



SPECIAL EDITION

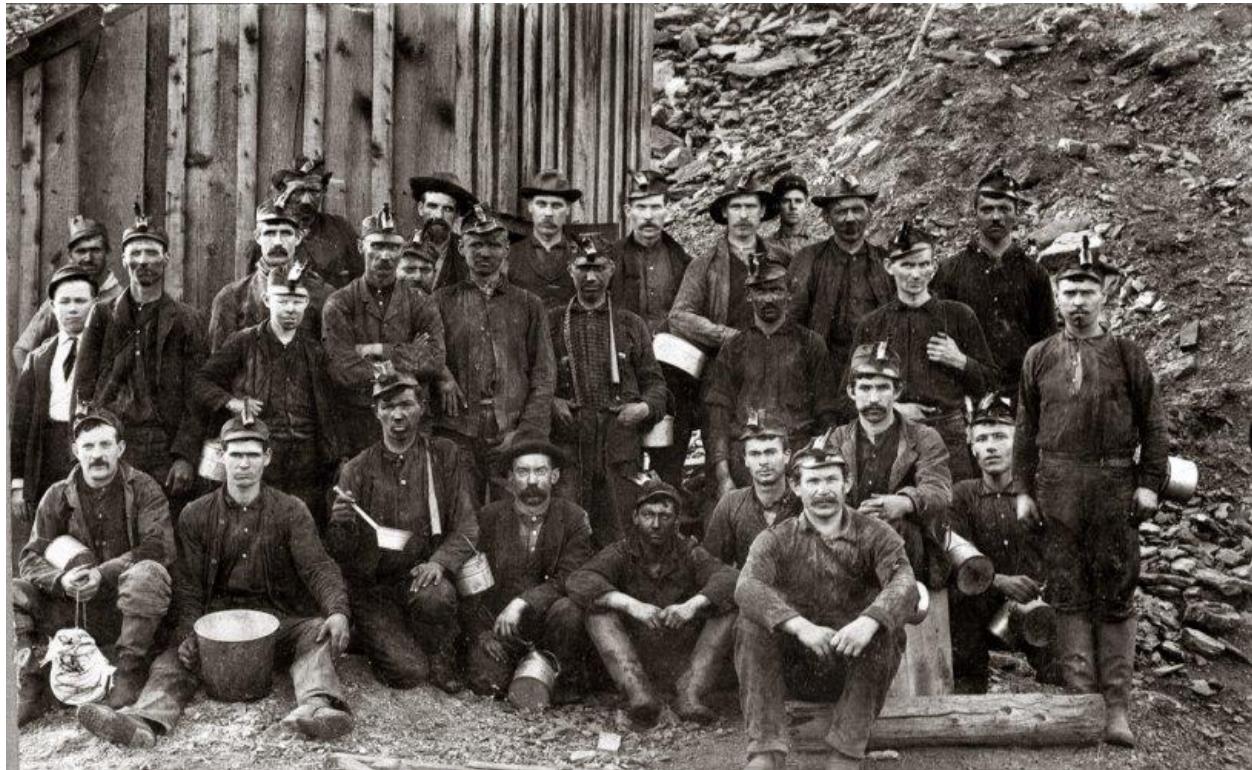
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Rick Sedlisk, Editor

Anthracite Mining Heritage Month *January 2025*



Anthracite Miners Near Hazleton, circa. Early 1900s
Image source: <https://www.shorpy.com/node/222#comment-13221>

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Anthracite Mining Heritage Month

January 2025

The annual regional observance of ***Anthracite Mining Heritage Month*** takes place during January 2025. The event focuses on the unique history and culture of the anthracite region of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Throughout January 2025, WVIA-FM—Public Radio in Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania—will offer anthracite region-related programming at the WVIA website, wvia.org/mining, which will include episodes from Erika Funke's ARTScene.

A variety of programs will be featured in Wilkes-Barre, Scranton, Plymouth, Pittston, Ashley, Hazleton, Hazle Township, Bethlehem and Pottsville. The public is cordially invited to attend the events, all of which are free of charge, except where indicated.

