

ROSWELL SHELLEY is an enterprising merchant and fruit raiser in the Odell district, seven miles out from Hood River on the east side. He was born in Jefferson county, Iowa, on September 26, 1846, the son of Michael and Sena (Mays) Shelley, natives of Kentucky and Tennessee, respectively. The father's ancestors came from Holland and the mother was from a prominent southern family. In 1848, the father with his family and our subject's grandparents started in early spring from Monmouth, Illinois, for the Pacific coast, using ox teams and milch cows. At the Platte river the grandfather was stricken with cholera and he was buried on the dreary plains. After great hardship and suffering, besides much trouble with the hostile savages, they arrived in Oregon City in September. The father's uncle, Elijah Bristow, was at Pleasant Hill, having settled there in 1845, and thither the family went. That was the home, the father having taken a donation claim, until 1857, when he came to Monmouth and assisted to found the Christian College, now the state normal. The mother died there in 1859. Then the old place was sold and a farm bought near Independence, which the father sold in 1870, to accompany our subject to Antelope where they started a stock ranch. Two years later he sold to this son and returned to the valley west of the mountains. He died in Yamhill county, in 1894, aged eighty. He was a good and highly respected man and had done much for the cause of education and for the church. In 1874, our subject sold his stock and removed back to Independence and entered the employ of Isaac Van Duyn, a general merchant. Later he was elected county clerk on the Republican ticket, the first one on that ticket in twenty-four years. Following his service, Mr. Shelley bought a third interest in the mercantile establishment where he had worked and continued there until 1886. Then he sold to his partners and for five years was variously employed. In 1897, he was appointed receiver of the land office in Sitka, Alaska, but after two years, he was so dissatisfied with the climate and the lonesomeness that he resigned. He promoted some enterprises until 1902, when he came to Hood River to visit his brother, and being taken with the country, he located where we find him now. With his son, he owns twenty acres of land near by and this is being put into fruit. Mr. Shelley is also doing a real estate business.

At Independence, in 1878, Mr. Shelley married Miss Mary L., daughter of James Tatum, and a native of Jackson county, Oregon. The father was born in Missouri and came to Oregon in 1850. He married Miss Berry. Mrs. Shelley died in 1891, August 26, at Independence. On September 24, 1902, Mr. Shelley married Mrs. Rose McCoy, nee Sherrieb, and a native of Germany. Mr. Shelley has the following brothers and sisters, Hon. James M., Troy, Rolandes L., Mary M. Sifton, who died June 30, 1904; Ellen F. Sommerville, Lodema Huston, Henry, deceased, Ransom, deceased, and Martha, deceased. To our subject three children have been born, Ralph D., a partner with his father; Hugh T., in Independence; and Fay S., who died in 1901, aged fourteen. Mrs. Shelley is a member of the Congregational church and is very influential and active in labors for the same.