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The Family of Francis Marion Shaw Newsletter

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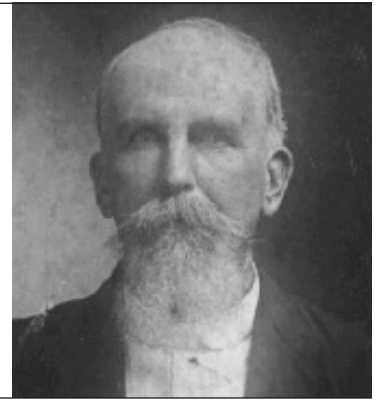
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THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW



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

BURIE WEBSTER CLEMENTS, SR.

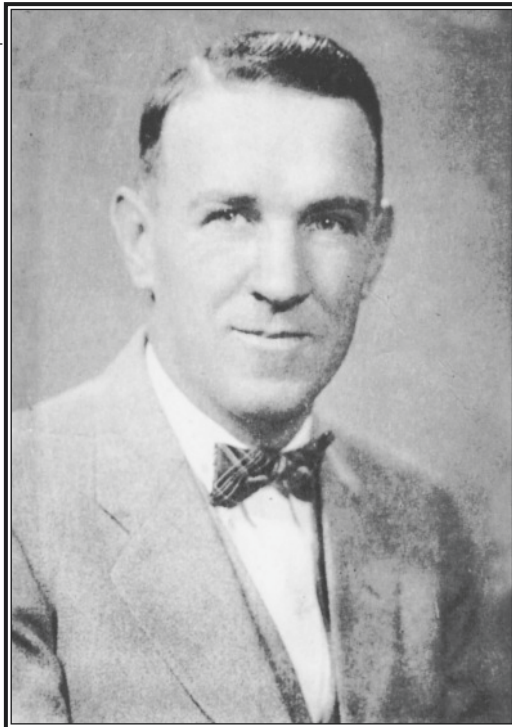
Badges and Bow Ties

Burie Webster Clements or "Buster" Clements as he was known in

later years, was the third child and middle son of William D. Clements and Effie C. Shaw. He was born September 7, 1899 in Adel, Georgia.

Burie attended public school in Adel, and later attended business school in Sparks, Georgia.

Like any young man, he wanted to see and experience other things and places outside of his hometown. During these times the dreams of traveling with a circus was quite common in the minds of young men. In April, 1918, he joined the Radcliffe Chautauqua Circus System, not as a



performer, but as an employee in the tent gang.

The adventures associated with the circus were overwhelming, and it did not take Burie long to realize that the work was also hard and demanding. By the end of May, 1918 Burie was thinking of quitting the circus and going into the sewing machine business.

In response to that suggestion, Burie's brother, Claude, wrote back to him saying, "You

mentioned about quitting your job and taking a job with the sewing machine people, but take a fools advice and keep the one you have got, because the machine business and every thing else will be gone before long if things don't change." (Spelling and punctuation are retained.)

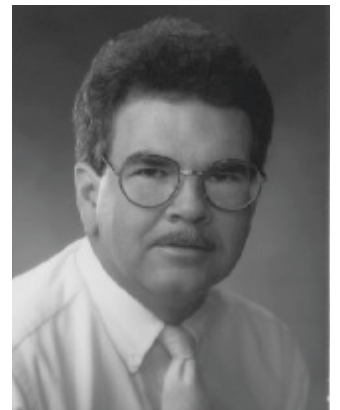
Volume 9 Number 1
April 2000

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 non-returnable manuscripts and photo submissions to:

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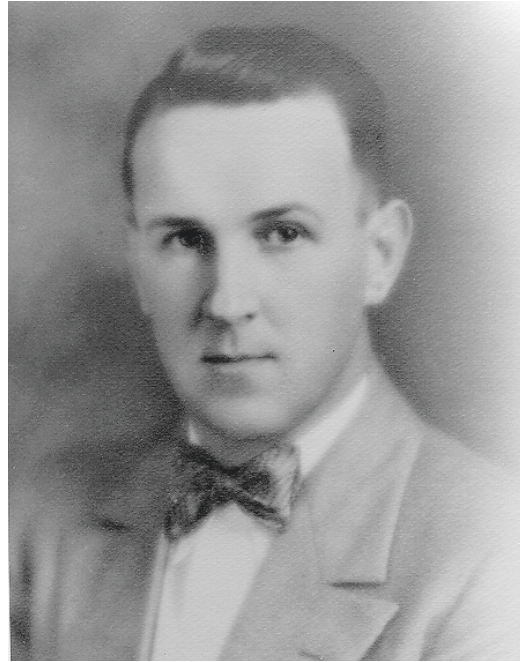


