This article tells the story of Homestead, Pa., through the history of a family that lived and worked there — my family, the Shatlocks. The Shatlock family is in many ways a typical (and sometimes stereotypical) Homestead family, sending generations off to work in the mill. My family’s history parallels many themes in Homestead’s broader social history such as upward mobility, suburbanization, and company loyalty. You may recognize some of your own family’s traits, whether you’re from Homestead or not.
MARTIN SCHATTLACK
(1840 – 1925)

The story of the Shatlock family begins not in Homestead but in Berlin, Germany. There, my great-great-grandfather Martin Schattlack was born November 15, 1840. While many of the specifics of Martin’s life in Germany have been lost, oral family history has preserved some facts. For example, Martin worked as an equestrian for Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany. He cared for the Kaiser’s horses and even drove the royal carriage on occasion, a duty that he often mentioned with pride in his later years. Martin’s employment under the Kaiser was most likely an extension of his previous military service; he had fought in the Franco-Prussian War from July 1870 until May 1871 as a cavalryman on the Prussian side, a fact that he seldom mentioned in later life.

In 1880, Martin left his job as an equestrian and his life in Germany.
Ironically, it was the mill’s hiring office, not the U.S. immigration office, that changed Martin’s family name from the German spelling “Schattlack” to the phonetic spelling “Shatlock.”

Unfortunately, his specific reasons for wanting to leave Germany—at the age of 40—remain a mystery. A somewhat humorous family tradition within the Shatlock family today suggests that Martin may have had a bit of a mid-life crisis! Nevertheless, in late 1880, Martin and his wife of six years boarded a boat bound for the United States. They arrived in New York City and passed through immigration offices located at Fort Clinton on the Hudson River (the famed Ellis Island would not be opened until 12 years later). From New York, the Schattlacks traveled via railroad to Homestead, just incorporated as a borough a few months earlier in October of that year. Martin had heard his skill with horses could help him land a job at the Pittsburgh Bessemer Steel Company’s new mill.

Upon his arrival in Homestead, Martin set out to purchase a plot of land with money he had brought from Germany. His desire to purchase land as soon as possible was typical of many immigrants, since property ownership was a privilege out of reach for most people except the wealthy in many European countries. Martin chose a plot of land at 552 East Third Avenue, adjacent to City Farm Lane, with two small houses on it. This site was only half a block from the Pittsburgh Bessemer Steel Company mill’s main gate, and the mill literally ran along their backyards. In one house, Martin and his wife lived and raised their family, which would eventually include three boys and three girls—all born in the United States. Martin rented the other slightly smaller house to another family. Upon his purchase of the homes, Martin became one of only 596 residents of the municipal division of Homestead, although there were 7,079 people living in the broader so-called “Homestead District” at the time.

In the 1870s and 1880s, “an influx of skilled brick, glass, iron, and steel workers” began the formation of Homestead as an industrial town. Martin was one of these skilled workers. He got a job at Pittsburgh Bessemer in January 1881, the first year of steel production for the company. The Carnegie Phipps Company purchased the mill two years later, and it became known as simply the “Homestead Works.”

The company immediately assigned Martin to the Transportation Department. This assignment was logical due to his experience as an equestrian, since horses were a major means of transporting materials around the mill at this time. As a skilled employee, Martin was a “tonnage worker” paid by the ton of steel output produced at the mill. Less-skilled men were simply paid a daily wage.
Ironically, it was the mill’s hiring office, not the U.S. immigration office, that changed Martin’s family name from the German spelling “Schattlack” to the phonetic spelling “Shatlock.” Apparently, the hiring clerk – much too busy a man to wait for new immigrant workers to spell their complicated last names – simply wrote each man’s name as he thought it sounded. In a striking example of the company’s influence on the lives of Homestead families, the spelling stuck. Martin continued to use the original German spelling of his last name for at least a few non-work-related functions such as his U.S. citizenship papers. He filed these papers in Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas No. 2 on September 5, 1888, eight years after arriving in the United States. (At that time, immigrants were required to reside in the country for at least five years before filing for full-citizenship.) Eventually, Martin accepted the new spelling of his family name and he entered it as “Shatlock” on his 1900 U.S. Census form.