Program Sponsors

Anthracite Heritage Foundation, Anthracite Heritage Museum, King's College, Lackawanna Historical Society, Luzerne County Historical Society, WVIA-Public Broadcasting, McGowan Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility, Eckley Miners Village, Plymouth Historical Society, Greater Pittston Historical Society, Earth Conservancy Inc., Wilkes-Barre Preservation Society, No. 9 Mine Tour and Museum, The Underground Miners, Everhart Museum, National Museum of Industrial History, Anthracite Chapter-Society of Mining Engineers, Eastern Pennsylvania Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR), Lehigh Engineering, Alvernia University, Baloga Funeral Home, Susquehanna Brewing Company, The Avondale Mine Disaster Memorial Committee, The Knox Mine Disaster Memorial Committee.

Schedule of Events

January 9

Eckley Miners Village (PHMC), Public Program Artist Bob McCormick Reclamation: From Coal Dust to Hope

Moderator: Bode Morin, PHMC; Speaker: Robert McCormick, artist; Time: 7 – 8:30 pm.
Venue: Zoom sign up and links at <https://eckleyminersvillage.com/event/art-of-bob-mccormick/>.

January 10

EPCAMR and Earth Conservancy, Public Program Digging into Our Anthracite Mining History: Famous People, Historic Preservation and Abandoned Mines

Moderator: **Bobby Hughes**, EPCAMR, *Update on EPCAMR and Earth Conservancy Projects*; Speakers: **Chris Murley**, Underground Miners, *The Process of Opening the Brooks Mine in Scranton*; **Ed Philbin**, Industrial Archives & Library, *Dan Flood's Direction on the Use of Anthracite Coal for U.S. Military Bases during the War*; **Don Kane Jr.** and **Bill Landmesser**, Huber Breaker Preservation Society, *Plans for the Wanamie Lokie. No. 9, the Multi-Media Center/Museum, the No. 5 Slope Opening and Huber Breaker History*; **Mike Korb**, Anthracite Chapter-Society of Mining Engineers, *The Carnegie Hero Medal Awardees from the Anthracite Region*; Venue: Earth Conservancy, 101 S. Main Street, Ashley; Time: 6 pm - 8:30 pm; Refreshments.

January 12

Greater Pittston Historical Society, Public Program Historical Places, Historical Markers

Moderator: **Julio Caprari**, GPHS; Speakers: **Lucia Dailey**, *The Strike of 1877 Historical Marker (Scranton)*; **Bill Best**, Anthracite Preservationist—*The Huber Breaker Memorial Park (Ashley)*; **Thomas Mackaman**, King's College and Anthracite Heritage Foundation, *The Baltimore Tunnel Mine Disaster (1919) Marker, Wilkes-Barre Township*; **Vinnie Rotondaro**, Historical Researcher, *The Need for an Historical Marker for the Murdered (in 1920) Pittston Police Detective Samuel Lucchino*; Venue: St. Joseph Morello Hall (237 William St., Pittston); Time: 6 pm – 7:30 pm; Refreshments.

January 15

Wilkes-Barre Preservation Society, Public Program A Guided Tour of the Luzerne County Court House

Guide: **Tony Brooks**, Member, WBPS; Meet: Court House Lobby; Time: 12 noon – 1 pm.

January 16

Penn-Anthracite Society of Mining Engineers, Public Program The Battle of the Crater and the 48th Pennsylvania, July 30, 1864

Moderator: **John Ackerman**, Penn-Anthracite SME; Speaker: **David Williams**, Mining Engineer and Professional Land Surveyor; Venue: Hazle Township Building, 101 W. 27th St., Hazle Township; Time: 6 pm – 7:30 pm; Refreshments.

January 17

A Reception and Discussion for “The Knox Mine Disaster” Documentary Exhibit

With Filmmaker **Dave Brocca**; Mineworker **Chris Murley**, The Underground Miners; and Researcher **Bob Wolensky**, King's College; Venue: Everhart Museum, 1901 Mulberry St., Scranton; Music: **Lex Romaine**; Time: 6 pm – 7:30 pm; **Entry Fee** to the Museum required; Cash Bar and Refreshments available.

