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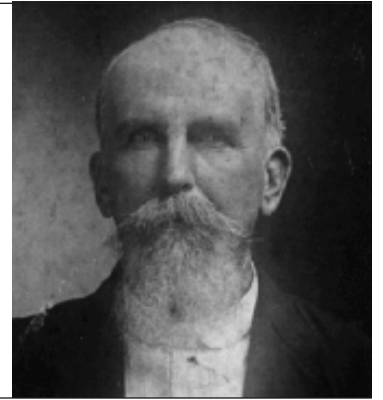
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THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW



IN THE NAME OF THE LAW

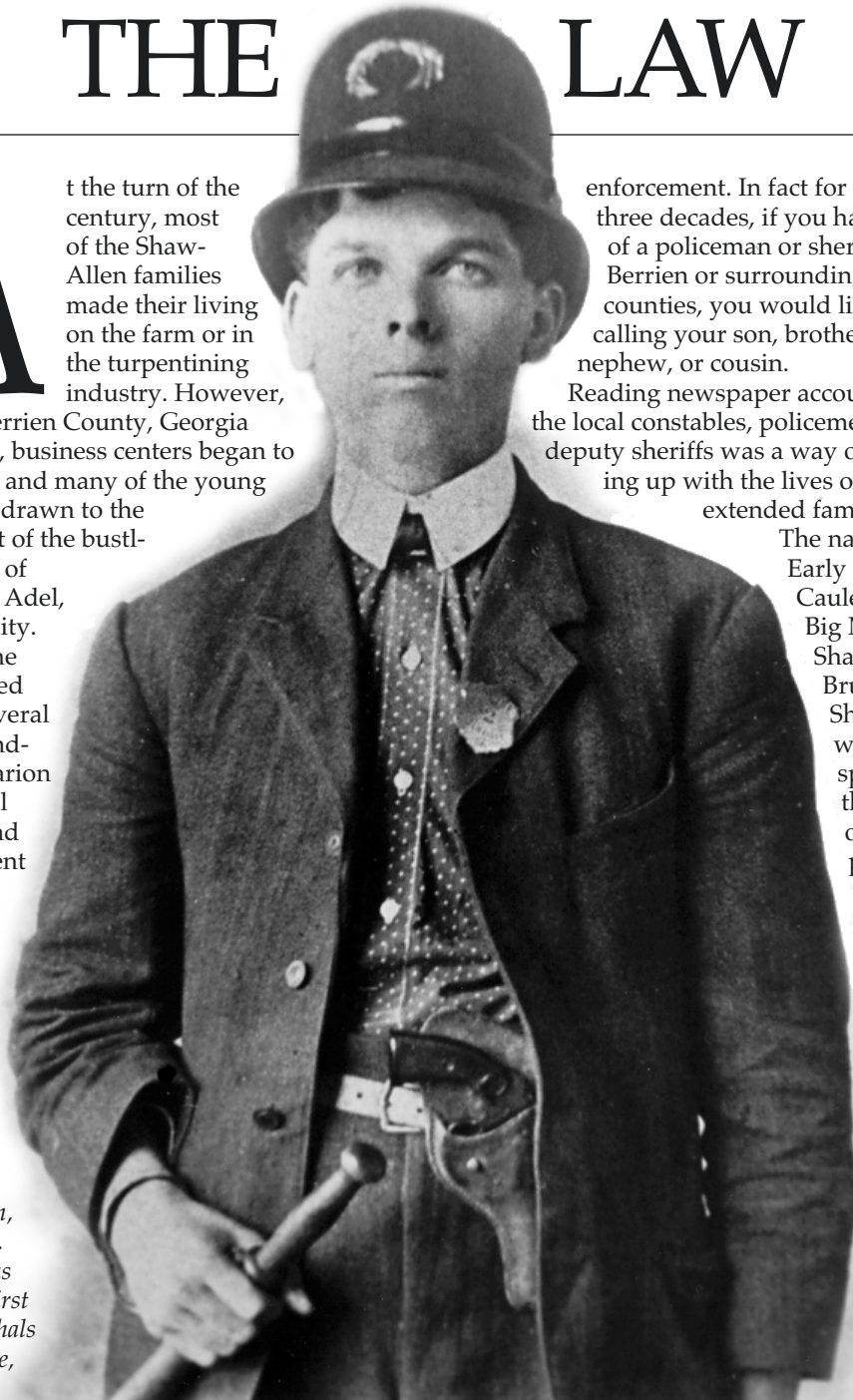
At the turn of the century, most of the Shaw-Allen families made their living on the farm or in the turpentine industry. However, as rural Berrien County, Georgia flourished, business centers began to spring up, and many of the young men were drawn to the excitement of the bustling streets of Nashville, Adel, and Ray City.

