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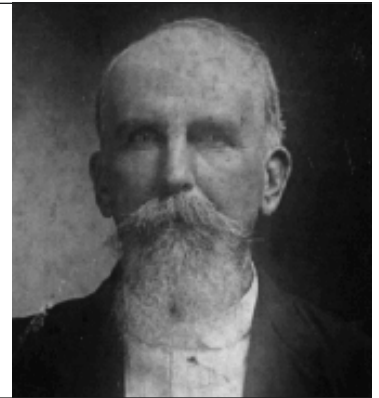
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THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION
SHAW
AND RACHEL MOORE ALLEN



T H E G R A N D C H I L D R E N

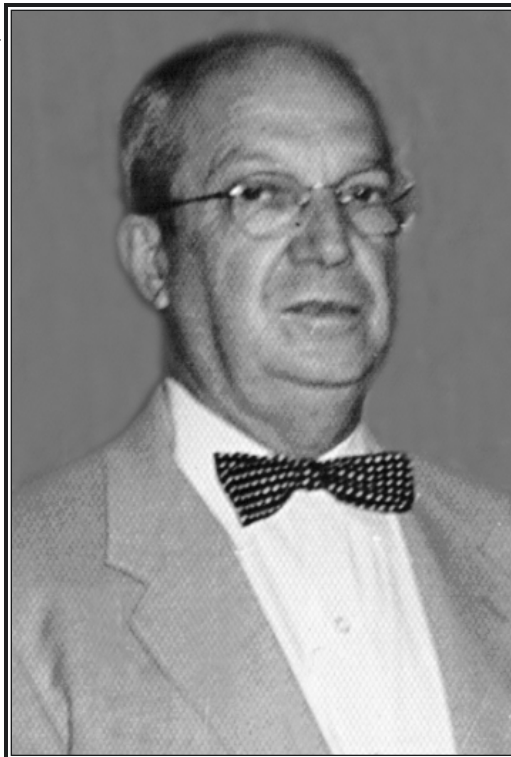
**COLLIS CHANCERY
ALLEN**

Pride in a Job Well Done

There may seem to be some contradiction as to how a young man raised on a two-mule farm in south Georgia, could respond to the call of a metropolitan profession in central Florida, however it was a course which many pursued in the 1920s and 1930s.

With the collapse of many small farms following the infestation of the cotton industry by the boll weevil, and the diminishing productive acreage available to the sons and grandsons of pioneer farmers, many young men were bitten by the "Florida Bug." Collis C. Allen was among those who went looking for his fortune south of the cotton and tobacco fields of Georgia.

Collis Chancery Allen was the third



born son of John L. and Minerva Futch Allen's five children. He was born July 17, 1893, in Nashville, Georgia. He was reared on the family farm a few miles west of Ray City, receiving his education primarily from the one-room Pine Grove School.

He found favor with Lola M. Mathis, the daughter of David Mathis, and they were married on November 4, 1914, by Rev. J. B. Luke, at the Nashville

home of the brides parents. It is noted in the wedding announcement in the Nashville Herald that Collis was "a young businessman of Rays Mill", though his occupation was not noted, and his draft registration card dated June 5, 1917, states that his occupation was farming.

Their first and only child, Collis "T" Talmadge, was born September 25, 1915.

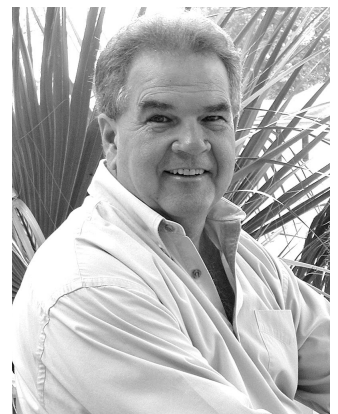
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The Family of Francis Marion Shaw is a non-profit newsletter published semi-annually, or more frequently, for the benefit of the descendants of Francis Marion Shaw and his wife, Rachel Moore Allen Shaw.

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:

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Bryan Lee Shaw, Editor



The beginning of his lifelong profession appears to have begun Nashville or Ray City (right). However after the sawmill burned in Ray City, Collis took his skills to the metropolitan community of Valdosta.