The Young Clements

A short time after their marriage in 1920, Burie and Maggie, shown right, departed their Georgia home and moved to Polk County, Florida, where they resided for the remainder of their lives.

Burie immediately went to work for the American Agriculture Chemical Company, and remained with them for 19 years.

After a brief spell in Tiger Bay, a company town, the family moved to their home in Pierce, Florida, shown below, in 1922.



However, in spite of the prompting of his brother, by the end of June that same year, Burie returned to his home in Adel.

He made an attempt to join the U. S. Navy, but was only able to get into the Naval Reserves. WWI was over shortly there after and he was not called to serve.

He then went to work in the Johnson-Clements Drug Store in Ray City, operated by his brother, Claude. While there, he met Maggie Turner and their brief courtship began. In the meantime, Claude sold the business to a Mr. Bloodsworth, and Burie continued to work for him until he married.

On May 5, 1920, Burie and Maggie were married in the home of Maggie's father, Andrew W. Turner. Burie then obtained a job as a clerk with the J. M. Parrish Company, Inc. in Ray City.

Burie's brother, Claude, had heard of the boom times in the Florida phosphate business. He had found work with the American Agriculture Chemical Company in Polk County, and wrote to Burie of the easy employment and good pay.

On October 30, 1920, Burie and Maggie pulled up their Georgia roots for the last time and headed for the Tiger Bay phosphate mines near Ft. Meade, Florida.

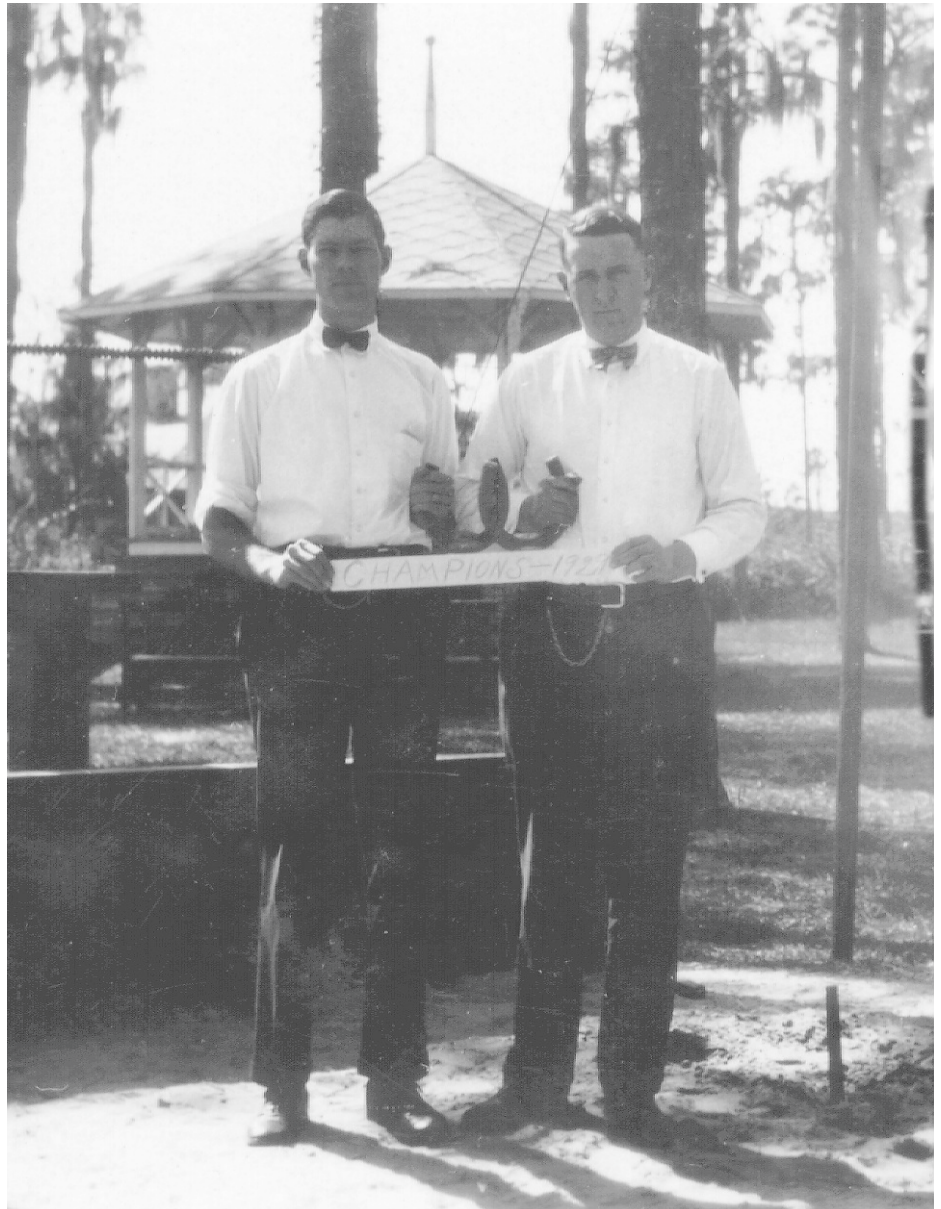
For the next 19 years, Buster (a nickname given to him by his co-workers in the phosphate industry) was employed by the American Agriculture Chemical Company, in charge of the transportation department and company safety officer.