For some unexplained reason, several of the grandsons of Marion and Rachel Shaw found employment with local law

enforcement. In fact for over three decades, if you had need of a policeman or sheriff in Berrien or surrounding counties, you would likely be calling your son, brother, uncle, nephew, or cousin.

Reading newspaper accounts of the local constables, policemen, and deputy sheriffs was a way of keeping up with the lives of extended families.

The names of Early Shaw, Cauley Shaw, Big Mark Shaw, and Bruner Shaw, were often sprinkled throughout the pages of the town weekly.



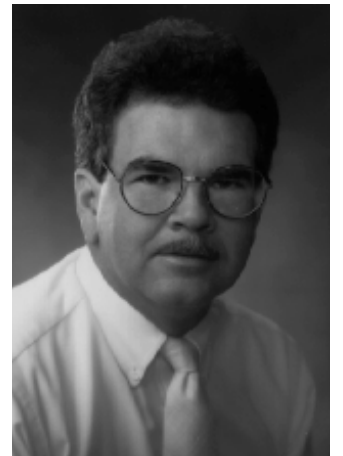
Frank Allen, about 1905. He served as one of the first night marshals in Nashville, Georgia

Volume 7 Number 1
March 1998

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. 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





BUSTING UP "BLIND TIGERS"

Early 1919 found these Berrien County deputies raiding a typical "lard can" liquor still operation. Leader of the raid was Deputy Bruner Shaw, the tall man second from the right wearing the large hat. Among the other deputies on this occasion was Bruner's half brother, Brooker Shaw, second from the left, holding a shotgun under his arm.

Marcus Allen, Frank Allen, and Gus Clements were as familiar to the townsfolk as they were to their families.

Early, Mark, and Cauley were all sons of Charlton H. Shaw of Adel, who was a cousin to Francis Marion. Early served many years as Deputy Sheriff in Douglas. Mark started his career with the Tifton police in 1907, then went to Milltown in 1908, and finally returned to Tifton after 1915 where he served as Sheriff of Tift County.

Perhaps the most well known and colorful of the distant cousins was Cauley Shaw. Cauley started as a Deputy Sheriff in Berrien County about 1907, and named Chief of Police in Nashville a year later. He then bounced around from one community to another, carrying various titles; City Marshal

of Milltown in 1911, Chief of Police of Ray City in 1914. By 1922 he was serving in the Valdosta Police Department, being the first motorcycle officer of that city.

FRANK L. ALLEN

But the focus of this newsletter is on the four grandsons of Marion and Rachel Shaw who served as peace officers for the better part of their lives.

Frank Allen, son of John L. Allen, was probably the first to enter the profession. Some time just prior to 1907 Frank was hired as night marshal for the city of Nashville.

The role of night marshal was not so glamorous, however. Frank had the responsibility of keeping the four lights at the corners of the courthouse square full of oil, lighting them at dusk and extinguishing them at dawn. He kept himself busy the remaining hours, herding cows and pigs off of the dirt streets. Frank worked this lonely life until July, 1907, when he resigned a couple of weeks before his wedding to Pearl Taylor. The wages were not particularly adequate for raising a family. He would not return to the duties of night marshal until the early 1920s, when he served during the terms of Dr. J. V. Tally, mayor of Nashville 1924; 1933-37.

