

SHELTON, CHRISTOPHER Y.

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SHELTON, CHRISTOPHER Y _____

Born at _____ Kentucky, _____ 18 _____ (about 1842) .

Son of _____ and _____ .

Came to Northern Arizona in 1864 and engaged in mining in the Walker District about 6 miles east of Prescott; had a yard in Prescott in 1869 where he sold shingles and clapboards; listed, U. S. Census, 1870, at Prescott, age 28, occupation - Miner, property valued at \$500; the following ^{are} references to him in the Prescott Weekly Arizona Miner:

January 22, 1870 - - From Walker's District - - The news from this old district is quite meagre, in consequence of there being no water there to mine with. Jackson McCrackin and C. Y. SHELTON came down Saturday last, and returned again Sunday. Mr. Shelton has dirt that pays eight cents to the pan. He paid us an ounce of gold got out of it. It was course. Had he a sluice head of water, he could average about \$10 per diem. The quartz miners were taking out plenty of ore, which they are piling up, in hopes of being able to work soon. Shelton says he has some rock--a small lot -- that will go \$2,000.

September 2, 1870 - - Upper Lynx Creek - - C. Y. Shelton has purchased animals to run his arrastra. He will crush ore from the Vernon mine which pays \$1,000 per ton in free gold.

September 30, 1871 - - Lynx Creek District - - C. Y. Shelton has obtained a yield of \$1,136 in gold dust and \$200 in specimens from $4\frac{1}{2}$ tons of ore.

January 6, 1872 - - C. Y. Shelton has a store on Lynx creek, and judging from the bills of goods which he has recently purchased and disposed of, there must be some 40 or 50 "honest miners" at work in the good old creek.

March 9, 1872 - - In the Walker District, placer mining is all the go, and, from the large quantity of gold brought here one day this week, by C. Y. Shelton, we take it, that placer mining there pays.

September 7, 1872 - - C. Y. Shelton entertained (a party of) gentlemen very hospitably at his cabin, (on Lynx Creek), showed them specimens of rich gold quartz from the Shelton lode, and \$78 in beautiful gold taken from his creek claim since last Friday morning (one week), and told of the early days on the creek when fifty or sixty dollars a day was a common cleaning to the man. Shelton is working out the leavings on the old Coulter claim and has found some very good ground, and stated that he got \$13 in one pay a few days ago, from a crevice in the bed rock.

His name appears in the following statements printed in the Prescott Arizona Enterprise:

April 20, 1878 - - The Vernon mine, discovered in 1869, by C. Y. Shelton, who has been a resident of the Walker district for 14 years, has produced some of the richest free gold quartz ever seen in any country. During the first year after his "find" he, unaided, took out over \$6,000 in gold worth \$18 per ounce.

Had the mine been properly opened, it would now no doubt, be paying as handsomely as ever, for the pay streak never gave out, but "caves" and crumbling walls rendered the richest portion of the mine unsafe to work in.

August 24, 1878 - - C. Y. Shelton a pioneer of Walker district is in town. Chris has a mighty promising prospect in the old original district.

His activities were also reported in the Prescott Courier:

June 20, 1884 - - C. Y. Shelton, a pioneer miner of the Walker district, is writing entertaining letters to Madisonville, Ky., Times.

March 17, 1886 - - C. Y. Shelton, keeper of the Walker mining district, owned a steady going white mare, which for 15 years or more served C. Y. faithfully running his arrastra. He would hitch her up in the morning and go about his business, and the old mare would keep moving the mill until noon.

February 24, 1888 - - In '64 five men made about \$5 a day from crushing ore from Big Bug district. C. Y. Shelton made a small fortune by working Vernon ore. The old prospectors know little about silver and cared less.

The following report of his death appeared in the Prescott Journal-Miner on May 5, 1887:

The Albuquerque Democrat publishes the following telegram from Oil City, Pennsylvania, under date of May 3d: "Mr. C. Y. Shelton, died at the Exchange Hotel yesterday, aged 50 years. He was at one time postmaster of Walker, Arizona, and was recently a very extensive operator in silver mines in that territory, and a prominent citizen of Prescott."

The above notice will be read with surprise and regret by Mr. Shelton's many friends here. No particulars of his death are at hand, but it must have been very sudden, as the editor of this paper received a letter from him a few days since, when he was in good health and excellent spirits. His death will be a loss to the mining district of Lynx creek.

The Prescott Courier of May 9, 1887 also printed a similar announcement:

Mr. H. C. Reeser, of Oil City, Pa., writes the Courier concerning the death of C. Y. Shelton, of this County, which occurred at the former place May 1st. He says Mr. Shelton came to Oil City from Cincinnati after having completed the arrangements for some mining machinery. He had been ailing some little time, but had no immediate fear. Two of the best physicians in the city attended him, but without avail. Mr. Shelton had sold considerable mining stock, and was about to start work on some mines in the Walker district.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- The Weekly Arizona Miner, Prescott, January 23, 1869, 3:5; January 22, 3:2, April 9, 1870, 3:2; September 2, 3:3, September 30, 1871, 3:3; January 6, 3:3, March 9, 2:3, September 7, 1872, 3:2.
- The Arizona Enterprise, Prescott, April 20, 2:4, August 3, 3:1, August 24, 1878, 3:2
- The Prescott Courier, June 20, 1884, 3:1; March 17, 1886, 3:1; February 2, 1888, 4:4; May 9, 1887, 4:2 (obituary)
- The Journal Miner, Prescott, February 28, 2:1 and May 5, 1887, 3:3 (Obituary).