Young Collis Allen, probably about age 18 (below), was a frequent visitor to his Uncle "Dock" Shaw's home, just south of the John Allen farm across Possum Branch.

The wedding photo of Collis and Lola Mathis Allen (below right).



In 1920, Collis was shown in the U.S. Census living on Main Street in Ray City, working in a barber shop. Whether the shop was in Ray City or Nashville cannot be determined. Lola was engaged in the women's organization of the Baptist church in Nashville, and a Mathis Barber Shop also was operating in Nashville at the time, the owner possibly related to Lola.

However it is certain, that by 1930, Collis and Lola and their son had moved to Valdosta on 408 East Rogers Street, and Collis was also engaged in the barbering business there. Lola helped out with the family expenses by working as a sales clerk for a ready-to-wear store. This often required their son, "T", to be cared for by

grandparents and relatives. This became a common theme for "T" though he enjoyed and developed close relationships with his many of his kin folk.

Being in the midst of the Great Depression, the rumors of the land-of-milk-and-honey in Florida were just too tempting to resist and by 1938, the Allen family had moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, where he continued his employment as a barber.

The family roomed at 575 4th Street South for several months while Collis traveled about the state picking up barbering opportunities. Lola found employment nearby as a saleslady with a women's foundation business, operated by Anne Johnson.

By 1940, Collis was able to open his own shop at 621 9th Street North, where the family also resided.

In 1942 the family moved again to 825 Highland Street North, and by 1944 the family called the shop their home.

In 1945, Lola went to work for Janet Horn who owned a childrens clothing store. This experience paved the way for the opening of her own business in 1947, Lola Allen's Children Shop,

Collis's father passed away in



By 1930, Collis had moved to Valdosta, where he had a chair in one of the community's largest barber shop (left). Collis is shown here, second from the front.

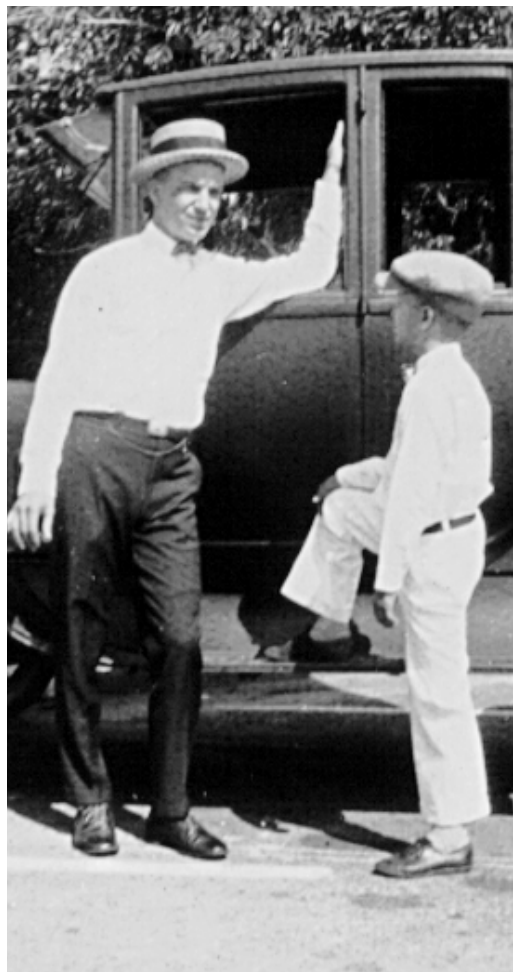
December, 1939, and his mother in April, 1946. With the loss of his parents, his sister Mittie, who had been their care giver, made St. Petersburg her home.

This gave Collis and Lola the incentive to purchase their home at 1015 26th Avenue North, where their son "T", his wife Ruby and their two children, Jean and John, joined them, with both couples sharing the mortgage. With the addition of "T" and Ruby's 3rd child, Judy Ann in 1948, it made a packed household for the two Allen families.