By 1931, the role of night patrolman provided a little more excitement. Cattle was forbidden to wander the streets, and a country in the midst of a depression caused some to look at less-than-honest ways to live. In the 5 March, 1931 issue of the *Nashville Herald*, the following incident was reported:

TWO CHICKEN THIEVES CAUGHT SUNDAY MORNING

Night patrolman Frank Allen, had the good fortune to discover and arrest two young white men Sunday morning about five o'clock in the act of stealing chickens from the chicken coop at the rear of Harvey's store. The men were placed in

jail and upon a plea of guilty were sentenced to serve twelve months in the Berrien county chaingang. They are now at their labors.

Four months later another episode is reported in the 2 July, 1931 *Nashville Herald*:

**THIEVES ATTEMPT TO ROB
MILLER HARDWARE CO.**

Thieves attempted to break into the Miller Hardware Store Tuesday night but were frustrated when the procedure of breaking the glass to the transom of the rear door was heard by night policeman Frank Allen.

Mr. Allen stated that when he heard the crash he hurried around to the rear of the stores and saw two young men running away, but in taking chase they dodged him and were not apprehended. However, the police are still working on the matter and expect soon to arrest the guilty parties.

Though he carried a gun, he never had to use it, and in 32 years of service, he applied his trusty blackjack only twice.

CHARLES BRUNER SHAW

One of Frank Allen's close friends was his half first cousin, Bruner Shaw, son of Arthur Shaw. Perhaps at the encouragement of Frank over a few glasses of beer, or with the gleam of a shiny badge in his eye, Bruner entered police work about 1914. He had approached cousin Cauley Shaw, then Police Chief of Ray's Mill, about getting into the mix. It didn't take him long to find out that things might not be as uneventful as it had been for cousin Frank. An incident report in the *Nashville Herald*, 9 October, 1914:

Considerable excitement was occasioned here Monday by a report that Cauley and Bruner Shaw and two other young men of Ray's Mill had been shot about twelve miles down the Valdosta Road. Several gentlemen from here went in an automobile. But when they reached the scene, they found that the wounds were not serious. A negro for whom they had a warrant, shot at them with a shotgun loaded with bird shot.

Until 1919, most of the activities of a peace officer involved chasing down petty thieves, and raiding an occasional "skins" (gambling) game. Again, *Nashville Herald*, 22 January, 1915:

Officers at Ray's Mill raided a skin game a few nights ago and brought in ten colored men and boys.

However, with the passage of the 18th amendment to the Constitution (prohibition), a whole new illicit business was the target of



**A FINE CONFISCATION OF
BOOTLEG WHISKEY**

As Chief of Police in Haines City, Florida, Bruner Shaw continued his uncanny ability to track down illicit whiskey peddlers. Though keeping a look-out for such activities was their normal jurisdiction, law enforcement officers were given an incentive to pursue the purveyors. A portion of the fine levied by the court was given to the arresting officer.

Blackjack used by Gus Clements during his years of service in law enforcement.



OVERSEERS OF SMALL TOWN ADMINISTRATION

Prior to 1919, Marcus Allen, standing above, served as Chief of Police in Nashville, Georgia. It was a position with more title than authority. He primarily handled minor offenses, and maintained the city's dirt streets. During his tenure as an officer, he served under the direction of R. D. Swindle, seated, City Commissioner.

the county sheriff and his deputies.

"Blind tigers", as they were commonly referred, brewed alcohol in what was known as a "lard can" still, using syrup and meal processed through a copper worm. The product was a high explosive liquor with enough alcohol in it to burn like gasoline. Drinking of such had been known to cause blindness, if not death. Thus the name "blind tiger."

By early 1919, Bruner had been hired by Sheriff J. V. Nix as a deputy. Bruner's large stature made him a formidable adversary for any offender of the law, and though the following account leaves much to be explained, Bruner certainly weathered the assault. *Nashville Herald*, 2 January, 1920:

John Harris, colored, convicted of the offense of assault with intent to murder at the last term of Berrien Superior Court, has been granted a new trial by Judge Dickerson. It will be remembered by Herald readers that Harris assaulted Deputy Sheriff Bruner Shaw at the home of Will

McSwain on the night of May 30th, last. The evidence was entirely circumstantial. Harris was ably represented by Story & Story.

