

---

Community Archives – Shaw Family History Newsletters  
CA/012-001-012

---

May 1996

# The Family of Francis Marion Shaw Newsletter

Vol 05, No. 02.

---

For this and additional works see: <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/7514>

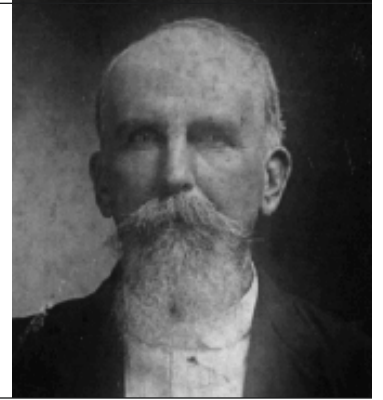
UUID: 215D3C04-72F7-40C9-B59B-49534C7750A8

**Recommended Citation:**

Shaw, Bryan Lee, ed. "The Family of Francis Marion Shaw Newsletter Vol 5, no. 2" Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections, *Shaw Family History Newsletters Collection*, Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections, Valdosta, Georgia. <https://vtext.valdosta.edu/xmlui/handle/10428/7533>

This item is a part of the *Community Archives: Shaw Family History Newsletters Collection*, at Valdosta State University Archives and Special Collections. Physical and intellectual rights are reserved by the Berrien County Historical Foundation. If you have any questions or concerns contact [archives@valdosta.edu](mailto:archives@valdosta.edu)

# THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW



## THE FAMILY OF BARZILLA AND RACHEL MOORE ALLEN

It was the summer of 1862. It was the growing season for crops and gardens. It was the time for young men and boys to be in the fields celebrating life. Instead, it was the season for dying. And wives and mothers gazed across the empty landscape hoping to see their husbands and sons return from the conflict to the north. The wait was in vain for many of the women of Berrien County.

Rachel Moore Allen, 26, had seen her young husband, Barzilla Allen, 24, march up the red, dusty road to enlist with the Confederate army as required by the first Conscription Act, passed 16 April, 1862. Rachel, five months pregnant with her third child, stayed behind with two young boys; William, five; John, three. And she waited.

He was strong and healthy as he joined the forces of the Army of Northern Virginia that were gathered at the staging area near Charlottesville, Virginia, more than 800 miles from his home.

But the encampment of thousands of troops in the most primitive setting was a haven for disease. Fever and dysentery were depleting the army faster than the armed conflict. Measles were spreading at an epidemic proportion, killing over 8,000 Confederate troops. The once strong and youthful were reduced to fever ridden wretches. Barzilla Allen fell ill to the virus. He died on 24 June, 1862, barely two months after he enlisted.

And back in Georgia, Rachel gazed across the empty fields and only saw the messenger who brought the dreaded news. Her daughter Eliza, was born four months



RACHEL MOORE ALLEN (1835-1921)

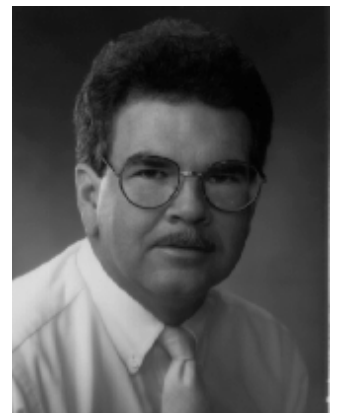
*The photo shown above is the earliest known photo of Rachel Moore Allen. It is a detail of a portrait that was taken with her second husband Francis Marion Shaw. Based on the period of the photograph and the physical appearance of the two Shaws (she is absent her spectacles which appear in later photos), Rachel was probably in her mid 50's.*

Volume 5 Number 2  
May 1996

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

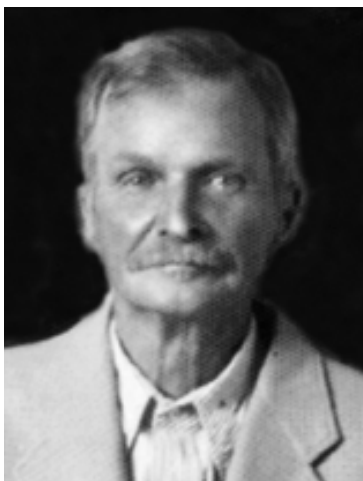
*Historical contributions are requested. Your family histories including character traits, religious affiliations, professional pursuits and vital information such as birth dates and places, marriage dates and places, and death dates and places, are all welcome. Photographs help make the newsletter come 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. Do not send the original photo unless you have no desire to have it returned. Send your non-returnable manuscripts and photo submissions to:  
Bryan Lee Shaw, Editor  
onearmshaw@mchsi.com  
P.O. Box 417 Nashville, GA  
31639-0417*

Bryan Lee Shaw, Editor





William Barzilla Allen



John Levi Allen



Ann Eliza Allen

**B**arzilla Allen was born 29 November, 1837, in Lowndes County, Georgia. He was the seventh child of John Allen and Eliza Wilkinson's eleven children. After Eliza's death, John married Cherry Wadsworth Mullis, and fathered six daughters.

