

The activities of the factory director Franz Wilke (1873)

Franz Wilke was born in 1827 as the son of the forester Neubert Wilke and his wife Henriette in Niederbergheim near Arnsberg. He was trained in the field of sales. He married Elise Simon who gave birth to his three sons.

In 1873, Franz moved to the town Styrum and started to work for the Thyssen company. After some time, Franz's area of responsibility changed to more difficult tasks. He became president of the health insurance and was in charge of the personnel department. After the opening of the tube-rolling-mill, he was nominated factory director. He was also responsible for the galvanising factory. He directed the steel-rolling-works and was also responsible for new building constructions and production. Franz Wilke increased the output from 6.500 tons of steel materials to 111.378 tons in the time from 1874 till 1890. In this period, for the first time, the nail-factory and the steelworks didn't make losses.

As an acknowledgement of his performance, August Thyssen donated to Franz Wilke the castle of Styrum. He lived there for about one year. At the age of 64, Franz Wilke died on 11. April 1891.