January 18

Anthracite Heritage Museum, Informational Program An Industrial History Tour to the United Kingdom, May 12 – May 20, 2025

Sponsored by the Anthracite Heritage Museum; *A discussion of the itinerary, lodgings, guided tours and costs will be presented including the Itinerary in Scotland, the Itinerary in England; and the Itinerary in Wales*; Tour Leaders: **Bode Morin**, Beth Landmesser and **Bob Wolensky**, who will be accompanied on the trip by **UK Blue Badge Guides**; Venue: AHM; Time: 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm; Refreshments. View the tour at <https://www.anthracitemuseum.org/united-kingdom-industrial-heritage-tour-2024/>

Anthracite Heritage Museum, Public Program The Annual Knox Mine Disaster Commemoration— The Importance and Bright Future of Mining: An Overview and Exhibit

Moderator: **Bode Morin**, Administrator, AHM; Speaker: **John Voight**, Section Delegate, Penn-Anthracite Section SME; **Bryan Glahn**, Teacher, Northwest Area High School, *Comment on the Knox Mine Disaster*; Music: **Don Shappelle** and **Don Sennett**; Mining Artifacts Exhibit: **Mike and Linda Mostardi**, Wayne; Venue: AHM, 22 Bald Mountain Rd., Scranton; Time: 2 pm – 3:30 pm; Refreshments; Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86319215430?pwd=r3biRhxqXqJode5XH0k3578FSdefGr.1>

January 19

Knox Mine Disaster Memorial Mass

Venue: St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, 36 William St., Pittston; Time: 9 am.

Knox Mine Disaster Historical Markers Commemoration

Venue: Baloga Funeral Home, 1201 Main St., Pittston; Time: 10:15 am.

Annual Walk to the Knox Mine Disaster Break-in Site at the Susquehanna River (weather permitting)

Venue: Meet at Baloga Funeral Home, 1201 Main St., Pittston; Time: 10:45 am; Walk Leaders: Bill Best and Bill Landmesser.

An Afternoon of Anthracite Region Music ***Performers:***

Don Shappelle and the Pickups: Coal Mining Songs

Doug Smith, Jimmy Waitlich, Tom Hamilton, and R. J. Kennedy Band:

Contemporary and Jazz

John Stank & The Coal Miners: Polkas, Waltzes and Traditional

Venue: Susquehanna Brewing Company, 635 S. Main St., Pittston.

Time: 4 pm - 6 pm; Refreshments available.

January 20

Plymouth Historical Society, Public Program

Speakers: **Joe Slusser**, PHS, *The Tools that Kept the Miners Working: The Howell Mine Drilling Company*; and **David Youells**, *Mining Lamps in Anthracite*; Venue: First Welsh Baptist Church, 163 Girard Ave. and Shawnee Ave., Plymouth; Time: 6:30 pm; Refreshments.

January 22

Anthracite Heritage Museum, Public Program ***Six Anthracite Region Personalities***

Moderator: **John Fielding**, AHM; Speakers: **Lucia Dailey**, *William W. Scranton: A Man of His Times*; **Anne Flaherty**, *Who Was John Kehoe?*; **Sarah Piccini**, *Msgr. John Curran, The Labor Priest*; **Maureen McGuigen**—Min Matheson, *Ladies Garment Union Leader*; **William Conlogue**, *Thomas Meredith: Early Mining in the Lackawanna Valley*; **Bob Wolensky**, *Mary Harris 'Mother Jones,' Labor Organizer*; Venue: Anthracite Heritage Museum, 22 Bald Mountain Rd., Scranton; Time: 6:30 pm – 8 pm; Refreshments.

January 23

King's College and the Anthracite Heritage Foundation, Public Program The Annual Msgr. John J. Curran Lecture

Featured Speaker: **Anne Flaherty**, The Kehoe Foundation, St. Leonard, MD
John Kehoe: "Molly Maguire" or Hibernian Pacifist?

Moderator: **Thomas Mackaman**, King's College; **Venue:** Burke Auditorium, King's College, 133 N. River St., Wilkes-Barre; **Time:** 7pm – 8:30 pm; Refreshments.

