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The Family of Francis Marion Shaw Newsletter

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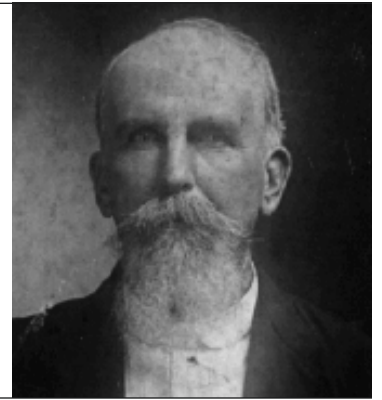
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THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW

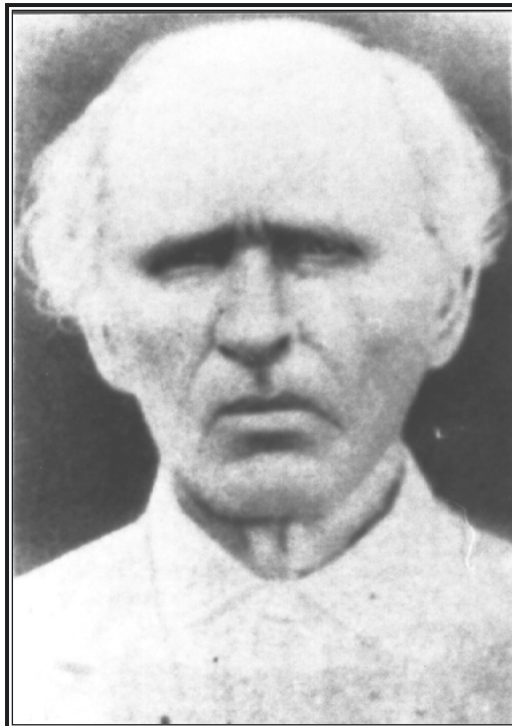


SILENT HISTORY

*The Paternity
of Jeremiah Shaw, Jr.*

Looking upon the only known photographic image of Jeremiah Shaw, Jr., it is difficult to imagine that this devout, 60-year-old plantation owner was ever a free spirited teenager. But a recent discovery of an 1818 Liberty County court document reveals that the father of Francis Marion Shaw, Sr. was known to have "sown his wild oats."

The Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. family moved to Georgia from South Carolina about 1808, settling in Liberty County (now Long County) near Ludowici.



and swamp, drawing close together for common safety and social interaction. During the course of such acquaintances,

Like most settlers of the area, the family was Primitive Baptist and belonged to the newly established Jones Creek Church.

The senior Jeremiah tried to be a faithful follower, but found himself yielding to the temptation of alcohol, and being disciplined by the church for his drunkenness.

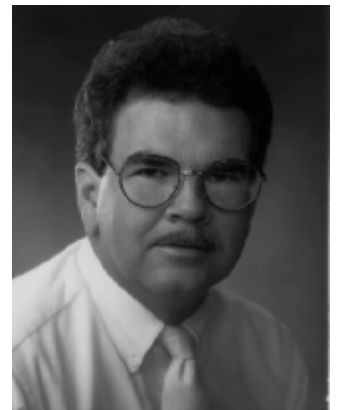
The residents of the county were settling a primitive, untamed section of Georgia that was know mostly as Indian land. Families were often separated by miles of woods

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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:
Bryan Lee Shaw, Editor
onearmshaw@mchsi.com
P.O. Box 417, Nashville, GA
31639-0417

Bryan Lee Shaw, Editor



Recognizance
 Jeremiah Shaw Junr
 &
 Jeremiah Shaw Senr
 given to
 the Justices of the Superior
 Court of Liberty County
 to
 Maintain Support and
 Educate a girl child of
 Sarah Morgan a
 woman of Liberty County
 to January 1818 and
 to Jeremiah Shaw Junr
 as executory witness
 J. S.

Summary Page

Shown above is the summary page from the 1818 Liberty County court document that identifies the paternity proceedings against Jeremiah Shaw, Jr. and his father Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. The document was brought to the attention of the editor by Carol and Julian Harper, descendants of Richard James Shaw, and from the collected research of John Shaw, descendant of John Shaw, son of Jeremiah Shaw, Sr.

17-year-old Jeremiah Shaw, Jr. was attracted to Sarah Morgan, “a single woman of Liberty County.” Sometime in the spring of 1817, the acquaintance became more physical and Sarah found herself pregnant.

On January 28th, 1818, a baby daughter was born to Sarah and Jeremiah, Jr. Whether young Shaw immediately acknowledged his contribution to the creation of the offspring is of some question. It was 10 months, November 24, 1818, before Jeremiah, Jr. accepted legal paternity. Jeremiah, Jr. must have been under the age of 18 at the time of

conception, as his father, Jeremiah, Sr. was also listed as the legally responsible party.

The Shaws accepted the terms of settlement, paying \$1000 in penalty, and promising to “maintain support and educate” the child until the age 14.

