike protesting job combinations and wage cuts turns violent
in Pittsburgh, Scranton and Reading, as well as many other places across the
nation. Approximately 40 killed, the rail yards burned and one thousand rail
cars destroyed in Pittsburgh. Ten workers are killed in Reading; six killed in
Scranton. *(see opposite page)*

1878 Formation of Noble Order of Knights of Labor on a national basis in Reading
with Uriah Stephens as Grand Master Workman. Knights of Labor sought to
organize all labor, skilled or unskilled. Its three cardinal principles were
summarized in three words: *organize, educate, and cooperate*. Terrence V.
Powderly of Pennsylvania succeeds Stephens in 1879.

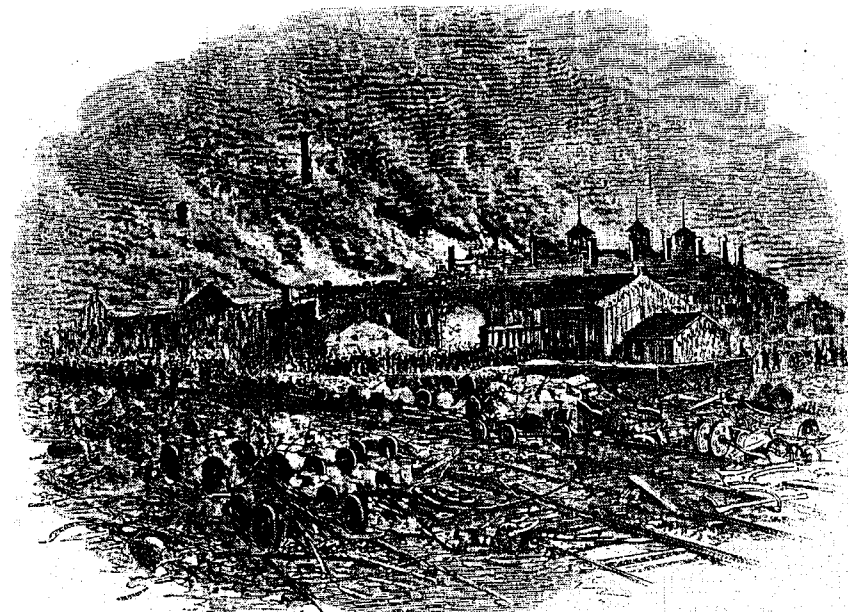
Greenback – Labor Party organized: Pennsylvania is a key state. Terrence
Powderly is elected Mayor of Scranton.

1881 American Federation of Labor chartered at Pittsburgh convention.

The Burlington and Reading rail strikes lead to the enactment of the first
Federal labor relations law providing for arbitration on railways.

1890 The National Federation of Miners and Mine Laborers and the Knights of
Labor's National Trade Assembly #135 unite to form the United Mine
Workers of America

