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The Family of Francis Marion Shaw Newsletter

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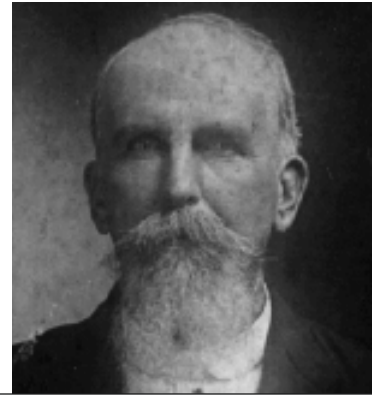
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THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW



JESSE SHELBY 'DOCK' SHAW 1869—1941

Jesse Shelby 'Dock' Shaw was the third born child and second son of Francis Marion and Rachel Moore Shaw. He was born October 29, 1869 in the Shaw family farm home which was located on the old county road near Possum Break, Ray City, Berrien, Georgia. He was raised in a rural setting, learning the skills of a farmer, the occupation which he pursued his entire life. Between the years of 1875 to about 1885 he was educated at the Kings Chapel school just across the county line in Lowndes County. The exact circumstance of how he acquired the nickname of 'Dock' is without support, but it seems that he carried the 'title' his entire life. He became good acquaintances of the Green Bullard family, who lived about five miles away, across Cat Creek and across the Valdosta highway in what is now Lanier County. The Bullard's daughter, Susie, also attended Kings Chapel school and took a particular fancy to the personable 'Dock'. They appear to have been married on January 8, but the exact year is in question. The family bible records it as 1892, but their Berrien County marriage license is recorded as 1893.

The Shaws started their family right away, when their first daughter, Mattie Ola, was born October 15, 1893, however like many of the children born of that time, she caught the fever and died on May 31, 1895. The second daughter, Cora Aline was born on October 27, but the exact year of her birth is still in question. Then the family really started to expand. Beatrice Ethel was born February 5, 1896. Their first son, Marvin Shelby, was born October 3, 1898, and they were on a roll with sons Charles Jones, January 24, 1901; Buford Thelma, September 8, 1903; and Fondren Willie Mitchell 'Preacher', May 13, 1906. Then their last daughter, Mary Idell was born on August 6, 1909, and finally the 'baby' Green Henry Gribbon, July 1, 1912.

The large family of Dock Shaw, sometimes including grandchildren, required he and Susie to work very hard on the 200 acre, mule



farm to provide for their needs. And though the difficulty of the turn-of-the-century rural life was a test of strength and character, Dock Shaw was a character who measured up to it. He was liked by most everyone who knew him and was a bit of a humorist.

Kathleen Knight Swindle tells of an occasion when 'Dock' stopped by the general store that her father, Sullivan Knight and mother, Eliza Allen Knight, 'Dock's half-sister helped operate. Eliza had been caught up in the recent number of funerals of kin-folk and was fretting over where all of the half-brothers and half-sisters were planning to purchase their plots. So, catching sight of her half-brother, she told Kathleen to "go fetch Uncle 'Dock' and tell him his sister wants to speak with him." When 'Dock' strolled over to the counter where Eliza stood, she asked straight forward, "'Dock', have you given any thought of where you want to be buried?"

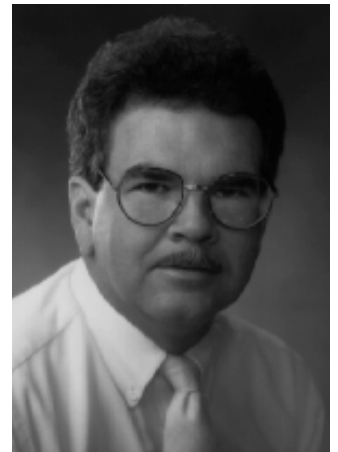
'Dock' gave her back the same concerned look and with just as straight of response, answered, 'Why, Sis', I don't want to be buried. I ain't even dead yet!" (continued page 3)

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The Family of Francis Marion Shaw is a non-profit newsletter published semi-annually 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:
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31639-0417*

Bryan Lee Shaw, Editor





THE DOCK SHAW HOME, 1926

This picture gives a glimpse of the life at the home of Dock and Susie Shaw. Pictured here is, in front of the fence, left to right, Susie Shaw, Marie Dudley Shaw holding son, Buddy Shaw, and Dock Shaw. Behind the fence, left to right, is Jesse Carter, husband of Beatrice Shaw, and Charlie Shaw holding daughter Gwen Shaw. The little girl sitting on the fence post is unidentified.

*Photo courtesy of
Gwen Shaw Watson*

LIFE ON DOCK SHAW'S FARM

By Gwen Shaw Watson

My family and I lived with my Grandpa [Dock] and Granny [Susie] Shaw in 1932 for about a year. I remember many things about life there.

The L shaped home consisted of a parlor, with one bed along with living room furniture. Then there was the big room which was called the fire room. It had two beds, two rocking chairs, and Grandpa's roll-top desk where he kept mail and book work. One small bedroom opened off this room. There were two fireplaces, one in the parlor, and one in the fire room.

