

# PHMC Historical Markers

## *Markers Dedicated in 2007–2008*

Since 1946, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) has been a leader in administering its popular state historical marker program. More than 2,200 markers throughout the Keystone State recall the stories and a vast array of people, places and events significant in Pennsylvania and the nation.

This year, 39 new historical markers were dedicated and two replacement markers were re-dedicated with the help of local, regional and state partners. Our partners sponsored the nomination and installation of these state markers, and the unveiling and dedication ceremonies.

In an effort to maintain the ever-growing inventory of historical markers, the Commission contracts with General Tool and Repair (GTR) of Red Lion, York County, to provide cyclical and emergency maintenance services. Over the past year, PHMC and GTR maintained over 230 markers. In addition, GTR and Young Preservationists Association of Pittsburgh surveyed the condition of markers in five counties to determine maintenance needs for the upcoming year. The following text appears on the markers with the date of dedication.

### Historical Markers Dedicated

#### *Allegheny County*

**Allegheny Cotton Mill Strikes – 9/29/07** Major strikes by women cotton factory workers protesting 12-hour workdays occurred nearby in Allegheny City in 1845 & 1848. The strikes led to an 1848 state law limiting workdays to 10 hours and prohibiting children under twelve years of age from working in cotton and textile mills.

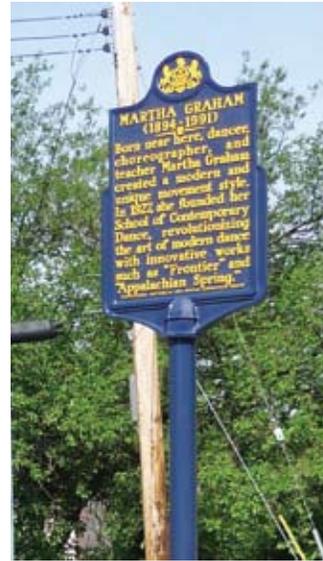
**Art Blakey – 8/26/07** A founder of the “hard-bop” school of jazz, drummer Blakey grew up here, and got his start with Billy Eckstine’s band. Blakey’s group, “The Jazz Messengers,” featured Hank Mobley, Freddie Hubbard, Horace Silver, and Wynton Marsalis. He was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Grammy, 2005.

**Joshua Meeks – 5/7/08** A militia captain during the American Revolution and civic leader in the early republic, Meeks was a petitioner to create Allegheny County in 1787. While making his living as a farmer, he took up arms to defend western Pa. during conflict and war. Meeks championed democratic ideals, promoting citizenship and patriotism by opening his home as a fort, a polling place, and a school. The Meeks house, which stood nearby, was razed in 2000.

**K. Leroy Irvis – 4/3/08** Member of Pa. House of Reps., serving 15 consecutive terms. In 1977 he became the first African American Speaker of a state legislature since the era of Reconstruction, and was the state’s longest serving Speaker. He was influential in enacting 264 bills including establishment of the Pa. Human Relations Commission and laws enhancing equal access to education. Active in state and national Democratic Party politics, his office was here.

**Martha Graham – 6/7/08** Born near here, dancer, choreographer, and teacher Martha Graham created a modern and unique movement style. In 1927, she founded her School of Contemporary Dance, revolutionizing the art of modern dance with innovative works such as “Frontier” and “Appalachian Spring.”

**Pittsburgh Platform – 10/10/07** This defining document of American Reform Judaism was signed by eighteen rabbis at the Concordia Club near here, November, 1885. The 8-point statement



*This historical marker in Allegheny County honors the birthplace of Martha Graham.*

## PHMC Historical Markers *(continued)*

encouraged ecumenical dialogue, emphasized the progressive nature of Reform Judaism, and identified Judaism as a religion.

**Three Rivers Stadium – 11/26/07** Opened on July 16, 1970. Home to the Pirates, who won two World Series, and the Steelers, who won four Super Bowl Championships, creating Pittsburgh's "City of Champions" identity. It was the site of Roberto Clemente's 3,000th hit, September 30, 1972, and Franco Harris's legendary "Immaculate Reception," December 23, 1972. A multi-use facility, it also hosted many concerts and special events prior to demolition on February 11, 2001.

**Work Accidents and the Law (1910) – 4/28/08** The pioneering study of industrial conditions in Allegheny County by Crystal Eastman documented 526 workplace deaths in one year. A component of the landmark Pittsburgh Survey, it led to industrial accident prevention programs and workers' compensation laws.