The Lockout

The single most famous – and most infamous – event in Homestead’s history is the so-called Homestead Strike of 1892, which was actually a lockout. In 1889, the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers had negotiated a three-year contract for scaled wages determined by fluctuating market prices of steel. This contract featured an expiration date of June 30, 1892. After almost five months of unsuccessful negotiations, the company locked out the entire work force – including Martin – on that morning. Martin was not a member of the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers but the strike still affected his life and the lives of his family members. Their dependence on the mill and proximity to the Monongahela River insured this. Many union and non-union workers, including Martin, joined forces under the leadership of Hugh O’Donnell and stood guard around Homestead Works to prevent entrance. Martin needed only to walk less than half a block from his home to join the crowds of men that had congregated around the mill gate, provoking much anxiety in his wife.

Meanwhile, Henry Clay Frick, managing the Carnegie Steel Company in Andrew Carnegie’s absence, made arrangements with Pinkerton’s National Detective Agency of New York to have approximately 300 strike-breaking “detectives” arrive via barges on the Monongahela. These guards/soldiers were known as “Pinkertons” to the Homesteaders.

Workers and Homesteaders of all ages had gathered on the banks of the Monongahela when this hired army was spotted in the early morning of July 6 and were determined to keep the Pinkertons from docking on mill property. Like many famous conflicts in American history, the person who fired the first shot on the banks of the Monongahela that morning remains unknown. After this shot, the Pinkertons opened fire on the crowd and many workers returned fire.

Martin was at the top of the riverbank that morning with one of his sons. The two were unarmed and quickly returned home when the fighting began. Their house was less than three blocks from the battle and the sound of gunshots could be heard from their porch. The sound of the gunfire lasted from 4:00 a.m. until about 5:00 p.m., when the Pinkertons surrendered to the steel workers. When the dust cleared, seven Homesteaders and three Pinkertons had been killed and thongs of men were wounded. Following the surrender, the workers disarmed the Pinkertons and held them as “prisoners of war” for the next 24 hours, then allowed them to leave Homestead peacefully.

Frick demanded that the governor of Pennsylvania send in the state militia, and “within a few days the little mill town of 12,000 was an armed camp.” The militia soldiers stayed in Homestead for almost five full months and were frequently seen around Martin’s house due to its close proximity to the mill gate. During these months, Martin and his fellow steel workers did not go to work. Concern grew with each passing day in the Shatlock household and in households all over the little steel town, since winter had come and workers were worried that their families would go cold and hungry. On November 20, the Homestead Strike officially ended as workers returned to work out of desperation. The militia left Homestead, all Homestead Works employees became non-unionists, and the company successfully discouraged union organization. As Richard Oestreicher puts it, “Homestead,
Paul wearing his Plant Protection Department uniform outside Carrie Furnace in 1913.

which had been a workers' town where union officials ran the local government, became a company town for more than forty years.... The defeat at Homestead symbolized the dynamics of a new political economy emerging out of massive technological change at the end of the nineteenth century.  

The strike's outcome helped to reinforce the company's power over the worker, and modern technology expanded this power even further. The introduction of new steel-making machinery such as the open-hearth furnace made the jobs of many skilled workers obsolete, and the increasing use of unskilled labor further tightened the company's grip on the community.

Martin was able to escape the fate that many of his fellow skilled workers suffered and was rehired, since the horse was still a useful means of transporting materials around the mill. The new steel-making technologies did affect his family, however, since they inspired an influx of Eastern European immigrants to Homestead. Most settled in neighborhoods near the mill and contributed to a growing problem of overcrowding. Martin had gone from being one of 596 Homesteaders in 1880 to one of 12,554 in 1900, and the entire Homestead District was now home to 24,920 people.

After 28 years of continuous service in the mill's Transportation Department, Martin retired in 1909 at age 69. His pension from the company (now part of the United States Steel Corporation or U.S. Steel) was $10 per month.

Not content to remain idle, and perhaps needing to add to his small pension, Martin took a job with the borough of Homestead as a street cleaner. In the summer, he pushed a large drum on wheels into which he swept dirt from the brick streets. In the winter, he shoveled snow from these same streets. Martin worked this job until his death on January 11, 1925, at age 84.

The youngest of Martin's three sons was my great-grandfather, Paul Stanislaus Shatlock, born in Homestead in 1894, two years after the Homestead Strike.