About 1856, Barzilla, 19, married Rachel Moore, 21, daughter of John and Nancy O'steen Moore. The Moores were also residents of Lowndes County.

Barzilla and Rachel started their family with the birth of their son William Barzilla, on 5 August, 1857. Almost two years later, 3 August, 1859, their second son, John Levi, was born. Then came the outbreak of the Civil War.

Barzilla had chosen to provide for his family and the cause while farming during the first year of the war, but the first Confederate Conscription Act in April 1862, required all able-bodied white men between the ages of 18 and 35 to enlist in the army. Barzilla joined shortly thereafter. The exact unit that he enlisted in is not known, but he was almost immediately sent north to Virginia as part of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

The area around Charlottesville, Virginia was festering with disease, particularly the measles. Barzilla

contracted the virus quickly, and as was often the case, died from the fever. His body was not returned, and the exact location of his remains is unknown.

The war raged on for three more years. Younger boys and older men continued to leave and not return, or if they did, not always whole. Such was the case of young Francis Marion Shaw, who had lost his right arm in a skirmish with the Yankees in Cedar Keys, Florida in 1864. Upon his return home to Lois, to recover from his wound, Marion sought out the company of the Widow Allen.

Perhaps the two survivors found consolation in their common circumstance, but whatever their attractions were, the couple came together in marriage in 1866. Marion would be the father to William, John, and Eliza Allen for the rest of their lives. And Rachel started her second family.

As I review the lives of each of the Allen children in future issues, I do so with a sense of honor for their loss, for their life was changed immeasurably. And even as compassionate as Francis Marion may have been, his favor was more for his own offspring. But had fate not brought the untimely death of Barzilla Allen, we, the Shaw descendants, surely would not have had the opportunity to share such a wonderful matriarch as Rachel Moore Allen.

## WILLIAM BARZILLA ALLEN 1857-1924

**W**illiam Barzilla Allen, first child of Barzilla Allen and Rachel Moore Allen, was born 5 August, 1857, in Berrien County, Georgia.

He probably had a greater recollection of his natural father than did his brother John, since William was almost five years old when his father left home. He was nine years old when his mother married Francis Marion Shaw. For the next eleven years he was reared in the Shaw household with his two Allen and six Shaw siblings.

On 20 December, 1877, he married Rachel V. Futch, daughter of John M. Futch. They moved into a small log house on a farm owned by William, where their first five children were born: Marcus L., 17 January, 1879; Rosetta, (not pictured here) 13 April, 1883; John Thomas, 9 September, 1886; Charlie E., 22 December, 1888; and

Willie Marion, 12 April, 1891.

In 1889 Rachel's father gave her 233 acres of land in the area that is now known as Allenville. By 1893 the Allen family had moved to a home on the Futch land near the railroad, where William operated a commissary and cut wood for use in the steam engines. That same year, on 27 September, Lacy V. was born.

Six years passed by and the Allens were a well established family. They were blessed with their second daughter, Lillie V. on 1 October, 1899. Marcus was married shortly after Christmas. Life was good.

But after New Years, 1900, tragedy fell upon the Allen household. Charlie became severely ill, with high fever, and intestinal pain. Suddenly, on 17 January, his appendix burst and the twelve year old boy died from the complications. Rachel was devastated. But her personal anguish had only begun.

Two weeks later, on the first day of February, Rachel was (*Continued on page 4*)



*Rachel V. Futch Allen, wife of William B. Allen*

**THE WILLIAM B. ALLEN FARM**

*The frame farm house pictured to the left is the home that William and Rachel reared their family in most of their life. It would be more accurate to refer to it as the Rachel Allen farm, as it came into the family by way of Rachel's parents. The home is shown here when it was owned by Edgar Allen. It is still occupied by his wife, Minnie.*



*Marcus L. Allen*



*John Thomas Allen*



*Charlie E. Allen*



*Willie Marion Allen*



*Lacy V. Allen*



*Lillie V. Allen*



*Chester Edgar Allen*



*Letha May Allen*

*Get your stories, albums, and families together. It's that time of year again!*

3RD ANNUAL  
FRANCIS  
MARION  
SHAW  
FAMILY  
REUNION

SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 11, 1996  
RAY CITY, GA.  
SENIOR CITIZEN  
CENTER  
REGISTRATION  
STARTS AT 10:00 A.M.

