

# Kemper (Skeeter) Shelton, "1-for-40"

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A solid hitter and flashy outfielder in seven minor league seasons, Skeeter Shelton is best known for his brief eight-day major league career with the New York Yankees at the end of the 1915 season when he sets an unwanted standard of futility for major league players who collect at least one hit in their career as the Huntington, West Virginia native collects just one hit in 40 at-bats for a .025 lifetime batting average.

**"Shelton, the Columbus outfielder, who at the solicitation of Bobby Quinn [Columbus business manager], was given a trial over the weekend at the cost of only railroad fare, hotel bill and a little salary."  
- The Sporting News, September 9, 1915**

Born on June 29, 1888, Shelton plays football at Marshall University in 1904. Later a two-sport (football, baseball) star at his hometown West Virginia University (1907-1909), Shelton takes to the field for Mansfield of the semipro Ohio State League (while a freshman at West Virginia) in 1907 and Richmond (Kentucky) of the Blue Grass League in 1908 before earning his degree in the spring of 1909.

Following graduation, Shelton is playing with Huntington of the Mountain States League when he is signed in July by Pittsburgh Pirates scout Bill Powell to a minor league contract as a shortstop.



Skeeter Shelton  
1912 Columbus Senators

## Shelton, Former Yank, Is Suicide

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., Jan. 9 —(AP)—Andrew Kemper Shelton, 65, former New York Yankee baseball player, shot himself to death today at his home, Coroner Robert S. Barrett reported.

Shelton had a heart ailment and was "very despondent," his widow said.

Shelton played for Columbus of the American Association, where for one season he held the record for runs scored and bases stolen, before he was signed by the Yankees in 1911. He played with that team one season.

On July 16, 1911, a mature 23-year-old Shelton is appointed to succeed Ed Mackey as manager of the Maysville Rivermen of the Blue Grass (D) League. Shelton later joins the Huntington Blue Sox in August and hits an impressive .331 in 32 games.

Following an injury to starting outfielder Roy Hartzell, the New York Yankees make the call to Columbus for Shelton's services. Shelton makes his major league debut with a 0-for-4 performance on August 25 against Cleveland. The 5-foot-11 right-handed hitter, will play 10 games for Yankees all on the road.

Returning to Columbus on September 2, following his demotion from the Yankees, Shelton finishes out the season hitting .255 with a team-high 37 steals. The following season, Shelton returns to his hometown to be a player/manager for the Huntington Blue Sox of the Ohio State League.

On May 20, Shelton suffers a broken leg forcing a six-week stay in a hospital effectively ending his playing career.

## Skeeter Shelton Year by Year:

Year	Team	League	Lev	G	AB	HT	2B	3B	HR	SB	AVG
1911	3 Teams	3 Leagues	D-C	85	317	98	15	8	2	-	.309
1911	Youngstown Steelman	Ohio-Penn	C	15	54	9	3	0	1	-	.167
1911	Maysville Riverman	Blue Grass	D	38	139	48	4	6	1	-	.345
1911	Huntington Blue Sox	Mountain States	D	32	124	41	8	2	0	-	.331
1912	Columbus Senators	American Assoc.	AA	167	659	164	30	12	5	-	.249
1913	Columbus Senators	American Assoc.	AA	144	592	160	25	13	2	-	.270
1914	Columbus Senators	American Assoc.	AA	132	514	129	14	12	4	-	.251
1915	Columbus Senators	American Assoc.	AA	122	416	106	14	4	1	37	.255
1915	New York Yankees	AMERICAN	MLB	10	40	1	0	0	0	0	.025
1916	Huntington Blue Sox	Ohio State	D	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	--
<b>Major League Totals</b>				<b>1 Season</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>.025</b>
<b>Minor League Totals</b>				<b>5 Seasons</b>	<b>650</b>	<b>2498</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>= .263</b>

Shelton returns to his alma mater and coaches the school's baseball team for three years (1919-1921) compiling a 38-18-1 record and the football for two seasons (1922-1923), finishing with a 10-6-1 mark.

On January 9, 1954, Shelton dies from a self-inflicted gun shot wound at his home in Huntington where he was recovering from a heart ailment. His wife says that he was "very despondent."