As with most homes then, there was a hall through the body of the house, and opened on to the back porch. Off the porch to the right was a good sized bedroom with two double beds. One of my best memories was the feather beds. They were so warm and cozy. You just bogged up in them and slept warmer than we do now with central heat.

Further back off the porch was the dining room and kitchen, both pretty good sized rooms. Across the width of the kitchen on the back was a huge pantry, always full of good home-canned food.

On the left side of the porch was what we called the wash shelf. It held the wash basin and water bucket. The well for water was right there too. The curb for the well was unusual, made of pipe, and was just the size of the water bucket, so you had to let the water bucket straight down. The water was very cold and good.

Grandpa Shaw was one of the first to have carbide lights. They were a step up from the oil lamps which were commonly used. Later, they had a refrigerator that ran on carbide. I also believe Grandpa was among the first to have an automobile, a Ford open touring-car, I think.

All the grand kids liked to visit our grandparents, but Grandpa believed all of us should help with chores or whatever. In the spring of the year it was peanut shelling time. He always had a big fire in the fire room and he would give all of us a pan of peanuts to shell. If we shelled all of them, then he would let us roast some. We just loved it.

There are many good memories about Granny's huge wood stove and the good food we always had. Breakfast would consist of grits, huge slices of home-cured ham, baked sweet potato and those delicious big biscuits. And plenty of sweet cream and home-made butter.

In those days, with the large families people had, they had to grow and make their own food. Grandpa would always pen up 10-12 cows in the piney woods, so he could have cream and butter every night. Then he would kill 10-12 hogs, cure his own meat, and make sausages, and store them in crockery jars. Granny always canned several hundred jars of vegetables and jellies each year. The ice truck came around two times a week, so ice tea was a luxury.

One of our favorite times in the summer was "Big Meeting". This is what the Primitive Baptists called their annual meeting. The one I knew about was at Cat Creek. It all started the week before Big Meeting. My Aunt Idell and my Aunt Beatrice would come from Jacksonville to help my Granny get ready. They would give the house a good cleaning and then on about Wednesday of that week they would start cooking cakes and pies. Grandpa would kill a cow, and chickens, and all that good stuff.

Big Meeting started on Friday and went through Sunday. On Saturday night Grandpa always had several preachers to stay with them, and they would preach and sing 'til late.

My aunts would rise early on Sunday mornings, and help my Granny prepare a huge breakfast. The specialty was what Grandpa called "Fiveash Hash". This was made from beef and eaten on the big biscuits. They said that this hash was named after a dear friend of Grandpa's, Mr. Meke Fiveash, who was said to eat more hash than all (*continued next page*)

LIFE ON DOCK SHAW'S FARM *(continued)*

the others put together. Then at church, Granny said that Dock would get up and say, "All you folks come go home with us for dinner". And us kids thought they all did come, because we didn't get to eat until everybody else had eaten. Many times it would be sundown when we ate.

When the weather got colder later in the fall and winter, it was cane grinding and syrup making time. The cane mill was mule-drawn and then the juices were put in a huge kettle, and cooked into a delicious syrup. They had lots of cane and nearby neighbors would come and use the mill and syrup kettle too. They would all gather for this event, which would take several days and nights to finish the job. Everyone had a good time gathering around a huge bonfire with the kids and older folks swapping jokes. It was great.

—GSW



Dock and Suzie Shaw



Cora Aline Shaw



Beatrice Ethel Shaw

THE 'DOC' SHAW HOME, 1993
Even though the years of neglect are outwardly apparent in this recent photo of the back of the 'Doc' and Susie Shaw farm home, the charm and personality of the early residents still show through. The home was tight quarters for the eight children and other family members who lived there, but such was the circumstance of most rural homes in the early 1900's.



Beuford T. 'Jack' Shaw



Charlie Shaw



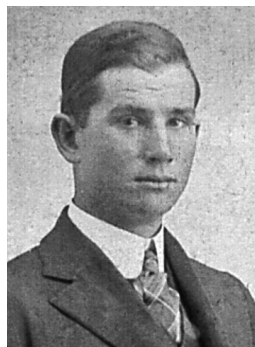
F.W.M. 'Preacher' Shaw

JESSE

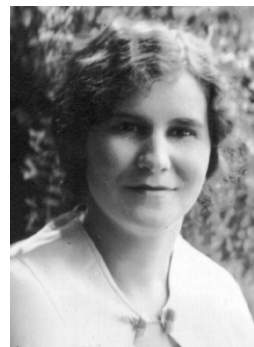
SHELBY 'DOCK' SHAW *(continued)*

Like most southern citizens, 'Dock' was a Democrat, serving as a Berrien County commissioner from 1924 through 1932. The Shaws were Primitive Baptists, both actively participating in the Irene Primitive Baptist Church in Lakeland, Georgia. Susie was a dedicated homemaker and considered her neighbors as friends.