### *Berks County*

**Rhoads Opera House Fire – 6/29/08** A disastrous fire destroyed the theater that stood at Philadelphia Ave. & Washington St. on Jan. 13, 1908. It claimed 170 victims, many buried here, due to overcrowding, poorly designed and unmarked exits, and inadequate fire escapes. The tragedy prompted the Pa. General Assembly to enact fire safety laws and improve construction and inspection standards, making public buildings safer and influencing similar legislation in other states.

**Wallace Stevens – 10/1/07** A major 20th century American poet, Stevens was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for his "Collected Poems" in 1955. Works such as "Bantams in Pinewoods," "Harmonium," and "The Auroras of Autumn" combined poetic language with serious philosophical ideas. His birthplace was here.

### *Bucks County*

**Richboro Nike Missile Battery – 10/5/07** One of thirteen installations in the Philadelphia area that provided protection from Soviet aerial attack during the 1954–1970 period of the Cold War. The Nike system here used radar to guide Ajax anti-aircraft missiles. From the mid-1960s through the early 1970s, this missile system was replaced as technology and terms of arms control treaties evolved. The missile launch area and magazine are located near here.

**Rochambeau Route – 9/20/07** (Revision and replacement of missing marker) On Sept. 2, 1781, French and American armies under Lt. Gen. Rochambeau and Gen. Washington encamped along the nearby Poquessing Creek on their way to Yorktown, the decisive battle of the American Revolution. The Red Lion Inn, formerly located here, was used by officers as headquarters. The combined force continued through Bensalem Township, along the King's Path, as they made their strategic movement south.

### *Cambria County*

**Hastings UMWA – District 2 Labor Chatauquas – 7/22/07** From 1924 to 1926 the United Mine Workers of America held innovative workers' education programs in bituminous coal towns throughout western Pa. Hastings recorded the largest attendance in 1925. With the leadership of district President John Brophy, the Chatauquas featured nationally prominent speakers and educators as well as local entertainers. They received national press attention and recognition from progressive activists.

### *Chester County*

**Ann Preston, M.D. – 3/22/08** A pioneer physician and educator, Preston founded the Woman's Hospital of Philadelphia, where she later established one of the nation's first nurses' training schools. A graduate of the Female Medical College of Pennsylvania, she became its dean in 1865, the first American woman to hold such an office. She was a Quaker dedicated to women's rights and an abolitionist involved with the Underground Railroad. Preston was born here.

## PHMC Historical Markers *(continued)*

**Lightfoot Mill (Mill at Anselma) – 10/13/07** Built c.1747 by Samuel Lightfoot, this mill provided feed and grain to the local community and exemplifies a turning point in American industrial technology. A rare surviving example of a colonial-era custom water-powered grist mill, its horizontal counter-shaft power system remains intact. The mill remained active until the 1930s. It is maintained by a preservation trust and is a National Historic Landmark.

### *Clearfield County*

**A.W. Tozer – 7/25/07** One of the most significant evangelical Christian authors of the 20th century, Tozer was born a few miles south of here in LaJose (Newburg). A pastor with The Christian and Missionary Alliance and a nationally recognized theologian, lecturer and writer, he was the featured speaker here at the Mahaffey Camp Summer Bible Conference in the 1940s and 1950s. Over 3 million copies of his more than 40 books are in print throughout the world.

**Arnold N. Nawrocki – 7/18/07** While working for the Clearfield Cheese Co. on nearby Meadow St., he invented the first commercially successful process for individually wrapped cheese slices. A patent was issued in 1956. An engineer, Nawrocki secured eleven food processing patents over his career.

### *Delaware County*

**Sun Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company – 10/6/07** During WWII, Sun was the largest single shipyard in the world, with over 35,000 employees. It introduced the all-welded ship, which significantly increased ship production, and the T-2 oil tanker, which became the standard at all US shipyards. Sun built over 250 WWII tankers, 40% of those built in the world, and repaired over 1500 war-damaged ships. Established by the Pew family, it was located at this site from 1916 to 1982.

**Thomas Garrett – 11/16/07** (Revision and replacement of missing marker) Born at Riverview, near here, Garrett was a prominent abolitionist and Underground Railroad activist. He moved to Wilmington, DE in 1822, and sent many fugitive slaves to his brothers at Riverview, Fernland Farms, and here at Thornfield. He was a devout Quaker and associate of Harriet Tubman and William Still. Although convicted and fined, he aided 2,700 freedom seekers; his commitment to their emancipation was unwavering.

