



SOLON SHATTUCK'S Aunt Abigail is shown here in her New England home. Abigail raised Solon after his father's death. The picture is estimated to be more than 100 years old.

One Ft. Klamath Soldier Who Stayed

Editor's Note—This is the story of Solon Obil Shattuck who came to Fort Klamath in 1873 as a soldier, remained here to marry and raise a family and died in Klamath Falls in 1915.

By MRS. W. R. LOOSLEY

About two decades had passed since the last shot had been fired in the war of Independence and Thomas Jefferson was beginning his first term as President of the new republic when Obil Shattuck was born on a bleak New England farm in the state of Vermont—a boy destined to live but 46 years, leaving his good wife and nine children, the youngest, Solon Obil, only 2 years old.

The family had acquired land on which grew many maple trees. The gathering of the sap from these trees, together with the "boiling down" to the syrup stage, and also to delicious sugar, was an arduous task for all able members of the family. The great kettles of sweet juice were hung over wood fires and must be kept boiling until the right consistency was reached; this involved no little work.

The Shattuck home in Caledonia County was a large, well built structure, similar to the homes of their neighbors. There was a huge rock fireplace across one end of the commodious kitchen and it was here the family gathered, especially on cold winter evenings. Iron kettles hung from an iron rod over the fire, and it was in these kettles that food for the family was cooked. It seemed there was always a pot of beans a-simmering. "Bread was the staff of life but beans are stuffer," vowed Obil, but it was noted that he never passed up the brown bread which was cooked (or steamed) in a container set in water in another iron kettle.

During the sap gathering time, the winter after Solon's birth, his father contracted a heavy cold which ran into lung fever (pneumonia). He was near death for days, but finally pulled through. However, he was left with a persistent cough and was unable to regain his former vigor; so much so that it was difficult for him ever again to do his work. "I'm sure I'll not be with you much longer," he told his wife one day following a paroxysm of coughing and extreme weakness, "but I think you and the older boys will be able to make out all right." He could not have been more correct, for it was only a few weeks until he breathed his last.

a victim of the dread "consumption" (tuberculosis) so prevalent in that day.

After his death the wife allowed her sister, Abigail, who had no children to take her little Solon, now barely 2 years old.

"You have so many to look after and he's at such a troublesome age," she told his mother. "And besides I'll be able to give him advantages you never can, living here."

Reluctantly Solon's mother handed over her little boy, believing it might be best for all concerned.

His aunt kept her pledge to give him the advantages she had promised his mother. He attended Lydon Academy and Hampton Institute. In Boston he enlisted in the United States Engineers in 1867 and went with Company D to California by way of the Isthmus of Panama. The trip was by "windjammer"; the food became stale and the air in the stilty below deck foul. No wonder the men were often so seasick they wished they could die. The trek across the Isthmus of Panama was a welcome respite from the cramped quarters of the boat, but in altogether too short a time they were on another schooner, sailing up

the West Coast toward California. They were stationed at Fort Point and Goat Island, where a fort was established.

After his discharge Solon returned to Vermont for a visit, but soon came back to San Francisco, and on August 27, 1873, he enlisted in Company B, First United States Cavalry, and was sent to Vancouver, Washington. In October of that year he was sent to old Fort Klamath.

The Modoc War had ended in June that year and it was right after Solon Shattuck's arrival that Captain Jack, Scarface Charley and other leaders of the renegade Modocs were hanged at the fort. The gallows was left standing for years, perhaps in the belief they might prove a deterrent to other Indians who might feel a compulsion to murder or plunder.

There has been much speculation as to what was the final disposition of the bodies of these Modoc leaders. Fred Loosley, young son of John Loosley, one of the earliest settlers in the valley, often told of being present, not only for the hanging, but for the supposed burial. He always claimed that as

the coffin (pine box), which was presumed to contain Captain Jack's body, was being lowered into the grave, it slipped and he heard a rattling as of chains or scrap iron; and one John Nichols, who was an early day freighter between Jacksonville and the fort, claimed he hauled the body out in a barrel of whiskey, and that it was shipped to Washington, D.C. He thought it probably was taken to the Smithsonian Institute.