1891 Explosion in the Mammoth Mine of H.C.Frick kills 109 miners.



Burning of the Roundhouse, July 1877

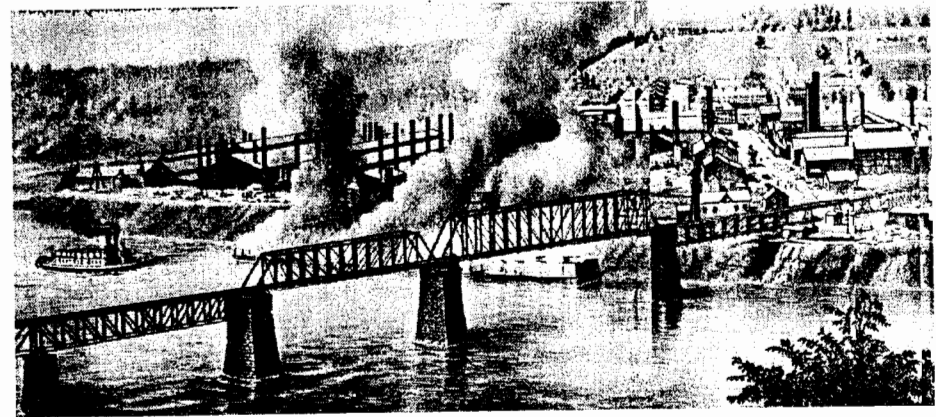
1877 Railroad Strike

In July 1877, a nationwide rebellion of tens of thousands of railroad workers and their communities erupted against the enormous concentration of wealth and power by the railroads. The rapid growth of the nation's rail system created fabulous fortunes while disrupting regional markets and corrupting state and national politics. A deepening economic depression led to high unemployment. Railroad workers endured a series of wage and job cuts while stockholders received regular dividends. Unemployment fears and worker resentments were fueled by technological changes resulting from George Westinghouse's airbrake that permitted longer trains with fewer brakemen. Hundreds of railroad workers lost lives and limbs every year in a dangerous occupation.

In June of 1877, trainmen in Allegheny City (today Pittsburgh's Northside) organized the Trainman's Union but their leaders were soon discharged. In mid July, the rebellion started in Martinsburg, West Virginia, then spread to Baltimore's Camden Yards and Pittsburgh. At first, the strike in Pittsburgh was peaceful and enjoyed widespread community support. The unwillingness of the Pittsburgh militia to move against the strikers led to the importation of the Philadelphia militia by the Pennsylvania railroad. After the militia fired into the Pittsburgh crowd killing twenty including a woman and a child, a violent gun battle ensued. The Philadelphians were driven out of Pittsburgh and the rail yards were burned. Federal troops were moved from the post-Civil War occupation of the southern states to put down the rebellion. Approximately forty people were killed, over one hundred locomotives, a thousand railcars, and more than thirty buildings were destroyed.

There were hundreds of major incidents reported across Pennsylvania and the nation from New York to California and Texas. In Reading, a night of violence left ten dead and forty wounded. Strikes in Scranton continued until the following October. The 1877 Railroad Strike was the most violent event in Pennsylvania labor history. It illustrates how economic disruption caused by rapid technological change can lead to violent social reaction unless capitalism is tempered by worker organization and governmental regulation.

- 1891 Deputies of Henry Clay Frick kill seven striking coke workers in the Morewood massacre near Mt. Pleasant.
- 1892 Homestead Lockout and Strike to maintain worker organization, wages and working conditions in Carnegie mills. Daylong gun battle on July 6 leads to surrender of 300 armed Pinkerton agents. Ten people are killed: seven workers and three Pinkertons. The strike is broken by the Pennsylvania militia and unionism is ousted from Pennsylvania steel mills until the CIO organizing drive of the 1930's. (see opposite page)
- 1894 Coal strike of 100,000 miners triggered by low wages, bad working conditions, and job insecurity. Although the power and wealth of the operators brought them victory, the UMWA survived its defeat, the effects of the panic of 1893, and the challenge of other labor organizations to begin a twenty year period of growth in the late 1890's.



"The Great Battle of Homestead", Edwin Rowe, 1892

- 1896 Founding of Ironworkers International Union in Pittsburgh.
- 1897 Lattimer Massacre: 19 immigrant miners are shot down and killed while marching with American flag during strike near Hazelton
- 1899 National Brotherhood of Electrical Workers becomes the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers at national convention in Pittsburgh.
- 1901 American Federation of Labor adopts the Scranton Declaration making "craft autonomy" the cornerstone of its policy.
- 1902 Anthracite strike in Eastern Pennsylvania. The achievement of a union contract through the intervention of President Theodore Roosevelt strengthens the UMWA.
- 1903 Firefighters Local 1 is organized in Pittsburgh.
- 1903 In May, the Central Textile Workers' Union called a strike of 100,000 workers against 600 firms in the Philadelphia metropolitan area. At least 16,000 of these strikers were young girls under 16 years of age. The children were paid \$2-3 for a sixty-hour week. The main demand was a workweek of 55 hours.
- Mother Jones leads the march of the mill children from Philadelphia to President Roosevelt on Long Island protesting child labor. (see page 7)
- 1904 The Harwick Mine explosion in Cheswick kills 179.
- 1905 Child Labor Law raises minimum age for factory and mine work to 14.

General Assembly and Governor agree on the creation of the Pennsylvania State Police in a partial effort to curtail the power of the privately employed Coal and Iron Police.

