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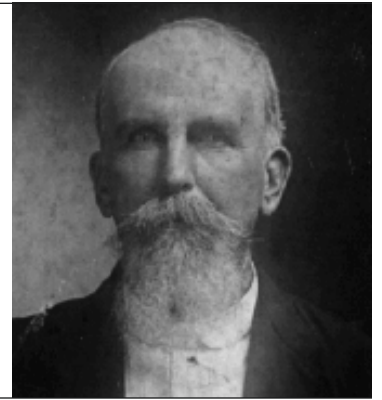
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THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW



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

BERNARD THEODORE SHAW

Small Town Grocer

Though the great majority of the family of Marion and Rachel Allen Shaw made their living on the farm, several other occupations seem to have attracted the interest of many of the Shaw-Allen descendants. In earlier editions of this newsletter, I have addressed the tendency of the male members to gravitate to law enforcement.

Several others were barbers, turpentiners, and teachers were common amongst the female members.

However another pursuit that many family members embraced was the grocery and mercantile business. Lacy Shaw started out in the commissary business, akin to the grocery business, and pursued it most of his life. And William D.



Clements, husband of Effie Shaw Clements, was a successful mercantile operator in Adel. With the birth of the next generation came the grocery operators: Claude Clements operated a grocery in Ft. Meade, Florida; Pleamon Sirmans, husband of Minnie Clements Sirmans, and Henry Swindle, husband of Kathleen Knight Swindle, operated stores in Ray City, Georgia. John Thomas Allen operated a store in

Alapaha, Georgia, and it is believed that Mansfield Knight also had a grocery business at one time in Barney, Georgia.

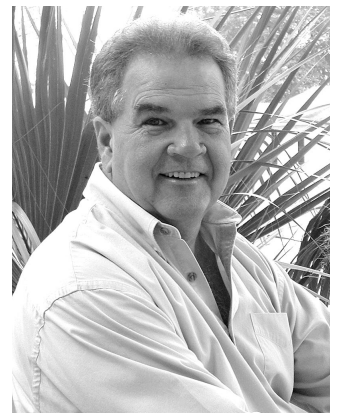
Then there were the two grocery stores owned by two sons of Francis Arthur Shaw, Bernard and Brooker. Brooker operated one on one end of Willacoochee, Georgia's main street, Bernard operated one on the other end.

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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



This was a familiar scene to anyone walking into the Shaw Grocery in Willacoochee in the 1950s

and 1960s. Bernard and Paul managed the store, while Myrtle Shaw was in charge of bookkeeping.



Young Bernard T. Shaw about the time he registered for the draft before entering service during WWI.

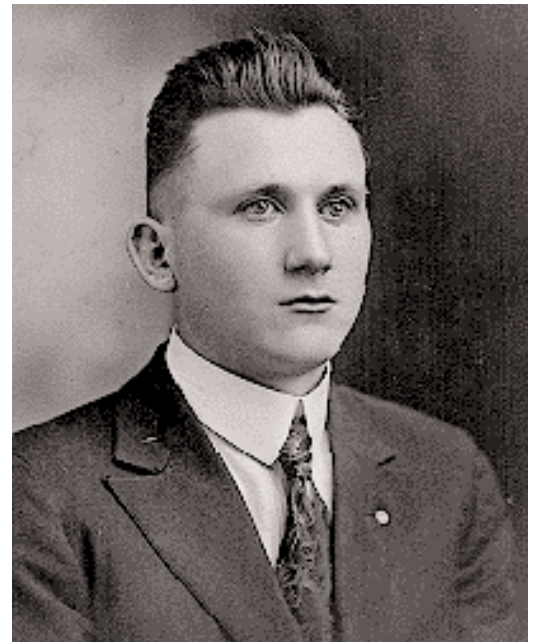
His enlistment was cut short when he suffered nerve damage when he jumped into a foxhole during training and severely cut his leg on a tin can, causing nerve damage.

Bernard Theodore Shaw was the second-born son of Francis Arthur Shaw and his second wife, Gertrude Albritton Shaw, Lowndes Walton Shaw being the eldest. Bernard was born July 9, 1895 at Lois, Georgia, probably in the home of his grandparents, Marion and Rachel Allen Shaw. In November, 1898, Brooker was born, and Arthur shortly thereafter went into the naval stores business, distilling turpentine, across the county line in Clinch County, near the Springhead Church.