### *Erie County*

**Harry Kellar – 5/9/08** Known as the “Dean of American Magicians,” he was mentor and friend to Harry Houdini. Considered the first American magician to become an international star, he performed extensively on five continents, impressing audiences with his elegant theatrical illusions for more than 40 years. He popularized the Vanishing Birdcage effect and perfected the levitation illusion. Born in Erie, he returned to perform many times. His boyhood home stood nearby.

**Paul Allman Siple – 10/14/07** One of the world’s foremost authorities on Antarctica, he was honored internationally for his work as scientist, explorer, inventor, geographer, diplomat, and author. An Eagle Scout and NIAGARA Sea Scout from Erie, Siple was selected from all US Boy Scouts to accompany R.E. Byrd on his 1928-30 Antarctic Expedition. In 1957, he led the first team ever to winter at the South Pole. Siple designed all-climate army gear and devised the “Wind Chill Index.”

### *Indiana County*

**Dr. Robert Mitchell – 10/16/07** Outspoken opponent of slavery, Mitchell was widely known as an abolitionist. In September 1845, he harbored five fugitives from slavery on his property here. Following a raid by bounty hunters, two men escaped; three were returned to slavery. Mitchell was tried and convicted for violating the Fugitive Slave Act of 1793, and suffered heavy financial losses. The incident contributed to the more restrictive Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

## PHMC Historical Markers *(continued)*

### *Jefferson County*

**Charles Margiotti – 9/15/07** Prominent lawyer, business executive, and civic and political leader, Margiotti was appointed Pennsylvania Attorney General, 1935-1938, by Governor George Earle. He was among the first Italian Americans to hold such a post in the US. He was the Republican candidate for Governor in 1934. He practiced law in Pittsburgh and donated services to defend immigrant workers. A native of Punxsutawney, Margiotti is interred here at Calvary Cemetery.

### *Lancaster County*

**John Durang – 9/23/07** The first American-born professional stage performer, Durang gained fame as a dancer, actor, clown, musician, acrobat, choreographer, and puppeteer. Born in Lancaster near here, he performed in the northeastern US, eventually founding his own company and a theatrical dynasty.

**Washington Boro Archaeological Sites – 10/20/07** This area contains one of the highest concentrations of archaeological sites in Pennsylvania. The sites range from small camps to large villages and cover 11,000 years of Native American culture. The largest villages were built by the Susquehannocks who controlled the fur trade in the region until 1675 when they were overcome by warfare and disease. Archaeology here has shaped our understanding of Native American lifeways.

### *Luzerne County*

**Amedeo Obici – 9/22/07** Founded Planters Peanut Company in 1906 with fellow Italian immigrant Mario Peruzzi. Arriving in America at twelve, speaking no English, Obici worked at a local fruit store before opening his own peanut cart. An entrepreneur, he invented new peanut production methods. Planters grew into one of the most widely distributed peanut brands; its Mr. Peanut trademark is universally recognized. Corporate headquarters was located here, 1925-1961.

### *Monroe County*

**A. Mitchell Palmer – 10/13/07** US Congressman, 1909- 1915, US Attorney General, 1919-1921, and contender for Democratic presidential nomination, 1920. As Attorney General, led “Palmer Raids” during the “Red Scare,” prosecuting those suspected of being anti-American. He practiced law in Stroudsburg.

### *Montgomery County*

**Frederick A.C. Muhlenberg – 4/12/08** Member, US House of Representatives from 1789-97. A Federalist, he was its first Speaker and first signer of the Bill of Rights. Ordained a Lutheran minister in 1770, he served as a pastor for nine years. He represented Pa. at the Continental Congress from 1779-80, and became Speaker of the State General Assembly from 1780-83. He presided at the State Convention to ratify the US Constitution in 1787. Muhlenberg resided here, 1781-91.

### *Northampton County*

**Charles Schwab – 9/18/07** American industrialist and pioneer of the US steel industry. Schwab established Bethlehem Steel Corporation in 1904. By World War I, it was among the largest steel producers in the world and a major contributor to the war effort. Schwab’s South Bethlehem home was here.

**Lafayette College Founding – 9/6/07** At White’s Hotel near here, on Dec. 27, 1824, local citizens gathered to found Lafayette College. One of their leaders, James Madison Porter, had recently met Lafayette during the French general’s well-received American tour of 1824-25, that revived widespread patriotic sentiments about American independence. The College is one of the principal US memorials to this statesman and military leader instrumental in our nation’s birth.