1892 Battle of Homestead

Just after dawn on July 6, 1892 a battle erupted when locked-out Homestead steelworkers broke into the closed and fortified mill dubbed "Fort Frick" and met 300 Pinkerton agents armed with repeating rifles attempting to land at the Pump House. When the Pinkertons surrendered in the early evening, seven workers and three "detectives" lay dead. Nearly all the hired guns were wounded in a gauntlet organized by women, children and townspeople.

In "An Address to the Public" the Homestead union workers declared; "that it is against public policy and subversive of the fundamental principles of American liberty that a whole community of workers should be denied employment or suffer any other social detriment on account of membership in a church, a political party or a trade union . . ."

This event was the culmination of failed contract bargaining between the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers led by Hugh O'Donnell and Homestead Burgess John McLuckie, and Carnegie Steel led by Henry Clay Frick while Andrew Carnegie vacationed at his castle in Scotland. At unionized Homestead, workers had high wages tied to productivity, an average ten hour-six day week, a voice in hiring and technology implementation, and organized representation. With the union broken through the intervention of the Pennsylvania militia, the next 45 years brought drastically lower wages, the twelve hour-seven day week, ethnic and racial division, and a denial of civil liberties in both the mill and the town. In 1937, Committee of Industrial Organizations' president John L. Lewis and U.S. Steel president Myron Taylor signed an agreement recognizing the Steel Workers Organizing Committee as the workers' legal representative. In 1942, SWOC became the United Steelworkers of America.

The Battle of Homestead is the most famous event in American labor history and one of its most significant. It marked a watershed in U.S. labor relations and casts a deep shadow on the American workplace to this day.

- 1906** First general strike in the central Pennsylvania coalfields. Three striking miners shot and killed in Windber.
- 1907** The Darr Mine explosion in Jacobs Creek kills 239 miners. It marks the worst mine disaster in Pennsylvania history. 1907 was the deadliest year in Pennsylvania coal mining history. 1,514 miners died: 708 in anthracite, 806 in bituminous.

- 1908** Rachel and Agnes Mine explosion kills 154 miners in Marianna.
- 1909** McKees Rocks Strike against the Pressed Steel Car Company represents the first successful union organizing effort by eastern and southern European immigrant workers.

On "Bloody Sunday" 11 people are killed in a violent clash between state constabulary and the strikers. Eugene Debs addresses rally of 10,000 from Indian Mound.

Child Labor Law limits workday to 10 hours.

- 1910** Spontaneous Bethlehem Steel strike raises issues of industrial vs. craft unionism.

Crystal Eastman's classic *Work Accidents and the Law* documents 526 industrial fatalities in Allegheny County in a one-year period from 1906-7.

Bitter coal strike for union recognition in Westmoreland County extends for 16 months.

- 1913** Pittsburgh "stogie" cigar workers led by IWW win four-month work stop page.

General Assembly enacts Women's Labor Law limiting maximum weekly hours to 54.

Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry is created to mediate employer-labor disputes, inspect industrial establishments, enforce child labor statutes, and monitor employment trends and statistics.

- 1914** The Allegheny Congenial Industrial Union strikes the Westinghouse Electric and Union Switch and Signal plants. The strikers are against the work organization imposed under the "scientific management" theories of Frederick Taylor and demand union recognition.

- 1916** Pennsylvania follows the lead of several other states and implements its first Workman's Compensation program. In its first year, the Department of Labor and Industry approves 54,500 compensation payments of which 1,241 were for fatalities and 54,359 for workplace injuries.



Mother Jones

Known as the "Miner's Angel", Mary Harris "Mother" Jones is one of the most colorful characters in American history. Born in Ireland in 1837, she lost her husband and four children to yellow fever in 1867. From the 1870's to her death in 1930, she was a tireless campaigner for working people and their unions.

Many of her most famous exploits were in Pennsylvania. She was a bitter opponent of child labor. During a major textile strike in Philadelphia in 1903, she decided to dramatize the exploitation of the breaker boys and the textile girls by marching with a delegation of child workers from Philadelphia to Long Island to present their appeal for child labor legislation to President Theodore Roosevelt. She was very closely identified with mine worker struggles in West Virginia and Pennsylvania and was especially effective in mobilizing women and children in strike support. She led a march of two-thousand women from McAdoo to Coaldale in 1900 to dramatize the miners' demands for improved wages and union recognition.