Bruner remained in police work in the county until 1923, when he moved his family to Polk County, Florida. He served as Police Chief in Haines City and Frostproof until he returned to Berrien County, Georgia about 1929. By November, 1930 he had been named Chief of Police in Alapaha, where he was in pursuit of "blind tigers".
Nashville Herald, 18 December, 1930:

Last Wednesday afternoon Chief C. B. Shaw and Deputy Sheriff Wesley Griner and W. W. Griner went over near Glory and went down in the river swamp about one mile west of Glory and found 180 gallons of corn mash. There was no still found with this buck. The officers poured out the contents and busted up the barrels. The people of Alapaha are pleased with the work of Mr. C. B. Shaw since he has been Chief of Police. We all hope that Mr. Shaw will stay on here as he is doing such good work and helping to clean up the community by catching blind tigers.

When the townsfolk of Alapaha were suffering through an epidemic of seven-year-itch, the believed antidote was to bathe the children with alcohol. One of the next door neighbors of Bruner Shaw knew that if there was anyone who could find some illicit spirits, it would be Chief Shaw. When she asked if he might have "access" to any such, he said he would see what he could find. That evening he arrived on her doorstep bearing a bottle of fine whisky, "to be used only for medicinal purposes."

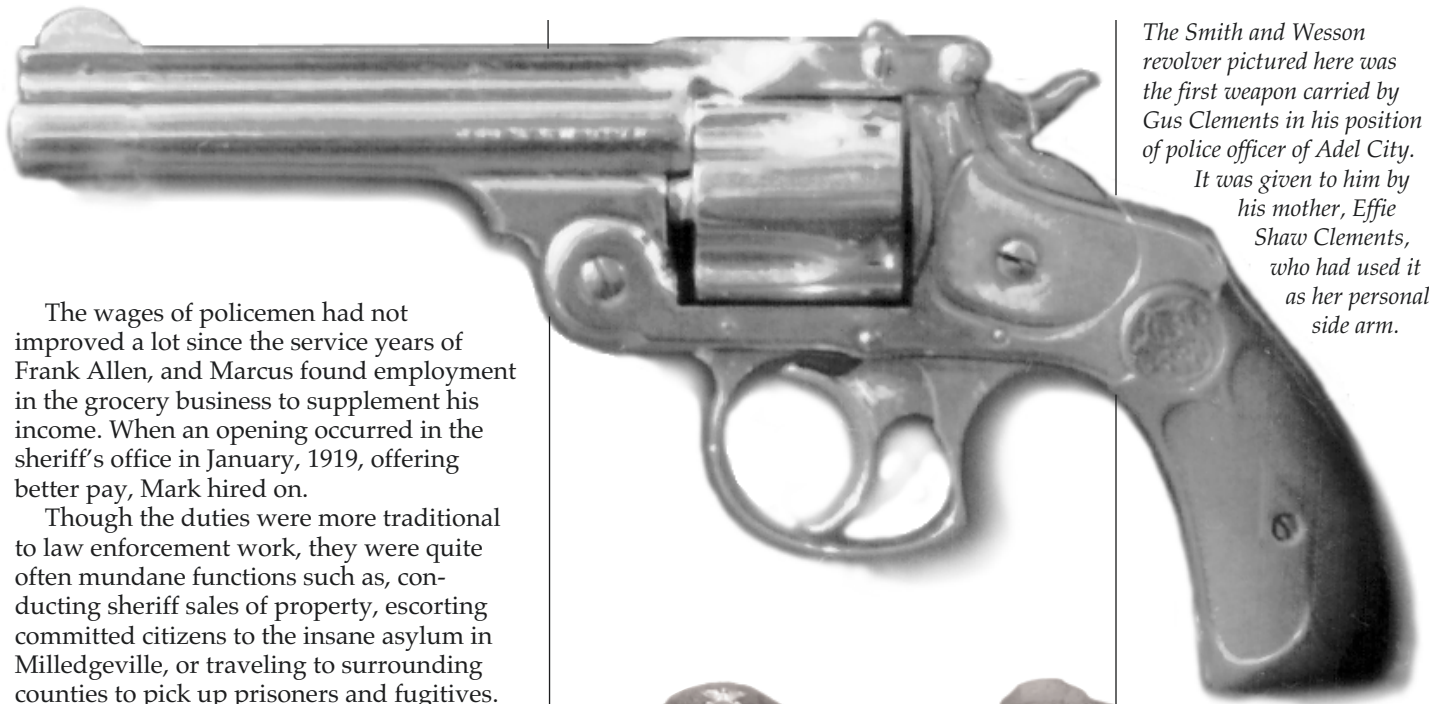
Though he was fond of the Georgia community, the pay was meager, and in July, 1931, Bruner moved his family back to Frostproof, Florida where he served as Police Chief once again. He later moved to Sebring, Florida where he also served as Chief until just before his death in 1950.