The family moved to the still camp, and the young boys lived their early childhood in that small backwoods community. Bernard, along with his brothers, attended school at Live Oak, now the Live Oak Methodist Church. The boys made the two and one half mile walk daily from the camp to the little two-room school.

The boys kept in touch with the outside world during the caning season by catching the train from Willacoochee and traveling to Ray City, where they would help their grandfather Marion Shaw with the syrup making.

About 1904 there was a severe storm in the county that spawned a tornado which touched down and destroyed most of the buildings in the Shaw camp, including the the family home. Though Arthur rebuilt



the still operations, the family relocated to the town of Willacoochee, eight miles to the north. Bernard and his brothers continued their education at the school in Willacoochee. However after his 8th grade year, Bernard quit his formal education.

He spent the next several years driving trucks for his father and helping out in the naval stores operation. Sometime prior to the outbreak of WWI, he went to work at



the pharmacy in Willacoochee, owned by Dr. B. O. Quillian. By this time Lowndes had finished school and had started his medical training. Bernard was asked to send Lowndes \$5.00 a month, quite a sum at that time, to help in his expenses.

By 1917, Bernard received his draft notice, and was enlisted in the U.S. Army Corp., and sent to Ft. Benning, Georgia for training. While being engaged in some of

the basic training exercises, he leaped into a foxhole and landed on a tin can, cutting a large gash in his leg. The wound caused severe nerve damage to that leg and he was found not fit for duty and discharged after only eight months of service.

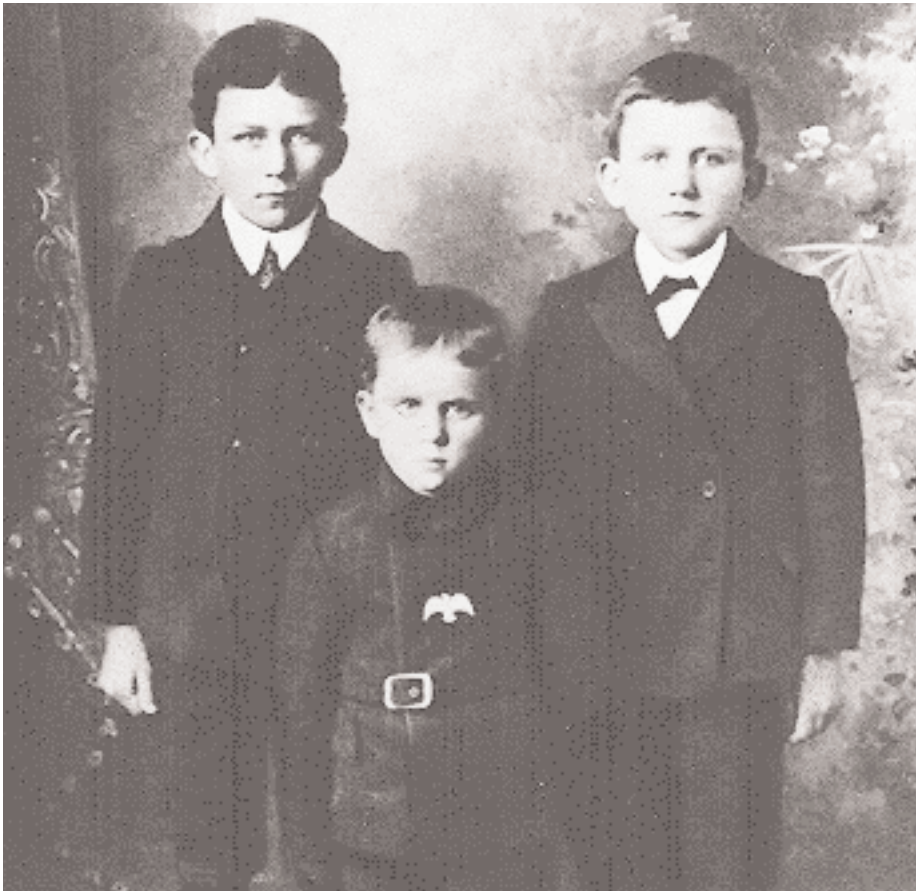
Bernard returned to his position with Dr. Quillian. In February, 1920, it is believed that Bernard took out a loan of \$4538, with the assistance of Dr. Quillian, to purchase an interest in the pharmacy.

