

# Homestead Strike

As sung by  
Winifred Bundy  
07-23-1946 Madison, WI

The Homestead Strike

Oh, the trou-ble down at Home-stead, it came a-bout this way, When a  
grasp-ing cor-po-ra-tion had the au - dac-i-ty to say: "You must give up your in-come and for-  
swear your lib-er-ty, And we'll of-fer you a glo-rious chance to die in slav-er-y." The  
man who fights for hon-or, none can blame him . May good luck at - tend him where he  
roams..... No son of his will ev-er live to shame him When lib-er-ty and  
hon-or rule the homes.....

Oh, the trouble down at Homestead, it came about this way,  
When a grasping corporation had the audacity to say:  
"You must give up your income and forswear your liberty,  
And we'll offer you a glorious chance to die in slavery."

The man who fights for honor, none can blame him.  
May good luck attend him where he roams.  
No son of his will ever live to shame him,  
When liberty and honor rule the homes.

*Transcription and lyrics from the Helene Stratman-Thomas Collection.*

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## Critical Commentary

Transcriptions by Peters, p. 183, and HST.

### HST notes:

In the Professional Papers series:

*Sung by Winifred Bundy, age 62, Madison, 1946.*

*This portion of an early labor song tells of the strike at Homestead, Pennsylvania in 1892. Miss Bundy learned it as a young girl from an older brother. The complete song may be found in Korson's Coal Dust on the Fiddle.*

### Sources:

Korson, George. *Coal Dust on the Fiddle, Songs and Stories of the Bituminous Industry*.

Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1943.

———. *Pennsylvania Songs and Legends*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1949.

Tune fairly different.

Peters, Harry B., ed. *Folk Songs out of Wisconsin: An Illustrated Compendium of Words and Music*. Madison, WI: The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1977.

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K.G.