Anthracite Heritage Foundation Book Award for 2025

Presenter: **Bob Wolensky**, King's College; **Recipient:** **Anne Flaherty**, Kehoe Foundation for *The Passion of John Kehoe and the Myth of the "Molly Maguires,"* Hibernian Press, 2023; **Venue:** Burke Auditorium, King's College; **Time:** Immediately preceding the Annual Curran Lecture (see above).

January 24

Two Screenings of "The Knox Mine Disaster" Documentary Introduction by filmmaker, David Brocca

Venue: The Scranton Arts Haus Theatre, 301 Lackawanna Ave., Scranton; **Screening Times:** 6:20 pm and 8 pm; **Purchase tickets** at Knox Mine Disaster Facebook Page (\$10); Refreshments (including dinner) will be available for purchase.

January 25

Underground Miners, Public Program Free Guided Tours of the Brooks Mine

Tour Guides: **Mark Izak, Scott Kerkowski and Chris Murley;** **Venue:** Brooks Mine, Nay Aug Park, Scranton; **Time:** 3:45 pm – 5 pm.

Eckley Miners Village (PHMC), In-person Public Program The Hazleton Shaft Colliery: Dethroning Hazleton's Industrial Era

Moderator: **Bode Morin**, Administrator; **Speaker:** **Justin Emershaw**, Atlantic Carbon Inc., **Venue:** Eckley Miners Village, 2 Eckley Main St., Weatherly; **Time:** 2 pm - 3:30 pm. Refreshments.

January 26

Lackawanna Historical Society, Public Program Artistic Expressions in Anthracite

Host: **Mary Ann Moran-Savakinus**, LHS; Moderator: **Philip Mosley**, Emeritus, Penn State University-Scranton; Speakers: **Charles Petrillo**, Wilkes-Barre (*Film*); **Chester Kulesa**, Scranton (*Photography*); **Richard Stanislaus**, Scranton (*Art*); Venue: Catlin House, LHS, 232 Monroe Ave, Scranton; Time: 2 pm – 3:30 pm; Refreshments.

National Museum of Industrial History, Public Program A Visit to the Last Operating Anthracite Mine in Wales

Moderator: **Mike Piersa**, Historian, NMIH; Speaker: **Dane Rhys**, Visual Journalist; Venue: NMIH, 602 E. 2nd St., Bethlehem; Time: 1 pm – 2:30 pm.

January 29

Reading Anthracite Company The Schuylkill Navigation Canal System

Moderator: **Eric Bella**, Mining Engineer; Speaker: **Mike Szilagyi**, AICP; Venue: Alvernia University–Pottsville Towne Campus, 500 Progress Ave., Pottsville; Time: 6 pm – 7:30 pm; Refreshments.

January 30

Luzerne County Historical Society, Public Program Jacob Cist (1782-1825), Pennsylvania Anthracite Pioneer

Speaker: **Mark Riccetti**, Director of Operations and Programs, LCHS; Venue: LCHS Museum, 69 South Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre; Time: 7 pm – 8:30 pm..

A Lehigh Engineering Public Program In Search of the Wanamie Colliery: A Journey Through the Lens of Michael A. Eagleson

Moderator: **Eric Bella**, Mining Engineer; Speaker: **Nick Zmijewski**, Industrial Archives & Library; Venue: Alvernia University–Pottsville Towne Campus, 500 Progress Ave., Pottsville; Time: 6 pm – 7:30 pm; Refreshments.

February 1

***Underground Miners and the Everhart Museum, Public Program
Closing One of the Last Anthracite Deep Mines in Northeastern Pennsylvania, 2021***

Presenters: **Chris Murley**, Underground Miners and **Tim Holmes**, Everhart Museum;

Venue: Everhart Museum, 1901 Mulberry St., Scranton; Time: 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm; Free.

***Underground Miners, Public Program
Free Guided Tours of the Brooks Mine***

Tour Guides: **Mark Izak, Scott Kerkowski and Chris Murley**; Venue: Brooks Mine, Nay Aug Park, Scranton; Time: 3:45 pm – 5 pm.



Miner Exiting Coal Mine. Image source: freepik.com

https://img.freepik.com/premium-photo/miner-exiting-coal-mine-covered-dirt-soot-ai-generative_955712-5111.jpg