*We have gathered a lot more information since our last reunion. If you missed last year's reunion, you probably didn't receive your Francis Marion Shaw Family book. But don't despair! We have printed more copies with the new updates included, and they will be handed out to this year's attendees. And we have a couple of surprises for the young children this year as well. So make your plans now to attend.*

Contact Jeanette Shaw at (912) 686-5496, or Diana Shaw at (912) 686-5601. If you have not attended before, contact Bryan Shaw by mail, listing the names of those attending, so name tags can be made.

in the yard boiling fat to be used for making lye soap. Young Lacy, six, was teasing his mother by darting close to her, while she responded by flicking a willow switch at him. On a sudden attempt to avoid being 'tagged', Lacy darted backwards, tripping and falling into the kettle of boiling grease. To Rachel's horror, little Lacy scalded to death before her eyes.

Such a tragedy could consume a person's spirit, but life went on for Rachel and William. Their last son, Chester Edgar, was born 27 May, 1902. And the baby of the family, Letha May, was born four years later, on 9 February, 1906.

Grand children were starting to visit the Allen home. William would always have some small task for them to perform and reward them with a nickel. Rachel was a little more tight fisted, rarely reaching behind a picture frame to retrieve her purse. But she knew how to warm up a bed on cold nights, with a stove iron wrapped in newspaper, stuffed under the

covers. And she knew how to handle a temperamental horse, often driving herself in a buggy to the church in Ray City.

As William's life came to a close, he suffered from the debilitating effects of diabetes. Unable to carry on with the physical demands of farming, he and Rachel moved to Ray City, near Cat Creek. About 1920 he had one eye removed, followed by the removal of a foot two years later. Finally in 1924, in an attempt to control the progression of the disease, the other foot was amputated. But just a few days later, he passed away.

Rachel continued to reside in Ray City with her daughters, Lillie and Letha. Letha married in 1926, and Rachel remained with Lillie until her death in 1937.

With the passing of both Allens, a generation of hearty pioneers, who faced adversity and hardships with a firm commitment to their family, came to a close. Their legacy continues in their extensive posterity. —BLS

**FAMILY GROUP SHEET**

**WILLIAM BARZILLA ALLEN** / Farmer  
*Born: 5 August, 1857, Berrien County, Ga*  
*Married: 20 December, 1877*  
*Died: 1924, Ray City, Berrien, Ga*  
*Buried: Ray City, Berrien, Ga*

**RACHEL V. FUTCH ALLEN**  
*Born: 16 December 1859, Berrien County, Ga*  
*Died: 15 April 1921, Ray City, Berrien, Ga*  
*Buried: Ray City, Berrien, Ga*

**CHILDREN**

**Marcus L. Allen**  
*Born: 17 January, 1879, Berrien County, Ga*  
*Died: 27 August, 1929*

**Rosetta Allen**  
*Born: 13 April, 1883, Berrien County, Ga*  
*Died: 4 April, 1946*

**John Thomas Allen**  
*Born: 9 September, 1886, Berrien County, Ga*  
*Died: 20 June, 1946*

**Charlie E. Allen**  
*Born: 22 December, 1888* *Died: 17 January, 1900*

**Willie Marion Allen**  
*Born: 12 April, 1891, Berrien County, Ga*  
*Died: 16 January, 1958*

**Lacy V. Allen**  
*Born: 27 September, 1893* *Died: 1 February, 1900*

**Lillie Virginia Allen**  
*Born: 1 October, 1899, Berrien County, Ga*  
*Died: 29 September, 1973*

**Chester Edgar Allen**  
*Born: 27 May, 1902, Nashville, Berrien, Ga*  
*Died: 27 March, 1973*

**Letha May Allen**  
*Born: 9 February, 1906, Berrien County, Ga*  
*Died: 2 May, 1988*

**SPOUSES**

**Arsula Gaskins** *Married: 27 December, 1899*

**John William Weaver** *Married: 11 November, 1906*

**Edna Golden** *Married:*

**Mary Futch** *Married: 11 January, 1914*

**Ed Young** *Married: About 1940*

**Minnie L. Vickers** *Married: 1928*

**George Dewey Patten** *Married: 1926*