About this time he also caught the eye of a bookkeeper at the Willacoochee Bank, Myrtle Tyson, daughter of James W. and Gertrude Pittman Tyson of Berrien County. Her parents had just moved to Fort Meade, Florida, and Myrtle was boarding at the local hotel run by Georgia Strange. After a brief courtship, the couple were married December 8, 1921 in Willacoochee.

In May 1922, the couple purchased a home on Coffee Street (now McCranie Street) for \$1100. On August 29, 1924, their first child, Teddy, was born.

Sometime shortly thereafter, Bernard and his brother Lowndes started a new venture in the apiary industry—beekeeping. Lowndes had just returned from France where he had been extending

Myrrtle Tyson was working at a bank in Willacoochee when she met Bernard Shaw. Two years later the couple were married. They had been married 66 years when Bernard passed away in January, 1988. Myrtle died in September of the same year.



This photograph above, is of the children of Arthur Shaw and his wife, Gertrude Albritton Shaw. It was taken about 1904, shortly after the family moved from the turpentine camp to Willacoochee. Brooker is in the front center, Lowndes is on the left, and Bernard is shown on the right. The photograph is courtesy of Maxine Shaw Webster, daughter of Brooker.

his medical training. He provided the business and marketing expertise, while Bernard provided the apiary knowhow, maintaining the colony and raising queen bees.

Tragedy fell suddenly upon the Shaw family in mid-winter of 1929, when Teddy developed whooping cough. His condition continued to worsen and he died on February 1, 1929. Fourteen months later, on April 12, 1930, Myrtle gave birth to their second child, Paul Harvey. He would be their only child to survive to adulthood.

About this same time, Lowndes had become so involved in his medical practice that he lost interest in the operation of the apiary business. Bernard used the occasion to start his lifelong pursuit in the grocery business, managing the Willacoochee store of the Suwanee chain, based in Jasper, Florida. There were actually about 7 or 8 grocery retailers, or "Jot-em-down" stores in Willacoochee at that time, providing basic necessities to the families of farmers, turpentiners, and lumbermen.

By 1933, the steady commission income from the Suwanee store allowed Bernard to start building a new home one block north across then U.S. Highway 50. While engaged in the construction of the new

home, Bernard's father passed away and his mother became another occupier of the new home.

Bernard had become so successful in the Suwanee chain, that he was rewarded a trip to the world's fair in New York City, a remarkable achievement since it was the depth of the Great Depression days.

During the depression, many customers had great difficulty having enough cash on hand to buy their groceries during the week. So Bernard would extend credit to employees of the principal employers of the area until they were paid, which was contrary to Suwanee company policy. In 1939, the company found out about this practice and admonished Bernard to adhere to the policy. He found this an unacceptable turnabout and quit the Suwanee company.

Within the week he had opened his own grocery store, Shaw's Grocery. A few weeks later, Suwanee asked him to return to their company, however Bernard refused as he had already acquired most of their previous customers, and he was in the grocery business for the long haul.

Shaw's Grocery became a family operation, with Paul stocking and filling and delivering orders, Myrtle doing the books, and Bernard managing the store. Often extended family members from surrounding counties would find the grocery a convenient stopping place when passing through town. Even when Brooker Shaw, Bernard's brother, opened his store on the east end of town, Bernard's grocery continued to thrive.

In 1945, Bernard sold the store he originally started business in to Dr. Schillhouser's son, who had just returned from the military. He in turn purchased another building adjacent to the movie theater, and continued to operate that store until about 1950, when he leased it for a brief spell to Joe Harvey, founder of Harvey's Supermarkets. Eventually Shaw's Grocery reopened under the management of Bernard and his son Paul.

On January 7, 1960, a favorite pastime of Bernard and Paul turned into tragedy that would haunt Bernard the rest of his life. Bernard and Paul had hunted with each other since Paul was 12 years old. Paul had been training hunting dogs, and that afternoon, he asked his father to help work them.

They were hunting the farm of Hasting Tanner, about 4 miles from Willacoochee and about one mile from their vehicle. They came upon a pine thicket where the dogs had picked up the scent of a covey of quail. The dogs separated and Paul followed one of the dogs while Bernard



followed the other. The birds on Bernard's side flushed first, and he shot at them.