In one of the most famous incidents in her long career, she held a mass meeting on Eighth Avenue in Homestead during the bitter 1919 Steel Strike despite a total ban on union meetings and rallies. When hauled before a Pittsburgh judge, she was advised that a public meeting could not be held without a permit. Mother Jones replied: "Yes, sir...I had a permit." "Who issued it?" he growled. "Patrick Henry; Thomas Jefferson; John Adams!" she said.

1916 Frustrated by their unsuccessful nonviolent strike in 1914, electrical workers from the Westinghouse plants in the Turtle Creek Valley march on the Edgar Thompson steel works. They are fired upon and two workers are killed.

1918 Pennsylvania sets all-time record for combined anthracite and bituminous coal production at 277 million tons produced by 337,000 workers.

1919 The Great Steel Strike, called the “Hunky” strike, is largest industrial strike to this point in American history. Workers are fighting the 72-84 hour week and unsafe working conditions. Suppression of civil liberties and brutal repression in the Pittsburgh district including the importation of Black strike breakers from the South breaks the strike. Mother Jones is arrested for speaking in Homestead.

UMWA organizer Fannie Sellins is brutally murdered just before 1919 steel strike begins while organizing and supporting coal miners and steelworkers in the Allegheny valley.

International Ladies Garment Workers’ Union (ILGWU) founds Unity House in Bushkill (Pocono Mountains) as the only workers’ education and vacation resort of its size in U.S. history. Remains in operation until 1989.

1922 Bitter UMWA strikes occur in the Central Pennsylvania anthracite and bituminous coal fields. The strike for recognition in Somerset County lasts for seventeen months before ending in defeat. Many miners and their families are evicted from their homes. New York City launched an official investigation into conditions “worse than the condition of slaves” in Windber.

1923 Union miners and Klu Klux Klan clash in Lilly. Two miners and one Klansman killed. 40,000 Klansmen rally in Indiana County. Main targets are the foreign-born and unionists.

Governor Gifford Pinchot signs legislation outlawing the Coal and Iron Police.

1927 In the Bedford case, the Supreme Court rules that stonecutters’ action in trying to prevent purchase of non-union cut stone was an illegal restraint of interstate commerce.

1927 Mineworkers’ strike provokes vigorous repression. States of emergency and virtual martial law is declared in central Pennsylvania. Judge issues injunction against miners in Rossiter, considered the most drastic ever issued. The court order bans public meetings, demonstrations and even hymn singing.

1928 Congress enacts Hawes-Cooper Act governing shipment of convict made goods in interstate commerce.

1932 Norris-LaGuardia Act – limits use of injunctions against unions.

1933 Enactment of National Industrial Recovery Act containing section 7(a) which provided that every N.R.A. code and agreement should guarantee the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively through their representatives without restraint, interference, or coercion by employers.

1933 Under the provisions of the President’s “blanket code” employers were asked to employ no one under the age of 16, to pay clerical and service workers a minimum of \$12 for a 40-hour week, and factory workers a minimum of 40 cents an hour for a 35-hour week.

Garment industry strike impacts thousands of workers in Philadelphia and surrounding area. ILGWU wins recognition, higher wages and a shorter work week.

1935 NIRA declared unconstitutional. Wagner Act passed by Congress.

1936 Labor backed candidates win big in local, state and national elections. Pennsylvania’s Little New Deal begins.

Steel Workers Organizing Committee formed

1937 Myron Taylor of United States Steel agrees to labor contract with John L. Lewis and the Committee of Industrial Organizations (CIO)

In NLRB vs. Jones and Laughlin Steel Corp., the Supreme Court declared the Wagner Act constitutional. The case was based on the refusal of J&L to bargain with its workers in Aliquippa. Little Steel Strike results in setback for Steel Workers Organizing Committee (SWOC). *(See next page)*

The Pennsylvania Labor Relations Board is created to mediate and arbitrate employer-worker disputes.