Marcus L. Allen

The career of Marcus Allen, oldest son of William B. Allen, started in the city of Barney, Georgia about 1913. He had tried his hand at farming for a number of years, but did not take to it.

By August, 1918, he had moved to Nashville, Georgia where he was named Chief of Police. The duties of a Nashville city policeman included maintaining the dirt streets. In a September, 1918 *Nashville Herald*:

Chief Mark Allen is making a noble effort to improve the condition of the streets. Fact of the matter, every street in town should be plowed up with an eight-horse plow and rebuilt from the ground up.



The Smith and Wesson revolver pictured here was the first weapon carried by Gus Clements in his position of police officer of Adel City.

It was given to him by his mother, Effie Shaw Clements, who had used it as her personal side arm.

The wages of policemen had not improved a lot since the service years of Frank Allen, and Marcus found employment in the grocery business to supplement his income. When an opening occurred in the sheriff's office in January, 1919, offering better pay, Mark hired on.

Though the duties were more traditional to law enforcement work, they were quite often mundane functions such as, conducting sheriff sales of property, escorting committed citizens to the insane asylum in Milledgeville, or traveling to surrounding counties to pick up prisoners and fugitives. On some occasions creative justice was applied. In a July, 1920 *Nashville Herald*:

Deputy Sheriff Mark Allen made a trip to Savannah last week to arrest two men for giving bad checks. Both checks were made good, and everybody was satisfied.

As was the case with other deputies of the time, Mark depended, in some measure, upon the "commissions" received for arresting "blind tigers." 20 August, 1920 *Nashville Herald*:

