
Community Archives – Shaw Family History Newsletters
CA/012-001-006

October 1994

The Family of Francis Marion Shaw Newsletter

Vol 03, No. 02.

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

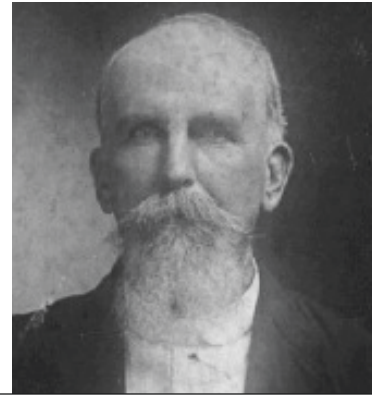
UUID: 215D3C04-72F7-40C9-B59B-49534C7750A8

Recommended Citation:

Shaw, Bryan Lee, ed. “The Family of Francis Marion Shaw Newsletter Vol 3, 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/10428/7525>

This item is 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

THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW



OH, WHAT A GRAND REUNION!



Great granddaughter Betty Jean Shaw Hughes makes a visual connection with an Allen line, while Samuel Webster, husband of Maxine Shaw Webster finds his wife's ancestral roots on the family organization chart.

When I traveled to Georgia for the first time two years ago, I was in search of the remnants of a family history that had faint connections to a past that I was familiar with only through written records and court documents. After two weeks of searching, interviewing and gathering little bits of information, I came to realize that there was a family there whose connections had also grown faint. As the years passed by, and the children of Francis

Marion and Rachel Shaw died off, the circumstances that led them off to different communities became decaying bridges and rigid fences that their descendants would cease to cross and hesitate to enter. The life that was once one in the Ray City log home of Marion and Rachel had become lives of many homes, many communities, many diversities. Yet every home that I entered was filled with warm acceptance and a sense that their lives were a part of something larger and their connections were still in tact.

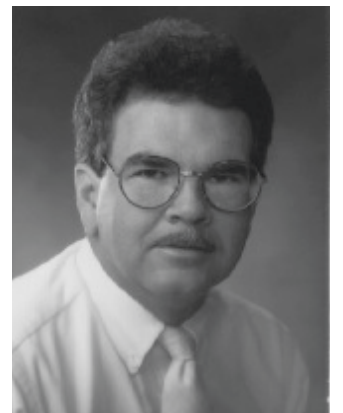
This enigma was whispering to me again in my next visit to the (continued on page 2)

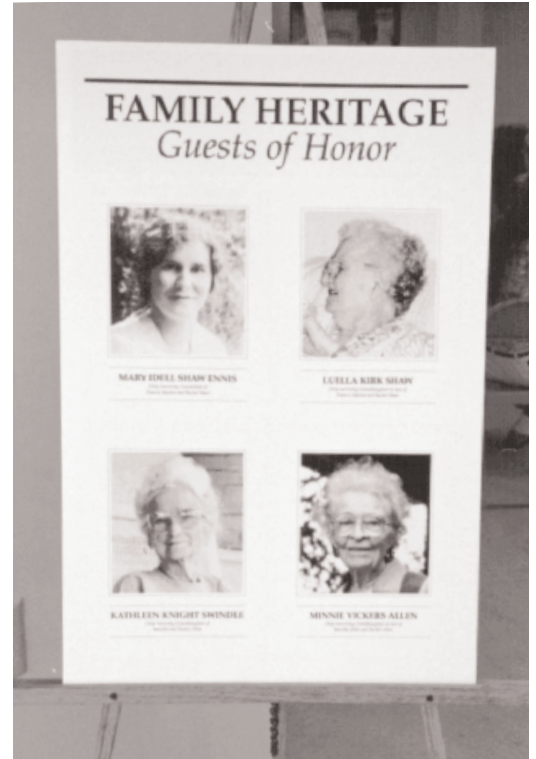
Volume 3 Number 2
October 1994

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





WELCOME!

What better word could there be to describe the feeling that every family member felt as they entered the doors of the Ray City Senior Citizens' Center for the Francis Marion Shaw Family Reunion. Here Otis Shaw makes sure no one is left out in the heat and humidity as his brother Gerald encourages him to get back inside the air-conditioned hall.

GUESTS OF HONOR

If there was any disappointment in the hearts of those who attended, it was that many were not able to be there because of prior commitments or health of family members, as was the case of Mary Idell Shaw Ennis and Luella Kirk Shaw.