Paul spent his entire childhood living in the small house on Third Avenue that his father Martin had purchased upon arrival from Germany. Home ownership was rather common in Homestead among the mill worker families; in 1900, according to the census, 25.7 percent of the families in Homestead borough held the title to their homes. The high rate of home ownership among mill workers increased the company's power in the Homestead community, because home ownership lessened the mobility of labor. Thus, millworker families were reluctant to pick up and move in pursuit of higher wages.

Paul completed high school within the Homestead community and went on to college at the Pittsburgh Catholic College of the Holy Ghost (later Duquesne University). This was an impressive feat for a first-generation American.
was becoming increasingly difficult for skilled workers to pass their trades onto their sons. Thus, many saw education as a way to advance their children into white-collar, middle-class occupations, although few skilled workers were able to send their sons to college.35

Paul, however, contracted a severe case of rheumatic fever during his third year of college and was forced to leave school to recuperate. He eventually rebounded but it caused permanent heart damage that would haunt him throughout his life.

After his recovery in 1912, 18-year-old Paul did not return to college but instead took a position in the Homestead Works Plant Protection Department, which ironically was created shortly after the Homestead Strike of 1892 to keep an eye on the group of workers that included Paul’s father. Paul was assigned to patrol the Carrie Furnace operation, a part of Homestead Works located across the river in Rankin.36

Martin and his wife worried that their son’s job was too dangerous. Martin also felt that it was important for his well-educated son to move up into the ranks of management. Martin used personal connections to land Paul a job as a clerk in the Homestead Works employment office; after only a few years of patrolling the mill yards, Paul moved inside the offices.

During this time, Paul lived with his parents in their original home on Third Avenue. After he married and had two children, Paul and his family moved into the other small house on the property. As the youngest son, Paul felt obligated to stay near his parents in their old age.37

In 1930, after both his parents had passed away, Paul moved his family out of the house and into a rented apartment on Ninth Avenue in suburban Munhall. As Paul’s son observed, “the apartment had about as nice a view as you could find in the Homestead area, since it sat directly across from the Carnegie Library [of Homestead].”38

Paul’s plan was to continue renting until he had saved enough money to purchase a home in the suburbs. Unfortunately, the Great Depression that had begun less than a year earlier turned out to be more serious than he had anticipated. After three years of renting the apartment on Ninth Avenue, economic concerns forced him to purchase a small home in Homestead at 229 Fourth Avenue.39 The move back to Homestead was a bit disappointing for Paul and his wife Mae, since they had hoped to remain in the suburbs. It was a common desire for Homestead families to move “above the tracks” – that is, above the train tracks that signified the boundary of Homestead in their minds. Paul’s family had succeeded in this goal briefly, only to be forced back down below the tracks by the hard times of the Depression.

Too Many Pies

By the time the Great Depression arrived, Paul had almost 15 years of experience in the Homestead Works employment office and had worked his way through the ranks of management to Personnel Clerk in the Industrial Relations Department. The company assigned him the difficult duty of distributing work hours among the laborers, since the economic conditions created a limited number of work hours and an overabundance of workers. The period of rapid mill expansion had ended after World War I and the Depression took unemployment at the mill to levels never before seen.40

This situation led many workers’ wives to visit Paul’s home – often sobbing – to beg for work for their husbands. Many of the women also offered small bribes – usually in the form of pies, bread, and other baked goods – which he would politely refuse. Soft-spoken Paul was known for his
patient, understanding treatment of these women and spent many long hours at his desk in attempts to distribute work hours as fairly as possible among all the men.41

These attributes and his importance to the livelihood of many Homestead families made Paul somewhat of a small-town celebrity during the Depression. Paul’s status in Homestead is illustrated nicely by the following anecdote related by my grandmother Isabelle Shatlock in a recent interview:

An elderly woman approached me just a few years ago at church after she had heard my last name to inquire if I was any relation to Paul Shatlock from Homestead. When I replied that he was my father-in-law, the woman told me what a good man he had been. She said that she always remembered his name since he was “like a saint” in her family and kept her “daddy working during the Depression” when she was just a young girl.42

When World War II snapped the U.S. out of the Depression in 1941, nowhere was the change more visible than in Homestead. That June, the federal government selected the Homestead Works as a site for large-scale expansion under the national defense program. The expansion was the largest of any existing steel-making facility in the country and poured $75,000,000 into the depression-drained economy of Homestead.43 Just as importantly, it brought new jobs to the area – much to the relief of Paul, who was still working in the mill’s Industrial Relations Department.