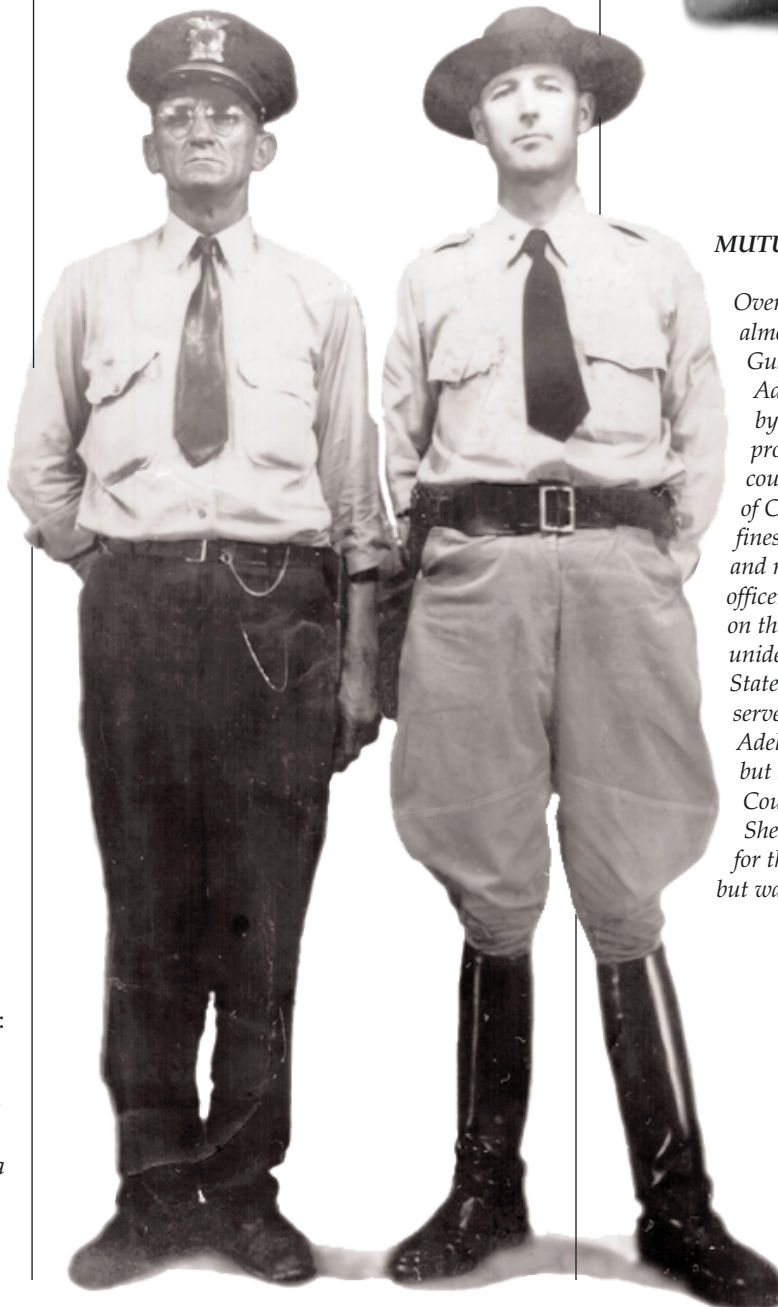
Sheriff Nix and his Deputies Messrs Allen and Luke, have been raiding moonshine stills in all parts of the county. During the past ten days they have destroyed five outfits. Only one was found in operation.

But as the century moved beyond its innocence, Marcus was brought into more violent cases. *Nashville Herald*, 4 June, 1920:

Joe Scott, colored, shot and killed a woman of Ray City a few days ago because she refused to marry him. The woman's name was Bertha Scott. Immediately after the shooting Scott "high-balled" to Jakin, Early County. Deputy Sheriff Mark Allen went after him Sunday, and he is now in jail here awaiting the pleasure of the court.

Again, *Nashville Herald*, 3 September, 1920:

Will Harden and Phillip Rice two well known colored citizens of our town, fought it out at their home Monday night. Harden seems to have gotten the best end of it. He carved Rice up with a pocket knife till it took about forty stitches to get him back together. Deputy Mark Allen landed Harden in jail.



MUTUAL RESPECT

Over the course of almost 30 years, Chief Gus Clements of Adel was recognized by many of his professional counterparts, as one of Cook County's finest, most trusted and respected peace officers. Pictured here, on the left, with an unidentified Georgia State Trooper, Gus served, not only as Adel's Chief of Police, but also as Cook County Deputy Sheriff. He also ran for the office of Sheriff, but was not elected.

5TH ANNUAL REUNION OF THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION AND RACHEL ALLEN SHAW

CONFEDERATE
VETERAN
GRAVESITE
DEDICATION ON
SATURDAY,
AUGUST 8, 1998

REUNION ON
SUNDAY,
AUGUST 9, 1998

IT IS THE 5TH ANNUAL
REUNION !
AND WE WILL CELEBRATE
THE LIFE OF FRANCIS
MARION SHAW, WITH THE
DEDICATION OF A
HISTORICAL MARKER
AND IRON CROSS AT HIS
FINAL RESTING PLACE.
MORE DETAILS
TO COME.

Besides serving with the Nashville police and Berrien County Sheriff, Marcus also spent time in the Ray City police department. By 1927 he had moved to Jasper, Florida, where he also worked as a police officer for one year. After this short tenure, he returned to Ray City, where he died suddenly in 1929 at the age of 50.

