

## SHELTON PIKE

The younger brother of Horace, the Nottingham Forest star footballer, Shelton played football but made his reputation as a fine cricketer in the tradition of his father and played at Minor Counties level.

Born on Main Street, Keyworth 4 January 1872, Shelton arrived to his parents Julia & John Pike just over a year after his brother Horace and following school joined his family in the framework knitting industry. Shelton and Horace were close as brothers and on the sporting field and received plenty of encouragement and guidance from cricketer father John Pike. Shelton showed considerable talent for playing both football and cricket whilst at school and strove to keep up with his older brother and was only 12 years of age when making he made his debut for both the local Keyworth football and cricket clubs. He became a regular member of the Keyworth football team and was famously injured in the 1893/94 semi-final of the Notts Football Association Junior Cup playing against the notoriously difficult to beat Jardine's Athletic Club at Ruddington, an event that was reported to have turned the match but it was at cricket Shelton excelled and aged 16 years he took up his first professional engagement at South Shields CC in 1898 where he stayed until 1904 working as the groundsman as well. Diminutive in stature and a fine batsman he was one of the outstanding bowlers in the Durham County Senior League - he is second from the left on the front row of the South Shields team of 1902 (below)



Shelton moved to Shannon's Athletic Club at Walsall for the 1905 season and on 3 July 1907 in one amazing match against Aldridge CC he scored 105 not out and with the ball took all 10 wickets for 22 runs. During this period of engagement with Shannon he was invited to represent Staffordshire CCC at Stoke in the Minor Counties League North Division, a county that was among the leaders of counties with no full member status of the County Championship at that time and at Shannon he scored 847 runs in 13 innings during the 1905 season and took 69 wickets and in 1906, 649 runs and 53 wickets.

## SHELTON PIKE continued

For the 1908 season he was the professional with Notts Commercial CC and for 1909 at Retford CC. Shelton had continued his involvement with the village cricket and football clubs up until his move to Walsall and on his return to the village after that he listened to how some of the young families from Keyworth had made a new life for themselves across the Atlantic and after release from his engagement at Retford in 1909 he decided to take the emigration package to the USA having solicited and received a written offer of a job as a professional cricketer in Philadelphia. His brother Horace joined him after his retirement from professional football but Shelton moved on to a new engagement with the Winnipeg Cricket Club in Canada before settling for the rest of his life in Regina and in 1924 at the age of 52 years he captained Saskatchewan Co-op Elevator CC and also captained the Saskatchewan Provincial team and later became an Umpire until his death on 7 March 1955 in Calgary, Alberta.

Shelton in his later years in the photo below



Shelton Pike's Keyworth career statistics...

	Mat	Inns	NO	HS	Runs	Ave	6's	Ovrs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	Ct	St
1 <sup>st</sup> XI	28	25	4	26	183	8.71		51	11	125	21	5.95	7	
2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	8	8	0	25	65	8.13								
CAREER	36	33	4	26	248	8.55		51	11	125	21	5.95	7	