The expansion came at a price, though, as roughly 8,000 Homestead residents were displaced, largely from the area north of the railroad tracks known to Homesteaders as “the Ward.” In the place where their homes, five schools, twelve churches, two convents, 28 bars, and numerous other buildings had stood now loomed an expanded mill.44 The Shatlocks were one of the thousands of Homestead families uprooted by the expansion. Not only was Paul forced to sell his Fourth Avenue house and property to the company, but also the property on Third Avenue that had belonged to his father. The two small homes that Martin had purchased upon his arrival from Germany in 1880 were two of the first to go in 1940.

With the money Paul received from the sale of his properties, he had the means to once again move “above the tracks.” Paul and his wife considered homes in various suburban areas including Mount Lebanon, Squirrel Hill, and Whitehall. Ultimately, they decided to purchase a house in Homestead Park, a suburban Homestead neighborhood that was nonetheless still “below the tracks” in their minds. During his time on Fourth Avenue, however, Paul had developed the habit of walking home to eat lunch with his wife in the middle of his workday, and they decided that this luxury was not worth giving up simply to move out of Homestead.45 Their desire to move “above the tracks” had diminished over time.

A weak heart brought on by his bout with rheumatic fever bothered Paul throughout his life. In his later years, he often crawled up the stairs to get to the second floor of his home. Paul was much too proud a man to do this at work, though, where he had to go up and down two flights of stairs to file records many times throughout the day.46 Unfortunately, the stairs eventually got the best of Paul, and he succumbed to a heart attack on March 26, 1955, at age 60. He had 43 years of continuous service at Homestead Works.47

Hundreds of people attended Paul’s funeral. Many were millworkers whom he had dealt with during the Depression or had hired during the WWII boom. Because of his mini-celebrity status in Homestead, Paul’s death notice was printed on the front page of the Homestead Messenger newspaper instead of in the normal obituaries section.

Eugene was hired at the Homestead Works in August 1940. Before he could begin working, however, he was required to join the United Steelworkers union. His enrollment made him the first Shatlock to join a union.
**EUGENE PAUL SHATLOCK**  
(1921 – 2002)

The Shatlock tradition in Homestead did not die with Paul. On September 1, 1921, Paul’s wife Mae had given birth to the couple’s only son, Eugene Paul Shatlock – my grandfather. Until he was nine years old, Eugene’s family lived in one of the small houses on the Third Avenue property that his grandfather, Martin, had purchased upon arrival from Germany.

When the family moved into their Munhall apartment, young Eugene spent many hours across the street reading at the Carnegie Library of Homestead while he attended St. Francis Elementary School. When Eugene was in sixth grade, his family moved back to Homestead and into their Fourth Avenue home, and he returned to St. Anthony’s Elementary, where he “graduated” first in his eighth grade class. He then attended Central Catholic High School in Oakland. The school was quite a distance from his family’s house in Homestead, but Eugene’s father considered it important for his son to attend a parochial school, and Central Catholic was the closest. When his luck was good, Eugene could hitchhike his way to and from the school. Other times, he was forced to take the streetcar or walk.

Eugene often used to gather with several hundred other Homesteaders in a park on Second Avenue. Once a week, the borough showed an outdoor movie there on a large screen. Drive-ins did not arrive in the area until decades later; townspeople brought folding chairs and blankets to sit on as they enjoyed the free entertainment. The park was also the site of the borough’s celebration on July Fourth, the only day besides Christmas on which the great mill stood silent.49

During the 1930s, Eugene and his fellow Homestead boys also used to frequently gather at the park to play baseball on a small field. On March 17, 1936, this field was one of the many Homestead landmarks underwater.50 In what became known as the “St. Patrick’s Day Flood,” much of Homestead and the surrounding Pittsburgh area experienced severe flooding brought on by thawing ice and heavy rainfall. In Homestead, rising river waters quickly covered much of Second, Third, and Fourth avenues. Eugene’s family was extremely concerned about their Fourth Avenue home but the water stopped a half-block away from their property and they were spared the damage that befell the homes of hundreds of fellow Homestead families.

