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June 2010

# The Family of Francis Marion Shaw Newsletter

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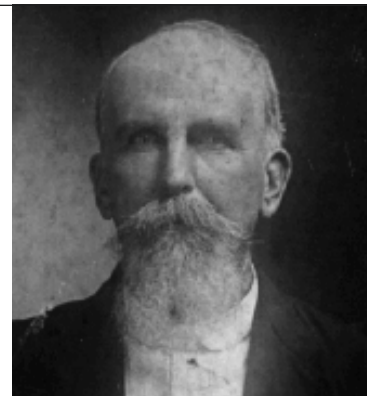
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# THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW AND RACHEL MOORE ALLEN



T H E G R A N D C H I L D R E N

## LEONARD CLEO SHAW *A Woodsman Heritage*

**I**t seems that more often than not, that the culture and environment that a young man is raised

in has a great bearing on what professional aptitude he develops and pursues as his occupation.

Leonard Cleo Shaw was born into a family of woodsmen. His father, Lacy L. Shaw, had made his livelihood primarily in the naval stores

business, which was the dominant industry in South Georgia at the turn of the century. His father was engaged in the turpentine operation with his two brothers, Chester and Arthur. So the language of the woodsman was deeply ingrained in the vocabulary of Cleo, as he was known in his youth. And the theme was essential to him throughout the



remainder of his life.

Leonard Cleo Shaw was the fourth son of Lacy and Tula Albritton Shaw. He was born September 14, 1904, in Willacoochee, Georgia, probably in the home of his Uncle Arthur and Aunt Gertrude Shaw, the sister of Tula. In 1907 his father sold his interest in Shaw Brothers Naval Stores, to his brother, Chester, and eventually built a fine home on 120 acres of land acquired from his

father, Francis Marion Shaw.

Cleo spent his early youth on the farm, until his father sold it in 1917 and moved into Ray City to operate a hardware store. While still a teenager, Cleo found employment in the surrounding communities, finding time to attend school at the South Georgia Business College in Valdosta. He received his diploma on May

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*The Family of Francis Marion Shaw is a non-profit newsletter published semi-annually, or more frequently, for the benefit of the descendants of Francis Marion Shaw and his wife, Rachel Moore Allen Shaw.*

*Historical contributions are requested. Your family histories including character traits, religious affiliations, professional pursuits and vital information such as birth dates and places, marriage dates and places, and death dates and places, are all welcome. Photographs help make the newsletter come alive. If you have some special photos of your ancestors which you would like to share with all of the family, please make a copy print of it and send it on to the address below. If original photos are sent, they will be carefully handled and returned, but editor cannot be responsible for loss or damage. Send your manuscripts and photo submissions to:*

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*Top: The Weaver-Loughridge lumber mill in Boyd, Florida, near Perry. This mill was the home of the early beginnings of Leonard C. Shaw's career with the Pinellas Lumber Company.*

*Above: The young and beautiful Beulah Cason of Waycross, Georgia. She met Leonard C. Shaw while working at the Weaver-Loughridge mill near Perry.*

2, 1921, at the age of 16.

Anxious to explore the opportunities outside of rural South Georgia, Leonard, as he then preferred to be called, secured a position in Miami, Florida with the East Coast Lumber & Supply Company. However, in 1925, a life-changing employment opportunity opened up in Perry, Florida with the Weaver-Loughridge Lumber Company.

**O**n February 1, 1925, Leonard made the move to Perry, where he began his 46-year stint with what would become the Pinellas Lumber Company.

His position as book keeper at the Perry facility was shortlived, however long enough to make the acquaintance of Miss Beulah Cason, daughter of James A. and Love Caroline Fiveash Cason of Waycross, Georgia, who was also employed by the Weaver-Loughridge Company. The Company moved Leonard to St. Petersburg, Florida, in 1925, and Beulah also made the move to St. Petersburg the following year, perhaps as much for interest in young Shaw as for her job opportunity.

But it was not until August 30, 1929 that the couple entered into their lifelong partnership. Their first child, Nancy Carolyn was born December 26, 1932, followed by Mary Martha on August 29, 1934, Sarah Jane on July 11, 1936, and Leonard Cason on May 7, 1938. Leonard

and Beulah lived a time at 2108 1st Avenue North, in St. Petersburg, however in 1939 they moved into their home at 1135 12th Street North, and raised their family there.

**D**uring the depression years, Pinellas Lumber Company was forced to foreclose on a structure known as the St. Petersburg Kennel Club for dog races. Rather than try to sell the vacant structure, they decided to operate the facility as Derby Lane, and assigned "L. C." as he was then being called, as auditor, secretary and treasurer of it as well.

With the onset of WWII, Leonard was found to be asthmatic and was not able to serve in the armed forces. However he found himself fully engaged in the wartime effort as Air Raid Warden on the Gulf Coast.

His mother, Tula, passed away in 1937, and his father, Lacy, passed away in 1944, bringing to close one generation of Shaw woodsmen.

**B**eulah and Leonard were involved with the lives of their children and their friends. They loved hosting their activities, and the home on 12th Street North was always filled with a lot of children for "get-togethers," cookouts, and birthday parties.