When mustered out of the Army in 1878 Shattuck homesteaded on 160 acres of land in the north-western end of the Wood River Valley. He later made several trips to Ashland with an officer from the fort, and while there met Theodocia Culbertson, who was teaching in Ashland. They were later married and moved to a home on Fort Creek, adjacent to the fort, where they lived for a time, Shattuck working as a civilian at the fort.

The officers' homes were on the east side of the road (present Highway 62) and the Shattucks were

on very friendly terms with the officers and their families. The soldiers' quarters were about 100 yards west of the present road, with parade grounds in front. The big hospital was located about where Highway 62 turns, going toward the present Fort Klamath. Soldiers who died were buried in the cemetery nearby (the present Fort Klamath Cemetery), but when the fort was abandoned the bodies were taken up and moved to Fort Vancouver.

(To be continued)



MR. AND MRS. SOLON SHATTUCK are shown here in a photograph taken around 1885 or 1886. Obil Shattuck is the baby at right, and Clara Shattuck is standing between her parents.

Weather Table

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

	High	Low	Pr.
Albany, cloudy	43	28	
Albuquerque, clear	55	31	.07
Anchorage, clear	M	M	T
Atlanta, rain	65	56	T
Bismarck, cloudy	15	1	
Boston, cloudy	50	36	
Buffalo, rain	38	31	.16
Chicago, snow	36	30	.98
Cleveland, cloudy	42	M	M
Denver, cloudy	49	21	
Des Moines, snow	34	19	.67
Detroit, rain	38	29	.62
Fort Worth, clear	87	49	
Helena, cloudy	35	25	.03
Honolulu, cloudy	81	71	
Indianapolis, cloudy	55	42	.79
Kansas City, snow	46	26	.20
Los Angeles, rain	62	51	T
Louisville, cloudy	65	23	.94
Memphis, cloudy	72	53	.95
Miami, clear	71	67	
Milwaukee, snow	32	25	.52
Mpls.-St. Paul, clear	23	12	
New Orleans, cloudy	73	65	
New York, cloudy	56	44	
Oklahoma City, cloudy	73	28	
Omaha, snow	34	17	.43
Philadelphia, cloudy	55	39	
Phoenix, clear	64	44	
Pittsburgh, rain	52	36	.02
Portland, Me., cloudy	35	23	
Portland, Ore., cloudy	51	43	.54
Rapid City, cloudy	29	5	.18
Richmond, cloudy	63	53	
St. Louis, cloudy	59	44	M
Salt Lake City, cloudy	44	34	.11
San Diego, rain	63	53	.06
San Francisco, cloudy	56	48	.30
Seattle, cloudy	46	42	.01
Tampa, clear	70	58	
Washington, cloudy	60	51	

(M — Missing; T — Trace)

Ike May Buy Desert Ranch

INDIO, Calif. (AP) — Is President Eisenhower negotiating to buy a 20-acre ranch near this Southern California desert city?

Asked about such reports, the present owner, William Carey of San Diego, said Tuesday "I would be most happy to confirm that the President is buying my ranch, but all that I can say right now is 'no comment' and to add that I can't think of a better new resident for Indio."

The property is a few miles from La Quinta, where President Eisenhower recently spent several days. It includes a central residence, five guest houses and a large swimming pool.

LODGE MEETS KHRUSHY MOSCOW (UPI) — Henry Cabot Lodge, U. S. ambassador to the United Nations, chatted informally with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev Sunday night at the Bolshoi Ballet Theater where the two attended a performance of Tchaikovsky's "Swan Lake." Lodge is on an unofficial visit to Russia. He met Khrushchev during one of the intermissions, Tass news agency reported.

WAR GAMES COSTLY

BURLENGENDEL, Ger. — many (UPI) — Nine persons were killed and 46 others, including civilians and military personnel, injured during the NATO "Winter Shield" war games in this area that ended Sunday. The latest accident occurred Sunday when a bus sideswiped an American tank on a narrow road near here, injuring 10 passengers.

NIXON "HATLESS"

MILWAUKEE, Wis. (UPI) — Republicans hoping Vice President Richard M. Nixon would toss his hat into the Wisconsin primary today didn't bargain on a souvenir hunter. Nixon left his hat on the airliner that brought him to Chicago from Los Angeles and airline officials said a souvenir hunter apparently made off with it.

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