

CFR 0233

Vardie E. Shelton

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Albany, Oregon
July 16, 1958

I, Vardie E. Shelton, of Scio, Oregon, first being duly sworn depose and say that my grandfather, Haman Shelton, took up a D.L.C. in the year 1847. Said claim being located E. of Scio, in T. 10, S.R. 1 E., of the W.M. and running thence N. about 155 rods, thence W. 223 rods, thence So. about 115 rods, thence E. 223 rods, to the place of beginning, containing 160 acres. This piece of property described is the property that is now in my possession. Of this 160 acres, I have sold off five acres, and now have in my possession about 155 acres, that I have owned continually since it was heired by me from my father, Haman Shelton, II.

I further certify under oath that my grandfather at the time he took up this claim lived on said claim, continually until his death. At which time said property was heired by my father, Haman Shelton II.

I further certify at the time of the death of my father, I, Vardie E. Shelton, heired said property, and I have lived on the same or operated the same continually, ever since.

I further certify that this property that I now own, has been in the possession of my family for more than 100 years.

Scio, Ore.

Vardie E. Shelton
Owner

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of July, 1958.



Marionie L. Amos
Notary Public for Oregon
My Commission Expires: 4-11-60

July 16-1958
Accepted this date.
E. S. Arnold County Judge
Lincoln County Oregon

CFR0233

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Retired Linn Century Farmer Hunts on Family Land Claim

By JOSEPHINE SOMMER
Democrat-Herald Correspondent

SCIO—Since his retirement, Vardie Shelton of Scio, one of Linn county's centennial farmers, finds his chief enjoyment in his favorite sport, hunting for the elusive deer. This season over, his guns are being cleaned and readied for the next one.

Shelton was born Feb. 10, 1880, on the donation land claim of his grandfather, Haman Shelton I. His own father, Haman II, was only four years old when the family came to Oregon so he, too, grew up on the place. He was the youngest of 13 children, one of them died young, and the eldest, William, stayed in Missouri until 1949, then spent four years in California gold mines before coming to Oregon. The other 11 came with their parents.

The first Haman Shelton and Priscilla Fitzgerald were both born in North Carolina, he in 1799 and she in 1797. Soon after their marriage on April 7, 1819, they moved to the Blue Ridge country in Virginia. Then in the 1830's they moved on to Missouri. In the spring of 1947 they started for Oregon. "Uncle Dicky" Miller was captain of the wagon train. The William Cyrus family was in the same train. The Shelton's and Cyprus cooked on the same campfire all the way to Oregon and took up claims near each other. They were in the first wagon train to come by way of the "Barlow Pass" around Mt. Hood.

It was so steep that they cut down fir trees and tied them by the tops to the rear of the wagons, to help brake the speed on down-hill grades.

Other Settlers

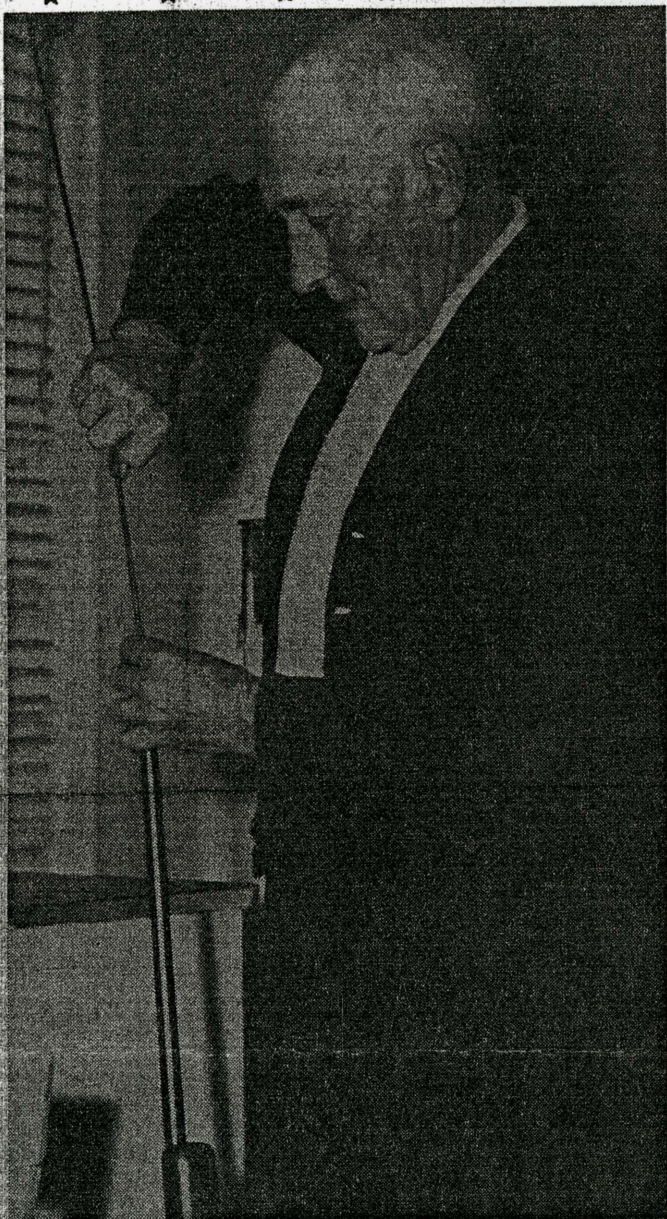
"The only other settlers in this area when they arrived were John Crabtree, Green McDonald, Fred Thomas and families, and a bachelor named Horace Brown," says Vardie, "so many of my father's playmates were Indian boys.

"They got along well with the Indians, who sometimes borrowed from grandfather. They always told him they would pay him back in so many moons, and they were prompt in payment."

The cabins of course were all built by hand, as well as much of the furniture. The Shelton family's first beds in this country were boxes filled with moss and covered with buffalo hides.

Shelton's Parents

Haman II married Olive Holman on July 22, 1866. Besides Vardie, they had one daughter,



(Photo by Lucile Thurston)

VARDIE SHELTON: 78 Years in Linn County

Sarah Louphiza, who died in 1871. Mrs. Shelton died in 1923 and Mr. Shelton died April 2, 1930, at age 86. All of his brothers and sisters are gone too, but each played an important part in the settlement of a country. They also left behind children and grandchildren who are still carrying on the Shelton name to their credit. The family has always played an important part in all community affairs.

Vardie Shelton and Elva Bilyeu

were married Nov. 3, 1909. They have one son, Howard, who lives in The Dalles. Until a few years ago, they also lived on the family farm.

Although Vardie and Elva still own a part of the Shelton claim, they have not lived on it since 1942, when he became an engineer for the Mountain States Power Co. plant at Jordan. They lived there for nine years then moved into Scio when the plant was discontinued.