Leonard was a self-educated man, for the most part, and continued to expand his



*Above: The Leonard C. and Beulah Shaw family photo taken about 1955 in their home on 12th Street North in St. Petersburg, Florida. Left to right, Leonard Cason, Nancy, Leonard Cleo, Sarah Jane, Mary, and Beulah.*



*Left: The St. Petersburg Kennel Club, later Derby Lane, as it appeared in the 1930s. Leonard was auditor, secretary and treasurer of this Pinellas affiliate as well.*

knowledge and understanding of finance. He became interested in the stock market, studied the forecasts of companies, and invested some of his savings in common stock. He would drive around the county on Sunday afternoons to see what was being built or sold. Though he was conservative by nature, he was always

most supportive of his children and their education, all graduating from college.

Both Leonard and Beulah were involved in their community, Leonard as a Mason and member of Selama Grotto, and the Chamber of Commerce; Beulah as a member of the YWCA Board of Directors, United Methodist Church,

*Though I never met Leonard or Beulah Shaw, one can learn the character of a man and his wife, by the testimonies bore by their children. The four children of this Shaw couple had a great love for "Big Daddy" and "Nanna" as they affectionately referred to them. "Daddy was not much of a writer or commentator, but everyone could depend on him to 'show up.' Daddy was an honest, well-respected man and proud of his family." Great tribute.*

—Bryan Shaw

and Order of the Eastern Star.

**A**s the Shaw couple grew older, they found the cooler climate of North Carolina to their liking, making frequent trips there with their children and grandchildren.

On Wednesday, January 28, 1970, Beulah passed away. She was buried at Memorial Park Cemetery.

Leonard stepped down as Comptroller, shortly thereafter, and retired in 1971. His career in the industry had spanned over 50 years.

Though Leonard had become a confirmed Floridian, he continued to make visits for the next several years to his Georgia home to visit his brothers. As his health declined, and he neared the end of

his life, he resided in the Huber Restorium in St. Petersburg. He died December 7, 1987, and was buried next to Beulah at Memorial Park Cemetery.

**L**eonard Cleo Shaw was a quiet man who spent his life in an industry that he was born into. He understood the way of a woodsman, what price was to be paid for success, and measured his stride to that end. He dedicated his life to one company, one family, and one principle—honesty.

In a memoriam from the Weaver-Loughridge families at the time of his death, they expressed, "To his family and friends. . . we have all lost an honest gentleman." —BLS

# COMING HOME AGAIN

## Returning, Remembering, Reuniting

### 17th Annual Shaw-Allen Reunion

**THE 17TH ANNUAL SHAW-ALLEN REUNION SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 NASHVILLE, GEORGIA COMMUNITY CENTER REGISTRATION 10:00 A.M. PROGRAM 11:00 A.M LUNCHEON 12:00 NOON**

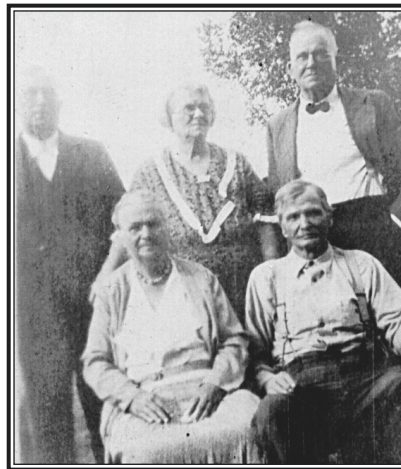
*As usual, there will be an open house on Saturday at the Chester D. Shaw home at 400 East Avera Avenue in Nashville, between 10:00—4:00. Guided tours of old family homes, and historical sites will be available during these hours. Also the Old Berrien County Courthouse will be open for exhibits and tours.*

*Family photo taken about 1930 with a box camera. Seated: Eliza Allen Knight, John Allen; Standing: Jesse "Dock" Shaw, Effie Shaw Clements, and Francis Arthur Shaw. Lacy Shaw was probably the photographer.*

**E**ach year as the fourth Sunday of September approaches, my time and thoughts are filled with preparation for the annual Shaw-Allen Reunion. Often I am busy printing out pieces of historical information, handouts that hopefully will become a part of your family treasures.

This year will not be much different, however, I have been more reflective of the past 16 reunions that have transpired since that first one in 1994. It was of course the one that I refer to as the "Grand Reunion", as it brought branches of the family of Francis Marion and Rachel Allen Shaw together for the first time in over 6 decades. It is the reunion in which I felt the spirit of our ancestors in attendance more than any other time.

Since then, there have been many memorable gatherings of the family—The year Talmadge Allen family visited the old home place that meant so much to "T" as he suffered the last days of his bout with cancer; The year Tom Shaw, Jo Clements,



and Lamar Blanton entertained us with a medley of old time favorites; The years we celebrated the lives of Dianna and Gerald Shaw, who were so instrumental in establishing the Shaw-Allen Reunion;

The year we held the first "One-armed Cornhusking Contest" for the youngsters.

And as each reunion approached, there were always thoughts of family members who were with

us last year, but would not be with us again.

Every year there were familys that attended for the first time, visited the old home sites, and relatives they had not seen in years. They joined us in remembering the lives of their parents, grandparents, and great grand-parents. This newsletter is a product of the family of L.C. Shaw who attended for the first time in 2005.

I hope you all will plan on returning to the reunion this year, not only to enjoy the good food and fun time, but also to remember our family's ancestors, and reunite with your family connections.

—BLS