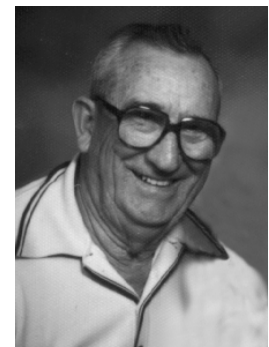
'Dock' suffered a heart attack and died on September 12, 1941. About nine years later, Susie also suffered a heart attack, and died October 28, 1950. They are both buried at the Pleasant Cemetery near New Lois, Georgia.



Marvin Shaw



Mary Idell Shaw



G.H. Gribbon Shaw

IN THEIR MEMORY—

In the past 6 months since the publishing of the first issue of the FMS Shaw newsletter, several of our family members have passed on.

First we lost Susie Ray Shaw, widow of F.W.M. 'Preacher' Shaw. She died on March 19, 1993. She was 86 years old.

Then on May 4, 1993, Mary Sue Griffin Rountree, daughter of Cora Aline Shaw Griffin passed away. And slightly more than a month later, on June 7, 1993, her brother, Jesse Howard Griffin also left this life.

On June 25, 1993 one of the three only surviving grandchildren of Francis and Rachel Shaw, Henry Green Gribbon Shaw passed on.

I had the good fortune of visiting with Susie Ray Shaw and Howard Griffin last summer. They both had information and stories to share, and their faces lit up as they talked about many of their friends and family who were no longer living. I didn't have the opportunity to visit with Mary Sue or Gribbon, but there is no doubt that they also could have shared much about their lives and family, as well.

It just brings to my realization just how urgent the time is for us to draw up a chair, write a letter, or make a phone call, and get to know those around us who have been here a lot longer than ourselves. To prompt their fading memories with our sincere interest in the experiences and lessons that they learned during their brief moment in mortality. That we may benefit from their life and heritage.

And to you who find yourself closer to 90 than 40, don't wait for a stirring question from the grandchildren. Write or record your thoughts and memories, now, today. Tomorrow or some other tomorrow, those grandchildren and great-grandchildren finally will ask, "What was it like back then?"

And then you can open that precious record and say, "Let me tell you. I remember—".

Bryan Lee Shaw, Editor

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

FRANCIS MARION SHAW / Farmer
Born: 5 January 1846, Lowndes County, Ga
Died: 1 January 1922, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Married: 1866
Buried: Pleasant Cemetery, near New Lois, Berrien, Ga

RACHEL MOORE ALLEN SHAW
Born: 1 December 1835, place unknown
Died: 15 April 1921, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

First marriage to Barzilla Allen
Buried: Pleasant Cemetery, near New Lois, Berrien, Ga

CHILDREN

Francis Arthur Shaw 1866-1933
Ida Jane Shaw 1868-1921
Jesse Shelby "Doc" Shaw 1869-1941

Effie C. Shaw 1871-
Lacy Lester Shaw 1873-
Chester D. Shaw 1875-1912

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

JESSE SHELBY 'DOCK' SHAW / Farmer
Born: 29 October 1869, Ray City, Berrien, Ga
Died: 12 September 1941, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Married: 8 January 1892-3
Buried: Pleasant Cemetery, near New Lois, Berrien, Ga

SUSIE E. BULLARD SHAW
Born: 10 July 1871, Ray City, Berrien, Ga
Died: 28 October 1950, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Buried: Pleasant Cemetery, near New Lois, Berrien, Ga

CHILDREN

Mattie Ola Shaw
Born: 15 October 1893, Ray City, Berrien, Ga
Died: 31 May, 1895, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Cora Aline Shaw
Born: 27 October 189-, Ray City, Berrien, Ga
Died: 8 February 1977, Valdosta, Lowndes, Ga

Beatrice Ethel Shaw
Born: 5 February 1896, Ray City, Berrien, Ga
Died: 20 September 1976, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Marvin Shelby Shaw
Born: 3 October 1898, Ray City, Berrien, Ga
Died: 21 July 1975, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Charles Jones Shaw
Born: 24 January 1901, Ray City, Berrien, Ga
Died: 24 February 1937, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Buford Thelma Shaw
Born: 8 September 1903, Ray City, Berrien, Ga
Died: 19 May 1988, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Fondren Willie Mitchell "Preacher" Shaw
Born: 13 May 1906, Ray City, Berrien, Ga
Died: 14 October 1972, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Mary Idell Shaw
Born: 6 August 1909, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Green Henry Gribbon Shaw
Born: 1 July 1912, Ray City, Berrien, Ga
Died: 25 June 1993, Valdosta, Lowndes, Ga

SPOUSES

William Franklin Griffin Married: 15 September 1909

Jesse Newton Carter Married: 28 April 1912

Maude Alice Hutchinson Married: 2 November 1919

Marie Dudley Married: 7 April 1921

Minnie Mae Jackson Married: 16 January 1926

Susie Rebecca Ray Married: 13 November 1927

Clifford Lewis Ennis Married: 5 February 1930

Eilene Gray Married: 25 December 1937