ILGWU commences organizing campaign of “runaway” garment factories (those that fled New York in search of cheap labor) in eastern Pennsylvania. Major organizing effort begins in the anthracite region under the leadership of Min and Bill Matheson.

1937 Under the requirements of the New Deal’s Social Security Act, Pennsylvania implements unemployment compensation program administered by the Department of Labor and Industry.

1938 Congress of Industrial Organizations was chartered at Founding Convention in Pittsburgh.

1939 Philadelphia sanitation workers strike for union recognition.



1937 Supreme Court Upholds Workers' Rights in Aliquippa

On April 12, 1937, the U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 decision upheld the constitutionality of the Wagner Act. This law, although limited at the time and seriously eroded since, provided a measure of protection to workers who acted in a concerted fashion to assert their human rights in the workplace. This law was considered so essential to President Roosevelt's New Deal that he had threatened to "pack the court", adding two justices if the Wagner Act was declared unconstitutional. The National Labor Relations Act still provides the basic framework for American labor law.

The case involved an intense struggle to unionize the massive Aliquippa mill of the Jones & Laughlin Steel Corp. Union organizing began in 1933 and was met by violence and intimidation. Nearly one hundred workers were fired for union activity and their dismissal was the basis for an unfair labor practice complaint to the newly appointed National Labor Relations Board in 1935. J&L's legal challenges brought the case before the Supreme Court in the spring of 1937. When the court ruled that the law was constitutional a huge party and parade was organized in the town. One of the fired workers carried a sign: "The Workers of Aliquippa are now Free Men". In a very tense atmosphere, the workers struck the mill on May 12, 1937 and a visit by Pennsylvania Governor Earle to the plant gate forced the company to agree to an election. In the NLRB supervised election, the Steel Workers Organizing Committee won an overwhelming victory.

The struggle at Aliquippa was a battle for democracy and human solidarity in the face of organized repression. Serbs and Croats, Italians and African-Americans, Welsh and Irish, many peoples from many lands, joined together and dreamed about a better life, a fairer way to organize society both on the job and in the community.

1942 National War Labor Board is established—establishes the "Little Steel Formula" for war-time wage adjustments.

United Steelworkers of America founded.

During the war, federal troops were used on trolleys during Philadelphia Transit Workers strike.

1943 Coal miners strike to gain higher wages, respect and recognition. John L. Lewis, pushed by the rank-and-file called a series of wartime strikes that angered President Roosevelt and the general public, but won portal-to-portal pay for the miners.

1946 Largest strike wave in U.S. history in steel, electrical and auto brings substantial wage increases that fuel post-war prosperity.

Independent union strike at Duquesne Light darkens Pittsburgh.

1947 Taft-Hartley legislation undermines union power by outlawing secondary boycotts and forcing unionists to sign non-communist affidavits.

1949 USWA strike achieves first pension plan for industrial workers.

1949-50 Anti-Communist union forces cause split of United Electrical Workers. Central battlegrounds include the East Pittsburgh Westinghouse plant, the Erie GE plant and the South Philadelphia Westinghouse plant.

1953 Union membership peaks in Pennsylvania. Nearly 41% of the workforce is unionized.

1955 Merger of AFL and CIO agreed to in New York City.

1956 Governor George Leader signs the Fair Employment Practices Act creating state-level Commission to police and prohibit race-based employment discrimination.

1958 "General Dress Strike" idles tens of thousands of garment workers in Pennsylvania, New York, and the mid-Atlantic region. ILGWU wins 35-hour work week, wage increase, and limitations on contracting to "runaway" garment factories.

1959 The USWA strike of 116 days protected pension benefits and local union work rules.

Knox Mine Disaster kills 12 miners in central Pennsylvania.

1960 City of Philadelphia ordinance passed providing exclusive jurisdiction for AFSCME District Council 33 for city civil service workers.