W. A. "GUS" CLEMENTS

The latest of all the grandchildren to enter the profession was William Augustus Clements, known as "Gus." He was the youngest son of William D. Clements and Effie Shaw Clements. Since his life is more recent, there are more detailed newspaper accounts and vivid anecdotes recounted by his son, William, Jr.

Gus joined the Adel Police Department as a night watchman about 1932. By 1935 he had become a popular figure on the Adel streets and was promoted to Chief of Police. He was a citizen's type of policeman, easy going but with a fair, no-nonsense approach to dealing with disputes.

He was the start of a new breed of law enforcement officers that received several professional training courses in criminology from the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

With the death of Cook County Sheriff Whitehurst, Gus resigned as Chief of Police so that he could run for the unexpired term of Sheriff Whitehurst. Though he lost the race to C. A. Vittum, he was hired as Deputy Sheriff by his former opponent. Sheriff Vittum didn't want to let a good man get away.

One of the highest profile piece of police work that Gus was involved in was the capture of the desperado Ray Cash. This 1945 *Valdosta Times* newspaper account details:

RAY CASH, FLORIDA FUGITIVE TAKEN BY DEPUTY NEAR ADEL

ADEL—Ray Cash, termed a desperate and dangerous fugitive hunted by authorities after a gun battle with police in Gainesville, Fla. was captured yesterday near Adel by a quick-thinking deputy sheriff.

Deputy Sheriff W. A. Clements of Cook county took Cash into custody about four miles south of Adel near Highway 41 about six o'clock last night after he found a truck Cash was believed to have stolen at Lake City, Fla., deserted on the highway near Adel.

Clements said the motor on the truck was still hot, indicating the driver was in the vicinity. . . .

Clements advised his office of the abandoned truck . . . but before anyone else could arrive at the scene, he spotted a man walking along the Southern Railway tracks. . . .

Clements then made his way through the woods to where a crew of Negroes was working. He came out of the woods at that point hoping

that Cash would think he was a woods worker. When he got near the man he ordered him to raise his hands.

He said Cash made a move once for a .38 calibre pistol he had in his pocket. Clements cocked his shotgun and warned Cash to keep his hands in the air. He walked him a quarter of a mile. . . . [where] he searched Cash, disarmed him and handcuffed the prisoner before taking him to the Cook county jail.

The deputy said he found the pistol, some cigarettes, a pair of pliers, a screwdriver and several small open end wrenches in Cash's pockets. He said there was no money in the man's pocket when he was captured.

Clements said he was sure his prisoner was Cash because of a two and a half inch scar on the left side of his face. After more than two hours questioning, the prisoner admitted his name was Ray Cash but refused to talk further.

Perhaps the greatest tribute that can be paid to an officer of the law occurs when a citizen of the community comes to the aid of that officer when the officer's own life is in jeopardy. Such was the case one afternoon in 1952, while Gus was serving an arrest warrant in one of Adel's notorious taverns.

According to the account of Bill Clements, Jr., who personally observed the incident, Gus had seen the violator enter the tavern and felt it was the best opportunity to make the arrest. He positioned Billy at the door as he moved inside the bar to locate the wanted man.

Unobserved by Gus, approaching from the side, was a tough hoodlum. Billy saw him put his hands in his pocket for a switchblade knife. But before he could even utter a warning, one of the patrons of the tavern, Hard Charlie, a tough guy that Gus had put behind bars several times before, had pressed his own knife to the side of the hood.

As he held the knife against his side, Charlie, firmly suggested, "Come out clean." The hood hesitated. Charlie repeated himself, "Come out clean." The hood relaxed his hand and removed it from his pocket, palm open.

The arrest was made and as Gus removed the fugitive from the bar, he thanked Charlie for his help.

"We've had our run-ins Mr. Gus," said Charlie, "but you've always been fair to me. I couldn't stand by and let somethin' like that happen." That meant a lot to Gus.

Gus spent most of his adult life in police work. He retired from the Deputy Sheriff's office in 1958, and died five years later. Like his cousins, Frank, Bruner, and Marcus, he went into the profession to make a living. But what had started out as "a job" became a life-long love. The work had given him a sense of accomplishment, a sense of pride. And it made his community a better place to raise a family. —BLS