## PHMC Historical Markers *(continued)*

### *Philadelphia County*

**9th Street Curb Market – 10/12/07** One of several curb markets established in the early 20th century to counter high prices and food shortages during WWI. The 9th St. Market has survived despite anti-immigrant sentiments and criticisms regarding sanitary conditions and traffic congestion. Neighborhood businesses offered fresh produce and a variety of ethnic specialty foods. It has evolved from a local community market to become a popular Philadelphia icon.

**Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach – 4/2/08** Among America's most influential rare book dealers, he helped build many of the nation's great libraries. He and his brother Philip established the Rosenbach Museum & Library to share their personal collection with the public. They lived on this block from 1926 to 1952.

**Masonic Temple – 12/5/07** The 1873 Masonic Temple, a National Historic Landmark, is home to the Grand Lodge of Pa. Its lodge rooms, featuring varied architectural themes, and its stonework are widely acclaimed. Its prominence in size and location reflects Free-masonry's importance in American history.

**Philadelphia General Hospital – 11/5/07** Founded in 1729, PGH was the nation's longest operating public health care institution. Originally an almshouse, the hospital moved to this location in 1871. PGH implemented innovative medical care and education under Dr. William Osler, and the work of Florence Nightingale protégée Alice Fisher advanced nursing as a profession. Pioneering methods of cancer diagnosis and radiation therapy were applied. The hospital closed in 1977.

**Ralph Modjeski – 9/15/07** Polish immigrant and civil engineer, Modjeski was one of the most influential figures in American bridge building. He completed the Quebec Bridge on the St. Lawrence River and over 40 others, earning numerous awards. He was chief engineer and designer for the Benjamin Franklin Bridge here, opened in 1926.

**The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology – 11/14/07** The nation's first independent biomedical research institution was founded in 1892 by Isaac Jones Wistar. It houses the anatomical collection of the Wistar and Horner Museum. Many critical vaccines and the albino Wistar rats used in medical research were developed here.

### *Pike County*

**Hotel Fauchere – 10/12/07** First established in 1852 as a summer hotel, its restaurant received widespread recognition for innovative French cuisine under the management of Louis Fauchere, master chef at New York City's famed Delmonico's Restaurant. He introduced fine ingredients, progressive recipes, and the concept of the menu. Guests have included American presidents and Pennsylvania governors, as well as celebrated artists, writers, and performers.

### *Schuylkill County*

**Mahanoy Plane – 9/8/07** Critical to the Pennsylvania anthracite industry, this inclined plane railroad transported coal from the Mahanoy Valley up the Broad Mountain to Frackville. Opened in 1862 as part of the Reading Railroad system, improvements in the early 20th century increased its size and capacity, making it an engineering marvel able to meet national demands. After hoisting hundreds of millions of tons of coal, it closed in 1932. Partial ruins remain nearby.

### *Venango County*

**Charles Lockhart – 10/26/07** The largest crude oil refiner in Pittsburgh in the 1860s. Lockhart, Frew & Co. merged its seven refineries with Standard Oil in 1874. Lockhart served on the board, managing 80% of US oil refining, transport, and marketing. One of the original firm's offices was here.

**John Franklin Carll – 10/23/07** Pioneer petroleum geologist and engineer, Carll originated many standard oil industry practices, including accurate drilling records, correlating and mapping

## PHMC Historical Markers *(continued)*

sub-surface reservoir rocks, and explaining the increased productivity resulting from reservoir flooding. In the 2nd Geological Survey of Pennsylvania (1875), he provided basic explanations of northwestern Pennsylvania surface and subsurface geology. He lived and worked here from 1864 until his death.

### *Warren County*

**Seneca Crossing – 11/3/07** Native Americans, French explorers, and Revolutionary War soldiers all used this 8-mile cross-country portage to access the upper reaches of the Allegheny River from Conewango Creek. This historic trail provided travelers with a preferable alternative to the arduous 26-mile upriver trip to the heart of the Seneca Nation. Several lower branches of Seneca Crossing converged near here, the trail's mid-point. The route continued to Kinzua.

**Total number of markers dedicated: 41, including 2 rededications of replacement markers.**



*A historical marker was dedicated to John Franklin Carll, pioneer petroleum geologist and engineer, who lived and worked in Venango County from 1864 until his death.*