- 1963** Governor David Lawrence replaces the Fair Employment Practices Commission with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission to police and prohibit race-based discrimination in jobs, housing, and education.
- 1965** Pennsylvania passes Black Lung legislation
- 1968** Act 111 – Collective bargaining established for police and firefighters.
- 1968** Peak employment reached in Pennsylvania's apparel industry. 180,000 workers (mostly women) in 2,000 garment factories. 80,000 are members of the ILGWU; 60,000 are members of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU).
- 1969** Murder of UMWA insurgent Jock Yablonski leads to founding of Miners for Democracy in 1972.
- Black Monday demonstrations in Pittsburgh lead to Pittsburgh Plan agreement increasing minority participation in construction trade unions.
- Federal Coal Mine Health and Safety enhances mine safety requirements and implements compensation for tens of thousands of coal miners afflicted with Black Lung in Pennsylvania.
- 1971** Act 195 – Public Employees in Pennsylvania gain the right to bargain collectively.
- Occupational Safety and Health Act becomes law. Pennsylvania retains right to enforce health and safety laws under OSHA.
- Bendix announces plan to move York plant to Mexico with loss of 600 jobs.
- 1972** Experimental Negotiating Agreement in steel industry. Binding arbitration is agreed upon to replace strikes.
- 30,000 construction workers march in Norristown to protest an injunction against the picketing of non-union construction sites.
- Philadelphia Federation of Teachers Local 3 on strike for 3 months. The president and treasurer of the union are jailed.
- 1973** Congress passes the Employment Retirement Income Security Act regulating all private pension plans.
- Consent decree in steel opens many job categories to African-Americans and women.
- 1974** First legal statewide public employees' strike in the nation's history occurs in Pennsylvania.

- 1975** The Philadelphia Area Project on Occupational Safety and Health (PHILAPOSH) is founded. 150 unions band together to fight for health and safety on the job.
- 1975-6** Pittsburgh Federation of Teachers goes on strike for 56 days.
- 1978** Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, the Times-Leader newspaper strike leads to confrontations with replacement workers (scabs). Union-supported Citizens' Voice begins publication.
- 1979** U.S. Steel announces the closing of 16 facilities and the loss of 13,000 jobs including its American Bridge plant. Pittsburgh steelworkers join Youngstown Ohio steelworkers in a several hour occupation of U.S. Steel's Pittsburgh headquarters.
- 1980's** Pennsylvania struck by a wave of plant and store closings: Kroger closes 54 stores; Robertshaw in Indiana (1000 workers); Armstrong in Lancaster (600); Continental Rubber in Pottstown (1500); Two Guys department Store in Delaware Valley (1600)
- 1981-2** Bitter WABCO-UE 610 six-month strike against concessions leads to American Standard's decision to move Union Switch & Signal plant to Georgia.
- 1982** USWA accepts concession contract in effort to save jobs in the steel industry. Later in the year, U.S. Steel announces the closing of 28 facilities affecting 15,000 workers.
- Mon Valley Unemployed Committee organizes laid-off workers and home owners to stop mortgage foreclosures and succeeds in passing state legislation to protect the homes of unemployed workers.
- 1982** Pittsburgh re-institutes its Labor Day parade. It becomes one of the largest and best-organized parades in the nation.
- 1983** Nabisco-threatened plant closing stopped by coalition of labor and community activists. A boycott campaign supported by Pittsburgh Mayor Richard Caliguiri and the threat of eminent domain action are key to successful struggle.
- 1983** First-ever direct labor/business negotiations resolves the unemployment compensation crisis. Newly elected Pennsylvania AFL-CIO president Julius Uehlein challenged the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce to work cooperatively to repay the \$3 billion federal loan with mutual burden-sharing. These negotiations led to subsequent labor/business cooperation on unemployment compensation solvency legislation (1985) and the chemical right-to-know law (1989).

