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1993

The Family of Francis Marion Shaw Newsletter

Vol 01, No. 01.

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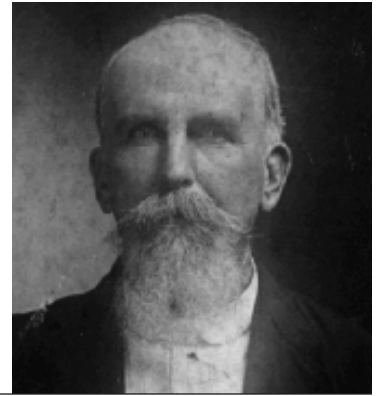
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Recommended Citation:

Shaw, Bryan Lee, ed. “The Family of Francis Marion Shaw Newsletter Vol 1, no. 1 (January 1993)” 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/10428/7520>

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THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW

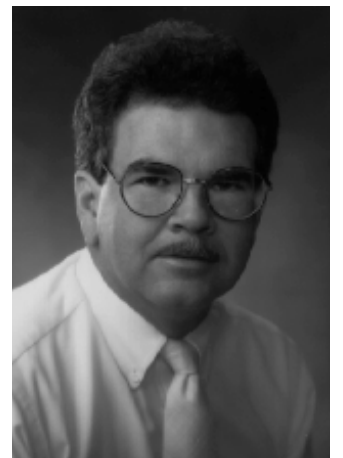


Volume 1 Number 1
January 1993

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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Bryan Lee Shaw, Editor



FULFILLMENT OF A DREAM

For over twenty years I had sat at the kitchen table and listened to my father, Charles Bruner Shaw, Jr. recite stories of his boyhood years, growing up in and around Ray City, Berrien County, Georgia. Though he did not spend many years in the area, his memory of the family that he knew there was vivid and his fondness for the countryside that he recollected would always bring a smile to his face. He would often gaze down the road as he spoke, as if he could see some dusty images of days long-past and thousands of miles away, still lingering in the air.

As I grew older, the fascination with those early ancestors became more of an obsession. I started searching early census records, and found the names of the same family members of my father's past leaping from the microfilm. It was like a family reunion with persons I had never met. *(continued page 2)*

IN HONOR OF FRANCIS MARION AND RACHEL SHAW

There would be no other way to start this inaugural issue than to honor the life of the namesake of the family association, Francis Marion Shaw and his wife, Rachel Moore Allen Shaw.

Francis Marion Shaw was born 5 January, 1846. He was the 15th of 18 children of Jeremiah Shaw, Jr. and Rachel Horne Shaw. He grew up on a farm in Lowndes County, near the present border of Berrien County. At the outbreak of the Civil War Francis Marion enlisted as a private in Captain John Nichols' company, in a regiment of Florida volunteers in the Confederate Army. He fought in the Battle of Cedar Keys, Florida where, at the age of eighteen, he was wounded and lost his right arm. He was then discharged and sent home to the Ray City, Georgia area. He started the very difficult task of farming, working the land with the handicap of only one hand.

After the war, Francis *(continued page 3)*



THE MYSTERY LADY

As I thumbed through the collection of photos in the home of Paul and Loris Shaw, most of the images had some form of identification on them, but there were several that were found without any. One particular one stood out, as the dress and style seemed to be from a period earlier than any of the others. Who is the young woman pictured above? Is she Francis Arthur Shaw's first wife, Victoria Giddens? Or Victoria's mother, Annie Jacob Giddens? Or is she a relative of Francis Arthur's second wife, Gertrude Albritton? Ask around the family, especially with the old-timers and see if there is any clue.

Each future issue of this newsletter will carry photos of ancestors that have escaped identification, or are known only by those who were around them. This should be a lot of fun for everyone, and we might be able to solve some of these "mystery" photographs.



Bryan Shaw with his son, Lucas at the Long county grave site of Jeremiah Shaw, Sr., grandfather of Francis Marion Shaw. July 1992

FULFILLMENT OF A DREAM (continued)

I wanted to know them better. I found a reference to Folks Huxford and the Pioneers of Wiregrass and suddenly the entire family was racing around in my mind like children at a summer social.

For another twenty years, I drifted in and out of these acquaintances of the past, sometimes vaguely recalling their names, or the places where they lived. Finally, in the spring of 1992, my brother, Larry and his wife Janet, made a trip to southern Georgia and brought back with them enthusiasm and information for further family research. I had distant cousins suddenly writing letters, and I was put in touch with Paul Shaw, grandson of Francis Arthur Shaw. I had never seen a picture of Francis Arthur and I was hopeful that Paul would have some photos and information on the life of my great-grandfather. But more than anything else, I wanted to visit the places that had only been, to that point, a name on a map.

So one day in late June of last year, my 14-year-old son, Lucas and I loaded up my Chevy van and head off down the road on a 8,000 mile journey into the neighborhoods and lives of my early ancestors.

