

## MINE MONUMENTS — MINING DISASTERS IN GREENE COUNTY

Bituminous coal mining began in 1902 and in recent years Greene County has been Pennsylvania's highest producing county, nearly all from subsurface mines. Coal mining remains a strong factor of the character of Greene County.



Greene County Monument at PA Kirby Welcome Center off I-79  
(Date of monument dedication: May 26, 1995)



Robena Monument at Hatfield Ferry, PA

This memorial located at the PA Kirby Welcome Center, I-79 features a likeness of famous mine labor leader John L. Lewis; on the reverse side is a roll of Greene County Miners. President of the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) from 1920 until 1960 and founding president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO), John Llewellyn Lewis was the dominant voice shaping the labor movement in the 1930s. The CIO owed its existence in large measure to Lewis, who was a tireless and effective advocate of industrial unionism and of government assistance in organizing basic industry.

The text reads: "On December 6, 1962, 460 feet directly beneath this site, 37 miners lost their lives in the U.S. Steel Robena Mine's Frosty Run Explosion. One of the worst mine disasters in Greene County History."

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**Robena Mine** — inactive and closed mine. Mine Explosion: "*December 6, 1962: Carmichaels, Robena No. 3 Mine, United States Steel Corporation Coal Division, Frick District ~ Carmichaels, Greene County, Pennsylvania ~ 37 Men Killed*"

Mining at Robena began in 1943 when Frick Coke drove two entries under the Monongahela River from the Ronco Mine in Fayette County. At the time, it was the largest coal mine in the nation. It became the biggest mine in the USA at one time; it closed in 1982.



Mather Miners Memorial

**Mather Mine** — inactive and closed mine. *May 19, 1928 mine explosion — "195 men who died during an explosion at the mine."* One of the worst coal mine disasters of all time!

The Mather Coal Mine closed in 1964.