After graduating from Central Catholic High School in 1938, Eugene entered St. Vincent’s College in Latrobe. He was in the seminary class and intended to become a priest. In 1940, though, Eugene decided that the priest’s life was not for him and – like his father – left college after three years for a job at Homestead Works. Unlike his father, though, Eugene was determined to earn a college degree and planned on eventually continuing his education as a part-time student at Duquesne University. Events in other parts of the world, however, were taking place that would ultimately nullify this plan too.

Eugene was hired at the Homestead Works in August 1940. Before he could begin working, however, he was required to join the United Steelworkers union, since the mill was now a union shop. His enrollment made him the first Shatlock to join a union: neither Eugene’s father Paul nor his grandfather Martin had ever been a union member, since the bloody steel strike of 1892 had left Homestead Works devoid of unions until 1936. In that year, the United Steelworkers union had come to the mill and, under the protection of the Wagner Labor Relations Act of 1935, successfully negotiated a $6 minimum wage for laborers and a one-week yearly vacation allowance for employees with more than 5 years of service. By the time Eugene arrived at the mill in 1940, membership in the union was required for all laborers.51

Eugene was assigned to the night shift in the mill’s Armor Plate Machine Shop, where he worked as a machinist assistant.52 This assignment marked another first in the Shatlock family line – Eugene was the first Shatlock to work as a general laborer in the mill. When the United States entered World War II in 1941, production at the Armor Plate Machine Shop soared. Eugene spent long nights sweating at his station as he helped to machine sections of steel frequently up to 22 inches thick.53 Homestead Works was one of the major suppliers of this extremely thick steel
Eugene's sister Eleanor wearing her mill-issue work uniform and goggles in 1943.

necessary for building the gun turrets of battleships.\(^5\)

As a worker in the Armor Plate Machine shop – a factory that exclusively performed government-contracted work – Eugene had an official exemption from military service.\(^5\) Nevertheless, Eugene felt compelled by a duty to his country, so without telling his parents, he enlisted in the United States Navy in June 1942.\(^56\) Soon, he was on his way to the South Pacific.

**Homesteaders Forge On**

By 1943, Homestead Works employed nearly 15,000 workers and manufactured over 350,000 tons of armor plate.\(^57\) The booming war economy and rapid mill expansion had created thousands of new jobs, but many young potential workers – and even many young currently-employed workers like Eugene – had left to fight in the war. This situation led to the first noteworthy influx of female workers into Homestead Works. Eugene's sister Eleanor was one of this new breed of steelworkers that entered the mill during the Second World War.

When Eugene returned from the South Pacific in early 1944, the Navy offered him the opportunity to complete his college education begun six years earlier. Eugene enrolled at Stevens Institute of Technology in Hoboken, N.J., but after a year transferred to Dartmouth College's business program. The U.S. Navy funded this education. When Eugene graduated from Dartmouth in 1946, the Navy expected him to apply to become an officer, but instead he requested his discharge. Eugene had recently married his long-time sweetheart Isabelle, and he did not think that she would find life as a naval officer's wife very appealing.

After Eugene's discharge from the Navy, the young couple returned to Homestead where they temporarily lived with Eugene's parents at their new house in Homestead Park. Eugene's professional return to Homestead was short-lived, however, as he was rehired by U.S. Steel's Audit Division and soon assigned to National Tube Company, a corporation subsidiary located in McKeesport. Eugene split most of his workday between McKeesport and the Frick Building in downtown Pittsburgh, where the offices of the Audit Division were located.

At first, U.S. Steel refused to give Eugene – and other former employees who had left their jobs to fight in the war – pension credit for time spent in the military. After a few years, though, legal action by the federal government forced the corporation to give Eugene and other employees full credit for their time spent in the service.\(^58\)

In 1947, 26-year-old Eugene and his wife purchased a home in nearby West Mifflin. The Shatlock family had finally moved "above the tracks" for good. It had only taken them 67 years. After eight years and three children in this West Mifflin home, Eugene's family moved into a house in Whitehall at 1527 Parkline Drive. This would become their permanent home where Eugene and Isabelle would eventually raise their two daughters and two sons.