The closer I got to Georgia, the more anxious I was about visiting this place. Had too

many years gone by since those early characters were traveling the same roads so that no one today would have any particular interest in them any more? Would I be viewed as just another outsider sticking his nose where it didn't belong.

My anxieties were quickly put to rest. As I made my way through the small rural communities and knocked on doors, visited in driveways, parlors, and courthouses, I found the off-spring of those pioneers always willing to put the busy tasks of their lives on hold to share their oral histories. Each visit stimulated two more visits with another relative or genealogist. What had started out to be a three week vacation turned out to be an obsession.

How could I have expected to receive the warm open hospitality of the Paul and Loris Shaw, John Webb, Lamar and Teford Weaver, Dorothy Gilbert, Diana Shaw and Kathleen Knight Swindle. I never had a door that wasn't opened to me. A question that wasn't answered if there was an answer. However, through the process, I did find out that true friends and family use the back door.

On the 4th of July weekend I visited the grave site of my grand-mother's earliest known Griffin ancestor, James Griffin R.S. buried up in the woods of Irwin County. And after a full sweltering day of searching over in Long County, Lucas and I walked through the tangled brambles in a small overgrown family cemetery, and looked upon the final resting place of the earliest known Shaw in our line, Jeremiah Shaw, Sr., grandfather of Francis Marion Shaw.

As my visit came to a close, I had still not found any photos of Francis Arthur Shaw. The long-anticipated visit with the past had a left me with a hollow spot. Would one visual connection be too much to hope for? As a sort of consolation, Loris Shaw invited Lucas and I for one of those remarkable southern style dinners. When we arrived, she could hardly contain her excitement. She had spent the afternoon going through an old trunk in a storage shed and had come across a small box of old family photos. As she brought the cardboard box out into the family room, she carefully opened the lid and handed me a small image mounted on heavy card with rounded corners. There standing in the turpentine woods that provided his livelihood, was a young, Francis Arthur Shaw.

On the trip back to Salt Lake City, my mind kept drifting back to Ray City, Nashville, and Willacoochee. The road seemed like it connected me more to Georgia now, than to Utah. The friends, families, farms and communities are all real to me now. I know that I will soon have to return to the wiregrass counties and to the friendly place that I can now call "home". And you have made me feel that I can "come on around" to your back door.

—Bryan Lee Shaw



LIFE PORTRAIT

This awkwardly cropped photograph tumbled from the old cardboard box held in the rummaging hands of Loris Shaw, onto the floor of her Willacoochee, Georgia home. As I reached down and picked up the faded card, I gazed upon the likeness of an aging Francis Marion Shaw, his wife Rachel Moore Allen Shaw, and Brodie Shaw, the son of their own first-born, Francis Arthur Shaw.

The photo was taken in front of their farm home, west of Ray City. (Editor's Note: In the original publication of this volume, the home was identified as the home in Ray City, but upon locating the original full photo, it was positively identified as the farm home.)

The dress attire is too formal for daily wear. Rachel is holding a book, probably a Bible, and suggests that the trio were on their way to or had just returned home from church services. Francis Marion and Rachel both belonged to the Pleasant Primitive Baptist church, located a few miles west of Ray City. The Pleasant church was first organized with the help of Jeremiah Shaw, Jr., Francis Marion's father.

The right sleeve of Francis Marion is folded over and pinned to the front of his suit coat, revealing the absence of his right arm. He lost his arm while serving with a unit of Florida volunteers in the Confederate cause during the War Between the States.

Both of the elderly Shaws show the proof of a hard country life, one that found Rachel widowed by her first husband, Barzilla Allen, about the year 1863. Faced with the prospect of raising her three children alone, she married Francis Marion and started her second family, bearing six more children.

The presence of Brodie Shaw in the picture gives proof of the great compassion of his grandparents. When Brodie's mother, Victoria Giddens Knight Shaw, died after giving birth to Brodie and his brother, Bruner, in 1889, Francis Marion and Rachel took in the two boys to raise to adulthood. Then in 1914, they opened their hearts and their home to Rachel's daughter from her first marriage, Eliza Allen Knight and her daughter, who lived there another seven years.

—BLS

FRANCIS MARION SHAW (continued)

Marion married the widow of Barzilla Allen, Rachel Moore Allen in 1866 in Berrien County. Rachel, daughter of John Moore and Nancy O'Steen, had lost her first husband, during the Civil War, leaving her with three young children, John, Eliza and William.

Later that year, the Shaws started their second family with the birth of Francis Arthur on December 8, 1866. He was followed by the birth of Ida Jane on June 19, 1868, and then on October 29, 1869 Jessie Shelby, later nicknamed "Doc", was born.

