

Homestead Strike Timeline

Where: Homestead, Pennsylvania

Union: Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers

Company: Carnegie Steel Company

1876:

Amalgamated Association, union for iron and steel workers, forms.

1881:

Carnegie put Frick in charge of the Homestead factory.

1882 and 1889:

Amalgamated Association won two big strikes against the Carnegie Company. After 1889, the union became very powerful and organized. They had a very strong union contract.

February 1892:

Amalgamated Association asked for a wage increase. Frick responded with a wage decrease.

June 29, 1892:

The old contract expired without the two sides reaching an agreement. Frick locked the workers out of the plant, using a high fence topped with barbed wire.

June 30, 1892:

Workers decided to strike and they surrounded the plant to make sure that no strikebreakers would enter.

July 6, 1892:

After the local sheriff was unable to control the strikers, Frick hired guards from the National Pinkerton Detective Agency to secure the factory so that strikebreakers could enter.

The Pinkertons arrived by boat in the middle of the night, hoping to surround the factory unnoticed.

The strikers knew they were coming. Shots were fired and people killed on both sides.