Eugene steadily worked his way up through the ranks of the corporation's Audit Division and he was soon responsible for auditing various U.S. Steel projects and operations throughout the country. His office moved into the downtown U.S. Steel Building at 525 William Penn, but his work frequently took him back to Homestead Works. The plant and the Homestead area enjoyed prosperity through much of the 1950s. This allowed many other longstanding Homestead families to mimic Eugene's family by making the move to the suburbs.\(^59\)

In 1954, Eugene obtained a Master's in Business Administration by taking night courses at the University of Pittsburgh. A year later, he was promoted to U.S. Steel's
Eugene in his office on the 56th floor of the U.S. Steel Building in Pittsburgh, 1983.

Treasury Department as Manager of Financial Services. When the new U.S. Steel skyscraper was completed in 1973, he moved into an office on the 56th floor. Eugene’s job no longer took him to the Homestead Works but his work now had more affect upon the operation of the mill than at any other previous point in his life. His major responsibility for U.S. Steel was to “check out” the finances of companies that were under consideration for supplier contracts. Eugene now had a direct impact upon the materials that arrived at Homestead Works.

Eugene continued to work in the Treasury Department throughout the 1960s and 1970s. During his later years with the corporation, he witnessed a steady decline in the American steel industry that had a profound effect upon Homestead and the entire Monongahela valley. When Eugene retired from U.S. Steel on October 31, 1983, Homestead Works was less than three years away from its shutdown, an event almost unthinkable to an ex-machinist assistant who had sweated over 22-inch plates of steel during the booming war period of the 1940s.

Eugene’s career with the corporation ended at age 62 after 43 years of service – the exact same number of service years that his father, Paul, had completed at the time of his death. Eugene retired to his home in Whitehall with his wife Isabelle where he lived as a full-time grandfather until his death on December 23, 2002, at age 81.

**PAUL FRANCIS SHATLOCK, SR.**

*b. 1953*

Even though the Shatlocks’ ties to Homestead had been weakened years before, the Shatlock family tradition at U.S. Steel was continued after Eugene’s retirement by my father, Paul Francis Shatlock, Sr.

Paul was Eugene’s eldest son, born March 11, 1953, while the Shatlocks were living in West Mifflin. This made Paul the first Shatlock since his great-grandfather Martin – and the very first American-born Shatlock – to be raised outside of Homestead. In fact, Paul was also the first Shatlock in four generations never to have lived in the original house that Martin purchased upon his arrival from Germany; it had been gone for 13 years by the time Paul was born.

When Paul was two years old, his family moved to Whitehall. Paul was educated at St. Elizabeth’s High School, then attended the University of Pittsburgh. He graduated in 1975 with a degree in Economics and Business Management.

On April 1, 1976, U.S. Steel hired Paul as a Management Trainee in Operations. He worked at the Edgar Thompson Works, Andrew Carnegie’s original steel mill in Braddock across the Monongahela River a few miles from Homestead Works. Paul was assigned to the Basic Oxygen Furnace (BOF) Steel-making Department.

In that same year, Paul married my mother Nancy. The young couple moved into a small apartment in Munhall that they rented during Paul’s first two years at Edgar Thompson. Paul found the apartment appealing because it was both close to the plant and affordable. In 1978, the couple moved to West Mifflin where they would eventually raise their two children – my sister and me.

When Paul arrived at U.S. Steel in 1976, the American steel industry was still in relatively good shape. Paul was one of roughly 4,000 people employed at the Edgar Thompson Works while Homestead Works was home to nearly 22,000 employees. Soon, though, the industry would take a major turn for the worst.

In 1978, an industrial collapse began that would destroy the American steel industry’s dominance of its own national market in only five years. There were many factors but among them was the “dumping” of foreign steel into the United States. The collapse hit Homestead Works faster and harder compared to U.S. Steel’s other operations on the Monongahela River. This phenomenon was largely due to the fact that Homestead Works relied on outdated open-hearth technology. The Homestead mill’s furnaces were cost-inefficient compared to the newer technologies of foreign mills and even Edgar Thompson Works. Homestead’s furnaces also produced a large amount of pollution that was difficult to control. The plant incurred additional costs in the early 1980s as it unsuccessfully struggled to meet Allegheny County’s air-emissions standards.
The family purchased a commemorative brick outside the Carnegie Library of Homestead.

