

James Shelton Mine

Is the James Shelton Mine suffering bad luck, haunted, sabotaged,, or something more serious?

Witness

Jenny Shelton has inherited a depleted gold mine in Possum Trot, NC from her great-great, something grandfather. She hopes to open it as a tourist attraction, like Rock City, GA. She is *optimistic* and her strength is her *determination*.

Characters

Granny Shelton: Jenny's grandmother, she married into the Shelton family but since her mother had been the Shelton family's housekeeper, she has known them all her life. Does she know any Shelton family secrets?

John Reed: He hopes to buy the old Shelton mine, and perhaps reopen it using 20th century technology to make it pay.

Old Winnie: The old man has been panning for gold around Possum Trot for years. No one knows exactly how old he is or how long he's been panning. Or if he's ever found anything.

Trace Hutton: His family used to own the land around Possum Trot until they were forced to go to Oklahoma in 1838 as part of the Trail of Tears. He says he hopes to find records of his family.

Location

1972 Possum Trot, NC is an almost ghost town in Appalachia. It was once a booming gold rush town in the 1830s but the Shelton mine ran out and the town went bust. Without any other industry the town is almost a dead over a hundred years later.

Other Locations

Shelton Manor: More of a large farmhouse than a palatial manor, it's still the largest house in town. The Shelton family is only Granny Arletta Shelton and Jenny Shelton.

Three Creek Road: An old dirt road that seems to lead nowhere, it once went to a Cherokee village. Only a keen eye can find the signs it was once here.

Shelton Hotel: Most of it is closed off but a few rooms are kept open for the occasional stranded traveler or traveling salesman.

James Shelton Mine: A gold mine open around 1839-40, it was part of the North Carolina gold rush. A few years later, James' first wife had an accident and died in the mine. Her body was never recovered.

Clues

Strange orbs of light are often seen on the mountain. Scientists claim they're from reflected car headlights. But records predating cars mention them.

The timbers in the mine seem to groan like dying voices. Or is it the wind?

Once past the light from the entrance, faint, whispering voices seem to emerge from the depths of the mine.

A 19th century diary entry mentions a miner named Winfred disappearing in the mountains.

A pack of coyotes has been seen inside city limits.

The rocks near the mine sometimes shine green.

All the room numbers in the hotel have changed.

The furniture is rearranged in all the rooms of the Shelton House and the Hotel.

A 19th-century 4-page newspaper in an unknown script is found tucked into a couch.

All the dishes rattle as if in an earthquake.