While living at Tiger Bay, the Clements started their family with the birth of their daughter, Margaret, on November 22, 1921. The following year, the family moved a few miles north to Pierce, where the Clements purchased their first home.

It was also at this time that Buster was offered the job of town constable. Pierce was a company town, and the role of constable was more of a resident peace officer. Buster spent most of his time defusing family squabbles and bar room disputes, yielding the more challenging cases to the Polk County Sheriff. He also was responsible for transporting students to the high school, four miles away in Mulberry.

While residing in Pierce, the Clements expanded their family with the birth of their son, Burie Webster Jr., on December 16, 1927.

With his popular support from the citizens of the company towns and his close working relationship with the county deputies, Buster entered the race for Polk County Sheriff. He resigned from the AAC



company in January, 1940, and moved his family to Bartow. They resided there for one year, while Buster campaigned for office. During one of the many evening campaign speeches, he was bitten by a malaria carrying mosquito, and was bedridden for the rest of the campaign. Buster was narrowly defeated in the election.

In 1941, Buster moved his family to Mulberry, where he bought and operated a service station. Over the next 19 years, he owned and operated 3 service stations, two at one time. During this same period, he served as Chief of Police of the one-man Mulberry police force for 5 years, and City Clerk for 2 years.

While serving as Chief of Police, he found his role as peace officer a little more threatening in the larger community. On one occasion while locking a prisoner in the city jail, Chief Clements had his gun

Horseshoes and Bow Ties

By 1929, Buster had become a familiar face in the Pierce section of Polk County, and was seldom seen without his trademark bow tie. He used his friendly, common sense style to win people over, and was often a sought after horseshoe pitcher, as verified by the photo of the championship team above. However, neither Buster or his partner, R. G. Cayce, would let the sultry summer heat persuade them in removing their ties.



Margaret Clements Hammock



Burie Webster Clements, Jr.

The Children

Buster and Maggie raised two fine children, Margaret and B.W., Jr. Their third child, Marilyn Jan, was stillborn.

Dependable Peacekeeper

Burie W. "Buster" Clements, first entered law enforcement in 1922 as constable for the township of Pierce, Florida, a position he held for 18 years. After an unsuccessful run for Polk County Sheriff, Buster was appointed Chief of Police in Mulberry Florida, where he served for five years. He is shown, above right, kindly serving a citation to a Mulberry resident.



pulled from his holster by the prisoner. The prisoner was finally subdued after the Chief slammed and broke the offender's arm in the jail cell door.