Families gathered together in the distinctive community groups: The Ray City Crowd, The Adel Connection, and of course, The Willacoochee Bunch. But there will always be a special sense of family pride and attachment with all of those who were in attendance at this historic first Francis Marion Shaw Reunion.



Ray City area in the fall of 1993. I had attended the reunion of Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. (grandfather of Francis Marion Shaw) along with some of Doc Shaw's grandchildren. Gerald and Otis Shaw and their families had attended that reunion in years past, but felt like there was a missing link in the family organization, and there needed to be an effort to bring the children of Francis Marion Shaw back together. So the promptings of the heart took hold and the family of Doc Shaw took upon themselves the task of organizing the first reunion of the Family of Francis Marion Shaw.

On Sunday, July 24, 1994, at the Senior Citizens' Center in Ray City, Georgia, there was the largest gathering of that family ever known, with more than ninety friends and family in attendance. What great joy there must have been for Marion and Rachel to see such a gathering of their grandchildren, and to see what wonderful friendships that were renewed or begun. What greater happiness can there be than to know that your children's children and their children have set this day



“WHERE DO WE FIT IN?”
The focal point of attention at the first Francis Marion Shaw Reunion was this family organization chart which featured photographs of each ancestor and their children. Many spaces that were unfilled because of the lack of information and photos, will be completed by the next reunion because of the information shared this year.

If you think that family history is for old people, you should have seen the excitement of young Gary Shaw, Jr. who was given the assignment of keeping the organizational chart until next year.

aside and honored their parent’s memory!

There were conversations going on around the hall with cousins that had not seen each other for decades. Old photographs were poured over by older members who were always eager to share identities and stories with the younger ones. Awkward introductions quickly turned to a comfortable dialogue that often lead to the inquiry, “How do we fit into this family?”

That spurred a trip over to the family organization board where three generations of ancestors were represented pictorially and their connections to one another were

identified. It was a thrill to see everyone tracing their family to the family of a new-found cousin.

The guests of honor were Mary Idell Shaw Ennis, Luella Kirk Shaw, Kathleen Knight Swindle, and Minnie Vickers Allen, though Mary and Luella were unable to attend due to health of family members. And what a special moment it was to see 90-year-old Kathleen Knight Swindle standing next to the youngest descendant in attendance, Kara Shaw, the year-old daughter of Ken and Alisha Shaw.

(Continued on page 6)

TOO BUSY TO EAT

Though the reunion started at 10:00 in the morning, as lunch was served, many found visiting with long-past cousins to be too much fun to stop to eat. But eat or not, everyone was filled with a great happiness that could only come from sharing time together at this special event.



Descendants of Francis Arthur Shaw and Victoria Giddens Knight



Back left to right: Charles Roux, Sarah Shaw Roux, Bryan Lee Shaw, Sandra Shaw Clements, Niel Clements. Front: Kristin Gay Shaw.



Shown right are descendants of Francis Arthur Shaw and Gertrude Albritton



Back left to right: Kenneth Shaw, Kara Shaw, Alisha Shaw, Wanda Shaw, Kellyn Shaw, Loris Mobley Shaw, Paul Shaw, Samuel Webster, Maxine Shaw Webster, Julian Shaw. Front: Kirstin Shaw



Back left to right: Bettina Lynn May Griffin, Avanelle May, Carol Rouse May, Ida Lou Giddens Fletcher, Verma Lee Davis May, Phyllis Fletcher. Front: Chandler "Chad" Griffin, Kim Griffin.



Shown left are descendants of Ida Jane Shaw Parrish and William Bartow Parrish



Shown below are descendants of Jesse Shelby "Dock" Shaw and Susie Bullard



Standing left to right: Latrelle Shaw Chisholm, Cheryl Shaw Johnson, Jimmy Vickers, Rick Johnson, Becky Shaw Lipp, Edwin Lipp, Gary Mitchell Shaw, Geri Shaw, Jeannette Shaw, Paulette Watson, Lee Watson, Gwen ShawWatson, Charlie Watson, Linda Watson. Kneeling: Susan Shaw Vickers, Michael Lipp, William Barker, Donna Marie Shaw Barker, Gary Shaw, Jr., Otis Shaw, Gerald Shaw, Dianna Shaw. Sitting Front: Whiney Johnson, Spencer.



Shown right are descendants of William D. Clements and Effie Cordelia Shaw



Shown far right are descendants of Lacy Lester Shaw and Tula Albritton



Shown right are descendants of Chester David Shaw and Mimmie Parrish



Left to right: Hazel Sirmans Bradham, Merle Sirmans



Left to right: Shara Creel Shaw, Jimmy L. Shaw, Tina L. Shaw.



