

The COAL MINERS STORY



BYESVILLE

COAL MINERS AND TRAIN MUSEUM

THE OHIO COAL MINER

This monument is dedicated to all coal miners from the State of Ohio and throughout our great nation, both past and present. May your personal sufferings, sacrifices, and the hardships endured by your families never be forgotten nor taken for granted.

We Gratefully

Thank YOU

www.BSRW.org

800-933-5480



HISTORY



The Byesville Scenic Railway's operations focused on entertaining and more importantly educating our patrons about the life and history of the coal miner and his family, along with past railroad history, and the operations of our non-profit organization.

Known history and accounts passed on by descendants of the coal miners revealed a dismal life style. Although monetarily compensated for his hard labor the outcome of working in the mines was an almost guaranteed decline in health. Thousands died as a result of sudden mining accidents and even more succumbed to the dreaded "Black Lung". Most miners bore physical scars from injuries sustained mining the so called "Black Diamonds".



The volunteers of the BSRW resolved to erect a memorial to honor those workers who faced daily perils to make sure our nation had an ample supply of coal in peace time and during the war effort.



Artist/sculptor Alan Cottrill of Zanesville Ohio was commissioned to design and cast a bronze life size image of a coal miner.



Fund raising was made possible by the hard work of all the volunteers of the BSRW. 75% of the memorial funds came from train patrons, touched by the true stories of the lives of coal miners as told by narrators during train rides. The riders, often with a tear in their eye, truly gave from the heart.

Over 9,000 " I GAVE " donation buttons were handed out as they departed the train after donating to the cause. The remaining funds came from involvement in bake sales, BBQs, and donations from the public and private sectors.





*The two miners sitting
are on-loan from the
Dickens Victorian Village.*

www.DickensVictorianVillage.com

THE COAL MINERS MEMORIAL

The statue is comprised of 38 different pieces that were individually cast and welded together.

Three generations of coal miners are represented on the memorial:

- (1) A discarded oil wick lamp. This was one of the initial ways of illumination inside a coal mine other than a lighted candle.
- (2) The carbide lamp on his canvas cap. This was a safety hazard due to the open flame and was the cause of numerous fires.
- (3) The miner is inspecting an Edison safety lamp which replaced the carbide lamp and is still used today.

The number 382 on the check tag represents the number of miners killed in Guernsey County mines between 1874 & 1945.

The miner is missing the tip of his right index finger. This recognizes all of the miners injured in some manner.

The pick and shovel were a man's most used tools until equipment became mechanized.



On behalf of all the coal miners and their families we at the Byesville Scenic Railway express our gratitude to anyone who had a part in making this memorial possible.



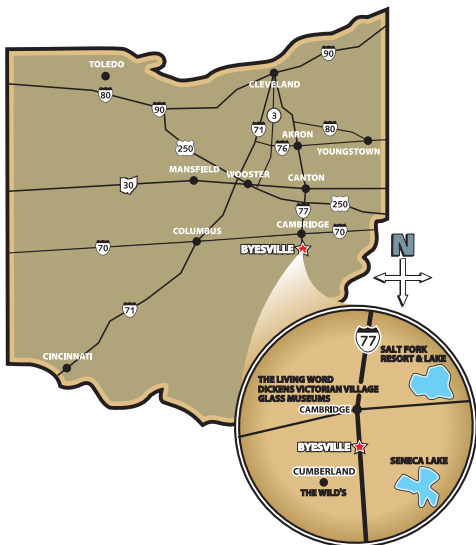
BYESVILLE SCENIC RAILWAY, INC.
COAL MINERS AND TRAIN MUSEUM

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Information & Hours of Operation:
800-933-5480

BSRI is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) Organization



THE COLUMBUS
FOUNDATION

www.columbusfoundation.org

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