The identity of Sarah Morgan is somewhat of a mystery. One theory is that she was the daughter of Levy Morgan, a local plantation owner and mill operator of Liberty County, and the only Morgan of the county with family.

The 1820 census record of Liberty County names only the head of the household, while listing the number of inhabitants of the home, their gender, and general age group. Levy’s home had one female age 26-45 years old, who could have been his wife. There was another female 10-16 years old, which could have been Sarah, even though that would have made her 13 years old at conception, 14 at birth. However, there is also one female child under the age of 10 in the home. Could this be the baby daughter of Jeremiah, Shaw, Jr?

The problem with this theory may be in the last will and testament of Levinder Morgan of Liberty County, dated April 13, 1830. If Levinder is the same Levy Morgan, he names a daughter as one of his beneficiaries, and she is listed as his “youngest daughter,” Julian Susan Candace Christina. The only others named in the will are his wife, Zilpah, and his son, Gabriel. Was Julian Susan Candace Christina Morgan actually Levinder’s granddaughter? If so, what became of Sarah Morgan?

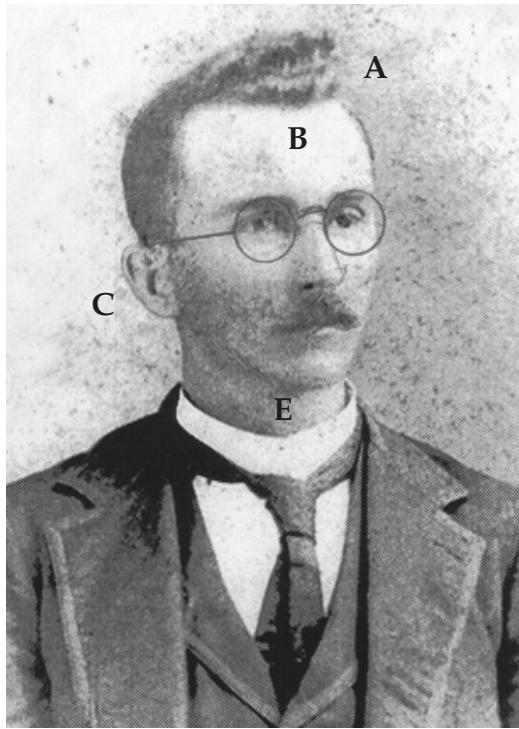
There is one other possible connection of the Shaw-Morgan offspring. The Levinder Morgan will also indicates that Zilpah was his second wife, and indicates that he had children from his first marriage. Could Sarah have been a daughter from that union? And if so, perhaps he was widowed before 1820 and the female 26-45 years-old living in his home is actually Sarah Morgan, and the female child under the age of 10 is in fact the daughter of Jeremiah Shaw, Jr!

Levinder Morgan died almost two years later and his will was executed January 20, 1832. The 1840 census of Liberty County does not show Zilpah Morgan or Gabriel Morgan living any longer in the county. In the 1850 census, all members of each household are recorded by name. But Zilpah, Gabriel, Julian Susan Candace Christina, Sarah—and baby daughter, have all disappeared, blended into families with other names, and passed into silent history.—BLS

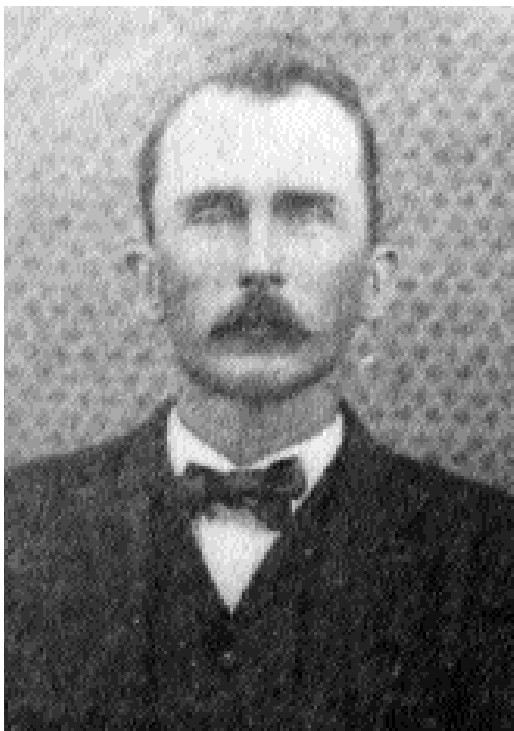
That Can't Be Uncle Lacy— Or Can It?