- 1986** Steel Valley Authority formed by union activists. Unites eight communities including the cities of Pittsburgh and McKeesport in job retention and economic development efforts.
- 1986** Shutdown of historic US Steel Homestead mill, Westinghouse Electric East Pittsburgh plant, Union Switch and Signal, and most of Westinghouse Airbrake.
- 45,000 construction workers march in Pittsburgh protesting the use of a non-union contractor in renovation of former Pennsylvania Railroad station.
- AFSCME District Council 33 and 47 strike the City of Philadelphia for twenty days for higher wages and against contracting out of public services.
- 1986-7** USWA strike against U.S. Steel lasts six months and gains a continuous caster for the Edgar Thompson mill in Braddock.
- 1987** Midfield Terminal Agreement is made between Pittsburgh Building Trades Unions, Allegheny County and U.S. Air guaranteeing labor peace at the massive rebuilding of the Pittsburgh International Airport. This agreement becomes the model for the Heinz plant reconstruction, new sports stadiums and other Western Pennsylvania construction projects.
- 1988** Philadelphia re-institutes annual Labor Day parade.
- 1988-92** Canterbury Coal strike ends in defeat for the UMWA after longest sustained strike in Pennsylvania history. The Canterbury mine closes in the mid 1990's.
- 1989** Mine Workers' Strike against Pittston Coal Company in Virginia stimulates numerous solidarity activities in Pennsylvania.
- First Workers' Memorial Day observance held in Philadelphia. It honors workers injured, made ill, or killed on the job.
- 1991** Giant Eagle strike in southwestern Pennsylvania successfully settled after six weeks. UFCW workers mobilize broad community support.
- Canonsburg Hospital six-month strike defeats striker replacements by mobilizing entire community and using non-violent civil disobedience tactics.
- 1992** Pittsburgh Press Strike. Strong community support leads to boycotts and mass demonstrations against replacement workers. Newspaper closes after bitter struggle.
- 1994** ILGWU strike against garment manufacturer Leslie Fay, Inc. idles several factories and 2,000 workers in northeastern Pennsylvania and draws wide media attention and support of the Catholic Church. The strike epitomizes union struggles against companies moving U.S. jobs to foreign locations. Ultimately the union loses the strike as Leslie Fay relocates to Guatemala.

- 1998** Mercy Hospital in Scranton is organized by SEIU 1199P. 1300 nurses, professional, technical, service, and maintenance workers join the union.
- 1998** UMWA strike against Hazelton-based Jeddo-Highland Coal Company epitomizes collapse of the anthracite coal industry. An unsuccessful strike was called when the company decided to "downsize" from more than 300 employees to less than 60. Employment in anthracite dropped to under 1000 workers.
- 1999** Nabisco plant closing thwarted a second time by labor and community activists. Steel Valley Authority and Pittsburgh's Building Trades' ERECT fund play key roles in launching of Atlantic Baking Co.
- 2000** 1,500 nurses with Allegheny General Hospital in Pittsburgh are successfully organized by 1199P SEIU. Indiana Hospital nurses, organized by PSEA Healthcare, achieve first contract.
- LTV announces closing of the Aliquippa tin mill, the last operating portion of the great Aliquippa steel works.

Compiled by Charles McColleston, President of the Pennsylvania Labor History Society, Director of the Pennsylvania Center for the Study of Labor Relations, IUP.

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Pennsylvania Center for Study of Labor Relations, IUP, 724-357-4443.

Fax suggested changes or additions to: 724-357-2564

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Labor History Markers

Founded in 1973, the Pennsylvania Labor History Society with the support of the Pennsylvania AFL-CIO has worked to commemorate the contribution of workers and the struggles and sacrifices of labor in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Labor History Society board member Ken Wolensky, of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, compiled this list of the markers in the Commonwealth commemorating individuals, organizations and events associated with the labor movement.

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 Munhall

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 in front of Martin Luther King school, Pittsburgh

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

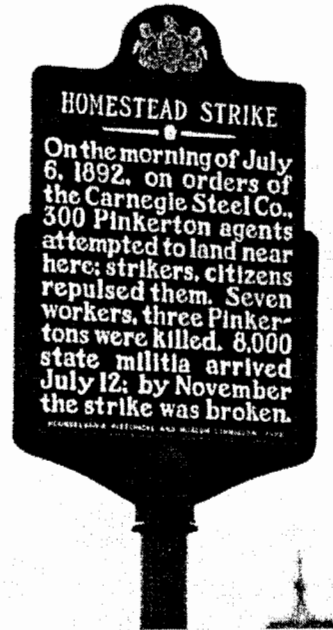
United Steelworkers of America founding, 1936, Grant Street, between 3rd and 4th Avenues, Pittsburgh

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, 1937, 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, Nanty Glo

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.