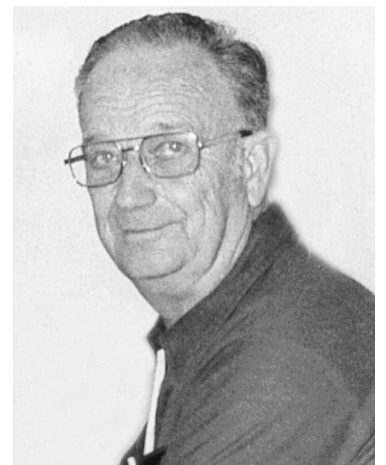
The decade of the 50s saw Collis move his barber shop again, this time a shop on 15th Street near 16th and 15th Avenues. This would be his last business location. He operated this shop until 1958 when he retired and started drawing social security. He and Lola purchased a trailer home in Boston, Georgia where they spent many days with grandchildren and Lola's sisters near Quitman.

However retirement didnt suit Collis too well, so he opened his barber chair again at his old 15th Street location.

Collis always prided himself keeping up his expansive yard filled with massive oaks, azalias, and a fish pond. And though it was always a task that required a lot of



Collis took pride in making a good imprssion, in dress and appearance. He must have been proud of this early coupe (below, left), shown here with his only child, Talmadge "T".



Collis Talmadge "T" Allen, (above) son of Collis and Lola Allen in his mid-life.

Certainly this photo of Collis Allen in front of his barber shop in St. Petersburg indicates the pleasure he received working in his lifelong profession.



energy, afterwards, when Collis was all cleaned up, wearing a fresh white shirt and bowtie, he would sit on the front porch overlooking the beauty of his handywork and respond, "I sure am tired but it sure looks good."

In the last decade of his life, Collis suffered from lung ailments which limited his mobility and put an end to his barbering. He died on May 8, 1976.

Lola was engaged in her Children's Shop until she suffered a heart attack in 1972. Her health deteriorated afterwards and she died, December 18, 1982.

Collis spent a lifetime taking pride in his trade, and making the world around him more pleasant and beautiful. Indeed, it can truly be stated he always took pride in a job well done. —BLS



Though the sedate appearance of Mittie Allen in her early years above may give thought as to why she remained single her entire life, circumstances related to caregiving were probably more influential.

MITTIE IRENE ALLEN

Lifelong Caregiver

Though my intent is to document the life of each of the grandchildren of Marion and Rachel Allen Shaw, it is always more difficult to find information pertaining to the granddaughters than to the grandsons. In the case of Mittie Allen, it is particularly difficult as she never married and is the only spinster of the 48 surviving grandchildren of Marion and Rachel.

However, it is certainly fitting that I include a biography of Mittie in this particular newsletter, as she had a closer relationship with Collis than any of her other siblings.

Mittie Irene Allen was born September 7, 1896, the youngest of five children of John and Minerva Futch Allen. She was raised on the family farm just west of Ray City, Georgia, and received most of her education in the one-room Pine Grove School nearby.

Being the youngest child, she had a particularly close relationship with her parents, and that closeness may have served as a reason for her limitations in the courting experience. She certainly enjoyed social outings when growing up, as evidenced by local newspaper "happening" notes. But she found her parents' home a comfortable and secure environment.

Certainly as her parents aged, Mittie found herself being the primary caregiver

to them, remaining in the home on the farm until their deaths—John in 1939, and Minerva in 1946.

After the passing of Minerva, Mittie, then age 55, moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, where she moved into the home of her brother, Collis and his wife Lola Allen.

She found employment at the Sunshine Laundry in St. Petersburg. By 1948, she had found employment with the Mound Park Hospital, working in their kitchen. This employment lasted until about 1951.

It was about that time when Mittie returned to Berrien County, Georgia where she resumed her role as caregiver, this time professionally. She resided in the homes of those she gave care to, providing meals, house keeping and companionship. About 1972, she moved to Adel where she continued her occupation until her death.

She died on April 16, 1982, and is buried next to her parents at the New Ramah Cemetery in Ray City.

Not enough can be said for the life of a person who finds the role of caregiver thrust upon them. It is not celebrated in company honors or newspaper happenings. However, their commitment of time and love are the qualities of heroes and heroines. And in the case of Mittie Irene Allen, she filled her life in that role unselfishly. —BLS