Left to right: Lou Hughes Harris, unknown Harris, Betty Jean Shaw Hughes.

(Continued from page 3)

When the dinner bell sounded there was more wonderful food prepared by kindred hands than could be consumed. (However, I honored all of my promises to sample every dish so that I would know first hand of the culinary talents of my relatives.)

As the reunion drew to a close and we all lined up for our family pictures, it was agreed by all that this should not be the end of the Francis Marion Shaw Family Reunions, but only the beginning. Plans were put in motion to meet again next year on the last weekend of July.

And to each of the family members who traveled great distances to be in attendance at this historic reunion, though your sacrifices may have been great in time and expense, I am sure that you were all rewarded for your effort.

And perhaps the trip home may not have seemed so long. And the fences did not seem so high nor the bridges so impassible.

Yes, I think we are a family again, if we ever were not.

—Bryan Lee Shaw



Left to right: Sandra Allen Regan, Steve Regan, Minnie Vickers Allen, Eva Allen Mills, Hazel Allen Lewis, Nell Allen Nesbitt.



Shown left are descendants of William B. Allen and Rachel V. Futch

THE ALLEN CONNECTION

The reunion would not have been complete without the participation of the Allen family members. The children of Rachel and Barzilla Allen always held a special place in the heart of their mother. And though their children and their grandchildren carry a line unique to the Shaw's, they still eagerly joined in on the celebration of both families.

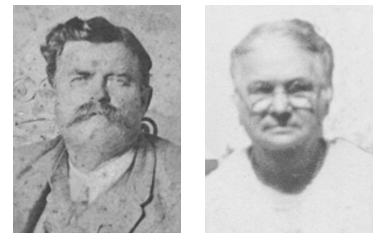
And their contributions to the historical documentation has been invaluable. Kathleen Knight Swindle was so very generous, sharing photographs, information, and stories of Allens and Shaws. Her wit and charm have added such life to our family history.

Also, Mimmie Vickers Allen, widow of Edgar Allen, brought Rachel Allen Shaw's old family Bible, and portraits of other Allen connections. This is the kind of effort that is needed to keep our heritage alive.

Unfortunately, we were missing many of the Allen descendants, notably the descendants of John Levi Allen. Perhaps next year we can bring them and many others of this wonderful family together.



Above: Kathleen Knight Swindle



Shown left is a descendant of Sullivan E. Knight and Ann Eliza Allen

A FINAL PORTRAIT

The photo shown to the left is one of the only known group portrait of the family of Francis Marion Shaw and Rachel Allen Shaw, though many of the family members were not present.

The photo was probably taken about 1930, based on the age and identity of the individuals, as well as the absence of others. Chester David had died in December of 1912.

Mother Rachel had passed away in April of 1921, and her daughter Ida Jane Shaw Parrish died in August of that same year. Father Francis Marion died in January of 1922. Rachel's oldest child, William B. Allen, then died in 1924.

That left only the children pictured here, and Lacy Lester Shaw. Top row left to right are a barely visabl Jesse Shelby "Dock" Shaw, Effie Cordelia Shaw Clements, and Francis Arthur Shaw. Seated are Eliza Allen Knight and John Levi Allen. Lacy, being the only other child missing from the picture, may have been the photographer.

Like all photographs, this captured a special moment which would never occur again. In December of 1932 Effie stepped on a nail and died of blood poisoning, and almost a year later, in November 1933, Francis Arthur died from complications of diabetes.



THE LAST SHAW / ALLEN FAMILY REUNION: CIRCA 1930

Perhaps the last time that the children of Francis Marion Shaw and Rachel Allen Shaw gathered together for some type of reunion may have occurred as early as 1924 with the death and funeral of William Allen, but probably closer to 1932.

In a photograph that Kathleen Knight Swindle has in her collection is an informal sitting of five of the six surviving children from the Shaw and Allen connections. In this

faded, off-angle picture shown above, are the aged likeness of Jesse Shelby "Dock" Shaw, Effie Cordelia Shaw Clements, Francis Arthur Shaw, Eliza Allen Knight, and John Levi Allen. Lacy Lester Shaw may have been the photographer.

This rare photo poignantly illustrates how special these family gatherings are. And how important it is for families to come together often and renew their bonds and share memories. We never know what fate lies ahead and we often find ourselves reflecting on those occasions once again.

Tragically, by 1933 Effie and Arthur would both be gone, the family portrait changed forever.—BLS