In another incident, Chief Clements was searching a home for a burglar. The startled intruder turned and shot at Chief Clements, where upon the Chief fired back, severely wounding the burglar.

In 1946, he resigned as Chief of Police to take the job of Superintendent of Transportation for the Polk County School System.

However, Buster's health was deteriorating and he resigned his position as Superintendent of Transportation in 1951. But he could not stay away from public service. In 1957 he was elected to the city commission of Mulberry.

He won re-election in 1959, and was midway in his second term when he was struck down with a fatal heart attack on March 31, 1960. He was just 60 years old.

Maggie lived another 20 years after the passing of Buster, living in their Mulberry

home until her death in 1980. They are both buried in Lakeland Memorial Gardens, Polk County, Lakeland, Florida.

A tribute written by Judge Folks Huxford in the *Nashville Herald* may best describe the life of Burie Webster Clements:

"Burie left the scenes of his nativity forty years ago at a time when he was hardly of age, and cast his lot with a people to whom he was a stranger, amid a new environment and different conditions from those he had formerly known. It is not always easy under such circumstances to rise to a place where one is looked to as a leader and community builder. . . . But Buster had in his makeup the elements that worked for his rise and success, and which it took only time to bring out. . . . By his upright life he reflected great credit on his home-county and his parents and fore parents."

This biography is greatly attributed to the efforts of Burie Webster Clements, Jr.



Friendly Service

The Clements family moved to Mulberry, Florida in 1941, where Buster owned and operated the service station shown above. It was a family affair, with Buster and Maggie, standing left, managing the business with the help of their son B. W. Jr., standing center.

Buster owned three stations over a 19 year span, operating two at one time. His last was a Standard station, shown left with his employees. In this rare photo, bow tie-free Buster and Maggie are second and third from the right, B. W. Jr. is shown second from the left.

THE MULBERRY HOMES

In 1941, after a one year sojourn in Bartow, Florida, the Clements family moved to Mulberry, Florida, into the home pictured at right top. They resided there until 1950, when they purchased the home shown at right bottom. Buster and Maggie lived their remaining lives in this home, and then it was occupied by their daughter Margaret.



THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION

SHAW REUNION 2000

August 13, 2000
10:00 A.M.
Ray City, Georgia

C

Senior Citizen Center

ould Francis Marion and Rachel Shaw have imagined that in the year 2000, five generations of their Shaw-Allen descendants would gather just a few blocks from the site of their home in Ray City, and honor and celebrate their lives and heritage? What a great tribute to this pioneer couple and to their children and grandchildren.

We hope you will be a part of this special occasion, and bring your family back to the home of their

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

BURIE WEBSTER "BUSTER" CLEMENTS

Safety officer, Law enforcement officer, Service station operator, Transportation superintendent

*Born: 7 September, 1899 Adel, Berrien, Ga
Died: 31 March, 1960 Mulberry, Polk, Fl*

Buried: Lakeland Memorial Gardens, Lakeland, Polk, Fl

SPOUSE

MARGARET "MAGGIE" TURNER

*Born: 25 December, 1898, Ray's Mill, Berrien, Ga
Died: 20 September, 1980, Mulberry, Polk, Fl*

Married: 5 May, 1920, Berrien, Ga

Buried: Lakeland Memorial Gardens, Lakeland, Polk, Fl

CHILDREN

Margaret C. Clements

*Born: 22 November, 1921, Tiger Bay, Polk, Fl
Died: 5 April, 1993, Lakeland, Polk, Fl
Buried: Mt. Olive Cemetery, Pierce, Polk, Fl*

SPOUSES

Frank Hammock Married:

Born: 14 April, 1911

Burie Webster Clements

Born: 16 December, 1927, Pierce, Polk, Fl

Annie Louise Strickland Married: 29 March, 1952

Born: 3 July, 1930

Marilyn Jan Clements

Born: 1 October, 1931, Pierce, Polk, Fl

Died: 1 October, 1931, Pierce, Polk, Fl (stillborn)