Lackawanna County

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

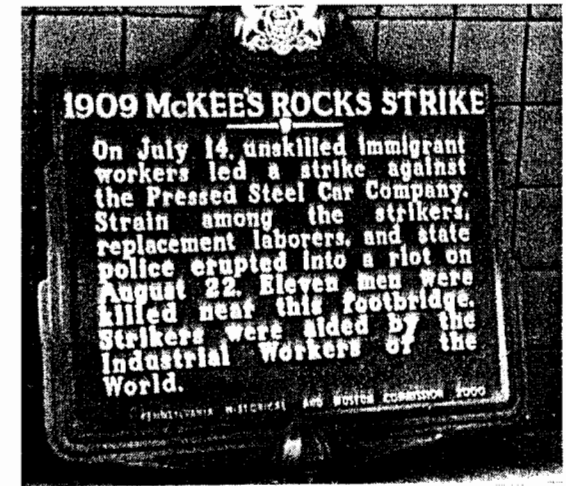
Terence W. Powderly, Grand Master Workman, Knights of Labor, North Main Avenue, near Mears Street, West Scranton

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



Luzerne County (cont)

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

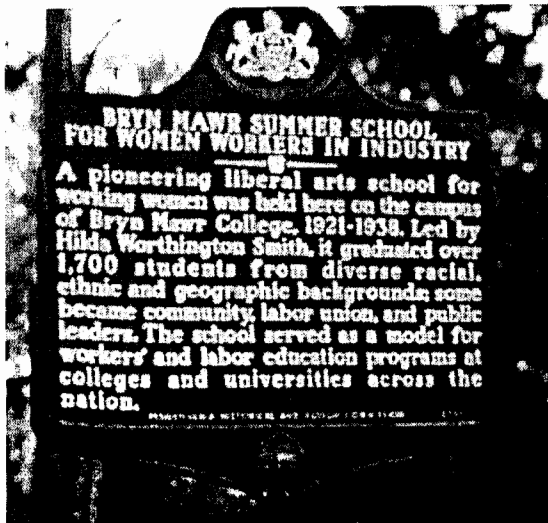
Montgomery County

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

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



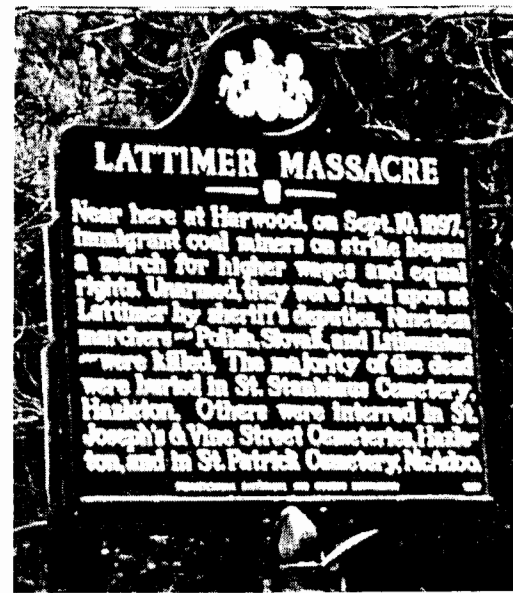
Local 274, First Black Musicians Union, 912 South Broad Street, Philadelphia

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



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

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

Labor History Markers Approved for 2002-2003

1902 Anthracite Coal Strike and Anthracite Coal Strike Commission. Courthouse Square, Scranton, Lackawanna County. Dedication, October 25, 2002.

1900 Mother Jones and the Miners' March in Coaldale. Coaldale, Schuylkill County. Dedication, October 25, 2002.

1902 Anthracite Coal Strike. Shenandoah, Schuylkill County. Dedication, Fall 2002.

1922-23 The Windber Strike for Union & the New York City Inquiry. Windber, Somerset County. Dedication, April 1, 2003.

Free Speech in Homestead Markers

1919 The Jailing of Mother Jones. Homestead, Allegheny County. Dedication, Fall 2003.

1933 Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, Demands Right to Speak in Homestead. Homestead, Allegheny County. Dedication, Fall 2003.