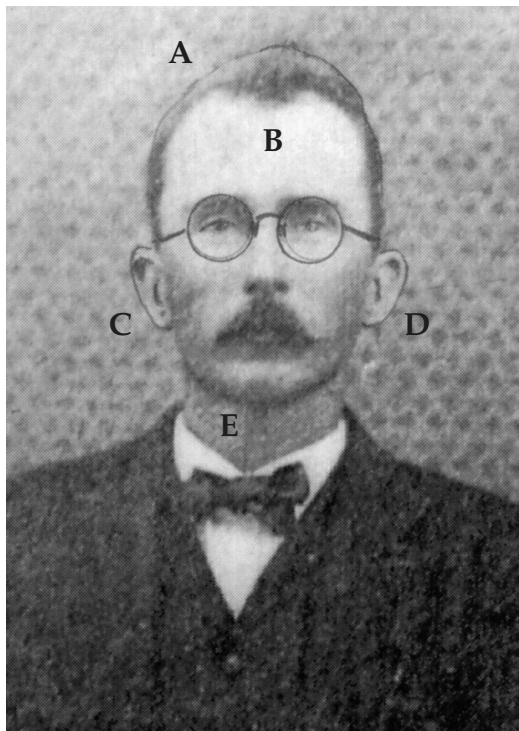
Photo in possession of Tom Shaw, grandson of Lacy Shaw. Inscription on the back—Mrs. LL Shaw, Willacoochee, Ga.



Artist's addition of glasses suggests a more familiar appearance to the elderly Lacy Shaw, but mustache is not so well known.



Detail of photo from portrait taken with Chester Shaw shown on the following page. Lacy and Chester were business partners.



Again, artist's addition of glasses, and also accentuating the character of the ears and pompadour hair style.

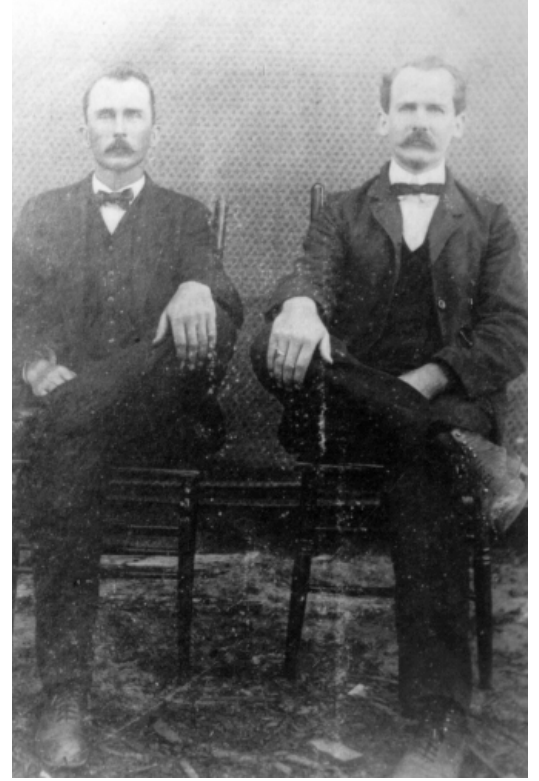
It would probably be easy to pick out a photo that you recognize as being Lacy Lester Shaw. He would probably be in his late 50s, white hair, and round eye glasses. But would you readily identify a photo of Lacy as he appeared in his late teens, with pompadour hair style, mustached upper lip, and sans glasses? Or maybe the early 20-year-old business man with the same hair style, but slightly thinning, same mustache, but slightly longer, still sans glasses, and posing with his brother Chester in front of a fabric screen set up at the site of their turpentine operation.

That is the challenge of trying to recognize portraits of past generations when no identification is noted on the photo, and all you have is the fading memory of octogenarians, and your own analytical eye.

But with a little careful comparison, we may help you recognize the 3 photos on this page and next as being Lacy Lester Shaw.

First of all, the source chain is strong evidence. The two photos shown on this page are in the collection of Clyde Thomas Shaw, son of Clyde Chester Shaw, and grandson of Lacy Shaw.

Both figures sport a pompadour hair style (A), though the bottom photo indicates that the hair is already thinning. Both have a high, receding forehead (B). The ears are the strongest common feature of all. The right ear (C) does not protrude from the head as far as the left ear (D). Also note the deep, open ear canal on the right ear. These characteristics are consistent with all 3 photos, including the pointed, jutting chin (E).



SOURCE CHAIN

The photos on the left and above, are portraits taken at the same time. Neither figure is identified, but the gentleman on the right is definitely Chester Shaw. The badly stained photo on the left is in the collection of Betty Jean Shaw Hughes, granddaughter of Chester Shaw. The tightly cropped photo on the right is in much better condition. It is from the collection of Clyde Thomas Shaw, grandson of Lacy Shaw. Note the woodchips at the feet of the two figures. Lacy and Chester were partners in the turpentine business.

The only positively identified likeness of Lacy Shaw is shown to the right. It is in the collection of Jimmy Shaw, grandson of Lacy Shaw. The pastel portrait was probably made from a photograph. By removing the glasses, adding a mustache, and changing the part on the hair, the image begins to take on the characteristics of the earlier portraits on the previous page. Compare the points of emphasis. What do you think. Are these all photographs of Lacy Lester ?

