

For Immediate Release: Mining Heritage Month Observed Locally-Jan. 2018

Anthracite Mining Heritage Month, Schedule of Events—January 2018

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A regional observance of **Anthracite Mining Heritage Month** will take place during January 2018, at programs in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Pittston, Port Griffith, Plymouth, Nanticoke, Wyoming, and Ashley. The annual event focuses on the history and culture of the anthracite region in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

This year's events will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Connecticut Yankees' return to the Wyoming Valley. Obadiah Gore Jr., a blacksmith who knew about hard coal, was among them. His early use of anthracite marked the beginning of *The Coal Region*.

The events are sponsored by the Anthracite Heritage Museum, the Anthracite Heritage Foundation, King's College, Luzerne County Community College, The University of Scranton, Wilkes University, Lackawanna Historical Society, Luzerne County Historical Society, the Boy Scouts of America-Northeastern PA Council, the Greater Pittston Historical Society, the Plymouth Historical Society, the Nanticoke Historical Society, the Huber Breaker Preservation Society, and the Knox Mine Disaster Memorial Committee.

The public is cordially invited to attend all events (except the first) free of charge.

Anthracite Mining Heritage Month—January 2018

1. **Jan 6, 9 am** **Boy Scouts of America-Northeastern, PA Council**, "*Mining in Society*," Merit Badge Day, Open to Boy Scouts of the Northeastern PA Council, (Venue: Fourth Floor, Mulligan Science Building, King's College, 133 River St., Wilkes-Barre)
2. **Jan 7, 2 pm** **Lackawanna Historical Society-Public Program**, Presenter: **Charles Kumpas**, "*A Day in the Life of an Anthracite Miner: The Remarkable Coalmining Artwork of Remo Trieste Russo*," Moderator: **Mary Ann Savakinas** (Venue: LHS, Catlin House, 232 Monroe Ave., Scranton), refreshments
3. **Jan 11, 6:30 pm** **Luzerne County Historical Society-Public Program**, Performer: **Robert Hughes**, "*An Interview with the Mineworkers' Union Leader, Johnny Mitchell—A One-Act Play*," (Venue: Wyoming Presbyterian Church Institute, 40 Institute St., Wyoming), refreshments
4. **Jan 16, 7 pm** **Huber Breaker Preservation Society-Public Program**, Presenter: **Mike Mostardi**, Wayne, PA, "*A Demonstration Anthracite Mining Equipment and Objects*," Moderator: **Bill Best**, (Venue: Ashley Fire Hall, Fireman's Park, 160 Ashley St., Ashley), members meeting at 6:30 pm, refreshments
5. **Jan 17 7 pm** **Plymouth Historical Society-Public Program**, Presenters: **Georgetta Potoski** and **Steve Kondrad**, "*Plymouth's Coal Mining Pioneers: Abijah & John Smith, Freeman Thomas, and Other Stories*," (Venue: Plymouth Borough Municipal Building, 162 W. Shawnee Ave., Plymouth), refreshments

6.

- Jan 18, 7 pm** **King’s College-Public Program, Annual Msgr. John J. Curran Lecture,**
Presenter: Mark Balik, Senior Editor, *New York Times*, Speaking on his book,
“Sons of the Molly Maguires: The Irish Roots of America’s First Labor War,”
 (2014), (Venue: Burke Auditorium, McGowan School of Business, King’s
 College, 133 N. River St., Wilkes-Barre), refreshments at 6:30 pm
- 7. Jan 19, 7 pm** **University of Scranton-Public Program, Presenters: Sarah Piccini** (1871,
 Scranton), **Lucia Dailey** (1877, Scranton), **Michael Knies** (1912,
 Luzerne & Lackawanna Counties), and **Robert Wolensky** (1928, Pittston & Old
 Forge), *“A Discussion of Four Historic Anthracite Labor Strikes,”* Moderator:
Chester Kulesa, (Venue: 509 DeNaples Student Center, University of Scranton,
 900 Mulberry St., Scranton)
- 8. Jan 20, 2 pm** **Anthracite Heritage Museum-Annual Public Program on The Knox Mine
 Disaster, Presenters: Erika Funke and David Brocca,** *“Two Knox Disaster
 Documentaries, 1984 and 2018: Screenings & Commentaries,”* plus folk music by
Jay Smar, (Venue: The Museum, 22 Bald Mt. Rd., Scranton), refreshments
- 9. Jan 21, 10 am** **St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, Pittston: Annual Knox Mine
 Disaster Memorial Mass,** (Venue: St. John’s, 35 Williams St., Pittston)
- 10. Jan 21, 11:30 am** **Annual Commemoration of the Knox Disaster:** (Venue: at the PHMC
 Historical Marker, Main St., Port Griffith, Baloga Funeral Home), coffee
- 11. Jan 21, 12 noon** **Annual Walk to Knox Mine Disaster Site,** (Venue: Gather at Baloga Funeral
 Home, Port Griffith, following the Commemoration; weather permitting)
- 12. Jan 22, 7 pm** **Nanticoke Historical Society-Public Program, Presenters: Robert Wolensky
 and Michael Chimola,** *“Who Killed Rebel Miners’ Union President, Tom
 Maloney?—The Wyoming Valley Good Friday Bombings of April 6, 1936,”*
Moderator: Chet Zaremba, (Venue: Nanticoke Cultural Center, 38 W. Church
 St.,
 Nanticoke), refreshments
- 13. Jan. 25, 7 pm** **Greater Pittston Historical Society-Public Program, Presenters: Carol
 Gargan** (Lithuanians), **Jim McFarland** (Irish), **Christine Patterson** (Africans),
Fiona Powell (Welsh), and **Stephanie Longo** (Italians), *“Ethnicity in the
 Anthracite Region: An Appreciation of Five Local Heritage Groups,”*
Moderator, Ron Faraday, GPHS, (Venue: St. John’s the Evangelist Church
 basement, 35 Williams St., Pittston), refreshments
- 14. Jan 26, 6:30 pm** **Luzerne County Community College-Public Program, Presenters: William
 Kashatus, Jack Smiles, Paul Browne, and Sean Carroll,** *“Professional
 Baseball and the Anthracite Region: Four Authors Discuss Players, Teams,
 Games, and Stories,”* (Venue: Educational Conference Center, lower
 campus, Room 132, LCCC, Nanticoke), refreshments