During this time, Paul worked a number of shift supervisor positions at Edgar Thompson Works. In 1983, U.S. Steel combined this operation with the Homestead Works plant to form Homestead-E.T. Works. The move was designed to cut costs by consolidating management positions. In a way, this reorganization made Paul the fourth-generation Shatlock to be employed at Homestead Works. As part of the reorganization, Paul watched the corporation close Carrie Furnace, where his grandfather had patrolled the mill yards as a member of the Plant Protection Department 70 years earlier. Just two years after this initial reorganization, U.S. Steel combined Homestead-E.T. Works with its other Monongahela Valley operations – Irvin Works, Duquesne Works, and Clairton Coke Works – to form Mon Valley Works. By 1985, the Homestead mill was losing U.S. Steel an estimated $1 million daily. A little more than a year later, the corporation shut down the entire Homestead operation. At one time one of the largest steel-producing factories in the world, the Homestead mill closed for good on July 25, 1986.

In August 1986, just after the official closing of the Homestead mill, the United Steelworkers union went on strike. The union was reeling from ever-growing numbers of lost jobs and wanted the corporation to commit to a long-term interest in the production of steel in the Monongahela Valley.

During this time, the entire Mon Valley Works operation was shut down. However, because the furnaces at the Clairton Works plant had to be kept hot to prevent structural damage, Paul was assigned to work there as a maintenance-repairman. For the entire first two weeks of the strike, Paul was “locked-in” at the plant and was unable to return home to his family. He worked, ate, and slept there since it was unsafe to cross the strikers’ picket lines.

By the time the strike ended in February 1987, Duquesne Works had joined Homestead Works on the list of discontinued operations. As part of the strike settlement with the union, however, the corporation had been forced to pledge millions of dollars toward the modernization of the remaining Mon Valley Works plants. The Edgar Thompson Works plant received a new continuous caster operation that created hundreds of jobs and helped keep Mon Valley Works running to this very day.

Paul saw the 1986 strike and the closing of Homestead Works as a sign. He began to wonder if his future lay separate from that of the corporation. Then, just after the strike ended in 1987, three of Paul’s fellow shift supervisors – and close friends – were killed in an industrial accident at the mill. On that day, Paul had worked the shift before them. Had the accident occurred on his shift, he almost certainly would have been among the victims.

This was the last straw for Paul, and he began searching for work outside USX. In 1989, Paul became the first Shatlock to leave the corporation – that is, before retirement or death. He also became the first Shatlock to move entirely away from the Homestead area, and for that matter, the Pittsburgh area. Although he remained in the steel industry, Paul’s new job took him and his family to Parkersburg, W.V.

After five years in West Virginia, Paul’s career took him from Parkersburg to Mansfield, Ohio. There he became the Vice-President of Jay Industries, Inc., a supplier of steel components to the automotive industry. He still holds this position and continues to reside in Mansfield with his wife and daughter.

PAUL FRANCIS SHATLOCK, JR. (b. 1981)

I also lived with my father, Paul, and the rest of my family in Mansfield until I returned to Pittsburgh to attend college at Carnegie Mellon University. On my very first day back in Pittsburgh in 2000, my cousin took me to see a movie at the newly opened Lowes Theater at The Waterfront. Although my family had kept in close contact with our Pittsburgh relatives and returned to the city rather frequently during our time in West Virginia and Ohio, I had never heard of the redevelopment that was occurring in Homestead. Imagine my shock as a McDonald’s, a Giant Eagle, and a
Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse greeted my eyes in place of the dilapidated mill buildings that I remembered!

In a way, I have become a Homesteader once again — well, a part-time one anyway — since I often eat Friday-night dinners at one of The Waterfront's nearly one-dozen restaurants. This is somewhat ironic considering what my grandfather Eugene stated in a 2002 interview: "We Homesteaders were probably the least likely people to ever go out to eat in the old-days. Hell, I don't think I ever even went to a restaurant until I left Homestead with the Navy!"\(^7\)

There is a brick outside the Carnegie Library in Homestead with an inscription that reads, "The Shatlock Family: Homesteaders since 1880." In reality, though, the Shatlocks have not truly been Homesteaders since 1880. In a way, I have become a Homesteader once again — well, a part-time one anyway — since I often eat Friday-night dinners at one of The Waterfront's nearly one-dozen restaurants. This is somewhat ironic considering what my grandfather Eugene stated in a 2002 interview: "We Homesteaders were probably the least likely people to ever go out to eat in the old-days. Hell, I don't think I ever even went to a restaurant until I left Homestead with the Navy!"\(^7\)

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