April 3, 1871 the family was expanded with another girl, Effie C. and on 8 July 1873, Lacy Lester was born. And finally on 5 February, 1875, their last child was born; a boy, Chester D.

The Shaw house was located on Jones Street in Ray City, but burned down several years ago. There was always a lot of family around the home. The children of both families were staying there from time to time. When Francis Arthur's first wife, Victoria fell ill and died in 1889, their two boys, Brodie and Bruner were taken in to the home of Francis Marion, where the boys resided and were raised to adulthood by the loving grandparents.

And in 1911, shortly after buying a farm in Brooks County, Eliza's husband, Sullivan Knight died. Her oldest son, Mansfield, took

over the farm and belongings. Eliza and her youngest daughter, Kathleen, returned to Ray City where they both lived with the elderly Shaws until Kathleen married in 1920.

Kathleen Knight Swindle, who spent seven years at their home, from 1914 to 1920, stated that they were a wonderful couple, who would open their door and hearts to anyone in need.

Even though we may look upon this point of charity as unusual in light of our contemporary standards, we have to remember that Francis Marion came from a family of twenty, and Rachel also came from a family of twenty. That's a family get together of 40 adults not even counting the children! But the Shaws took pride in their offspring and had great compassion for their children and grandchildren.

Rachel, at the age of 85, died at her home on April 15, 1921. She is buried at the Pleasant Cemetery near Lois. Less than a year later, on January 1, 1922, Francis Marion died and is buried next to Rachel at the Pleasant Cemetery.

They were an unselfish couple who set an example of hard work, faith, and charity to family and friends. We all benefit from their sacrifice and example.

The Second Generation

The following photos are the only children of Francis Marion and Rachel Shaw that the editor has access to. If any other photos of the other three children exist, please get in touch with Bryan Shaw.



Francis Arthur Shaw
1866–1933



Jesse "Doc" Shelby Shaw
1869–1941



Chester D. Shaw
1875–1912

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 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 Lois, Berrien, Ga

CHILDREN

Francis Arthur Shaw
Born: 8 December 1866, place unknown
Died: 18 November 1933, Willacoochee, Atkinson, Ga

Ida Jane Shaw
Born: 19 June 1868, place unknown
Died: 18 August 1921, place unknown

Jesse Shelby "Doc" Shaw
Born: 29 October 1869, place unknown
Died: 12 September 1941, place unknown

Effie C. Shaw
Born: 3 April 1871, place unknown
Died: date and place unknown

Lacy Lester Shaw
Born: 8 July 1873, place unknown

Chester D. Shaw
Born: 5 February 1875, place unknown
Died: 13 December 1912, place unknown

SPOUSES

Victoria Giddens Knight Married: 12 October 1885
Gertrude Albritton Married: 15 November 1891

W. Bartow Parrish Married: 29 June 1884

Susie Bullard Married: date unknown

William Clements Married: date unknown

Lula Albritton Married: 7 June 1896

Luannie Webb Married: 16 March 1898
Ava Moore Married: date unknown
Minnie Parrish Married: date unknown

IN FUTURE ISSUES

We have just barely scratched the surface of the family history of Francis Marion and Rachel and of their children and grandchildren. I have had some success in acquiring some interesting photos and details that I look

forward to sharing with all of the you in the coming months.

Next issue I would like to share information on the family of Jesse "Doc" Shaw. I have a pretty complete profile on the vital dates and marriages on that descendant and his family, thanks to the contributions of Diana Shaw. I will also try to expand on some more details and insights into Francis Marion's involvement in the Civil War years. And of course there will be a "mystery" photo or two that you can take over to granny's to see if she recognizes anyone.

My greatest regret is that I am so far away from the heartland of our ancestry. There is a lot of information that is there in the minds of some of the elder family members, and as each one passes on without sharing it with their children or friends, a little bit of us is lost. I hope that this newsletter will provide a stimulus for everyone to start asking questions

about the "good-old-days". I never found a senior family member who wasn't willing to share stories about their life or of some moment in time. But too often the visions are fading. So don't procrastinate that phone call or visit or letter. And always ask to see their photo collections, whether they are in a cardboard box or album. It is a joy to watch the eyes of these historians as they recount the events surrounding each one.

By way of research, I am missing much on the family of Ida Jane Parrish, Effie C. Clements, Lacy Lester Shaw, and Chester D. Shaw. I would appeal to all who may have information on these families or any details that would expand or correct what I have already written here, to send it on to me as soon as possible. I will show corrections in the following newsletters.

I am also anxious to get the newsletter into as many hands of our family members as possible. The first mailing was just sent to those whose acquaintance I had made and address I jotted down while I was there last summer. I am sure there are many others who may be interested in finding out more about their ancestors. Please drop me a note with their names and addresses and I will send a copy of this issue and future issues to them. No charge of course.

—Bryan Lee Shaw