When Paul heard the birds flush he turned to the sound of the flush, and the whole right side of his face received the force of Bernard's shot. The shot knocked Paul down, but by the time Bernard heard the cry and arrived to Paul's side, Paul had already got to his feet. All Paul could see at that moment was a bright glare.

They knew they had to make the one mile trek back to the vehicle to get Paul help. Even with Paul's severe injuries, Paul insisted on taking the dogs along. Bernard insisted on bringing the guns. So together they made their way through the woods, lifting the dogs and passing the guns over a fence along the way.

The Tanners had heard their call and met them part way, and helped get Paul to the vehicle. Bernard returned to Willacoochee to inform Loris, Paul's wife, and Myrtle of the accident.

The Tanners drove Paul to Pearson, where they were met by an ambulance that transported him to Douglas, and then on to Waycross, where he was operated on to remove the shot. However 90% of it still remains in his head today.

The tragic reality was that Paul was blind. For the next 13 years, Paul was in and out of hospitals, meeting with some of the country's top retinal specialists. When it was finally resolved that Paul would never regain his sight, it was not only

devastating to Paul, but to Myrtle and Bernard as well. Bernard suffered a nervous condition that affected his management of the store. One day after repeated references to the events that lead to the accident, finally Paul told his mother that what happened was done, and all of the rehashing of events did no one any good. The subject didn't come up again. And Bernard never suffered a nervous attack again from that point on.

However, fits of depression set in and Paul found little purpose in his sightless life, sitting at the store doing nothing. However with Loris nearing the breaking point, she convinced Paul to enter the Academy for the Blind in Macon. Within 3 months, Paul was back with a whole new outlook on life, working full time, cutting meat and helping Bernard run the store.

Bernard eventually turned the operation of the grocery over to Paul and Loris, and spent the last years of his life making visits down to the store or cafe, visiting with the many people that he new as customers for over 50 years.

He died of heart failure on January 24, 1988 at the Coffee Regional Medical Center, at the age of 92. Seven months later, Myrtle, his companion for 66 years, also passed away. They are buried side by side in the Willacoochee Cemetery.

Paul retired from the grocery business in 1975, and there has not been a Shaw operating a grocery in Willacoochee since. BLS

The only known photo of little "Teddy", first-born child of Bernard and Myrtle Shaw is this photo taken about 1926 with his grandfather, Arthur Shaw, when Teddy was about 18 months old. He died almost 4 years later. On the left is Bernard and Myrtle's second child, Paul, when he was playing baseball and attending school at Abraham Baldwin in Tifton.

2007 SHAW-ALLEN REUNION— SIGNALING A RENEWAL OF FAMILY RESEARCH

*Sunday,
September 23, at the
Nashville, Georgia
Community Center,
Registration starts
at 10:00 A.M.*

The 14th Annual Shaw-Allen Family Reunion will once again be held at the Nashville Community Center, across from the Berrien County Courthouse. Last year we celebrated the second annual "One Armed Corn Husking Contest," and it appears the event is getting more competitive and popular. We anticipate it will be bigger than ever this year. Along with many of the familiar faces, we were also pleased to welcome several newcomers, including a large contingent of descendants of Lacy Lester Shaw. If you have not attended a Shaw-Allen Reunion, or have not done so recently, we encourage you to make this the year you bring your family to the most historically active reunion in Berrien County. The registration and brief program will be followed by the famous Shaw-Allen covered dish luncheon. Make your plans now to attend.

The Spring of 2007 brought about a renewal of family history research to the Shaw-Allen Family Organization. For the past 5 years since my retirement and move back to our heritage home of Berrien County in 2002, my efforts and resources were mostly confined to the restoration of the Chester D. Shaw home, and my courtship and marriage to my wife Linda.

Publishing of historical information on the Shaw-Allen families can only take place if there is an ongoing research effort. So beginning this past spring I focused my attention on two of the grandchildren of Francis Marion and Rachel Shaw: Bernard T. Shaw and John Thomas Allen.

The research of these two gentlemen's lives involved traveling to several courthouses and libraries in south Georgia and weeks of reading court records, newspaper microfilm, and transcribing taped interviews that I made over the past few years.

I traveled dirt and abandoned roads that were once the main thoroughfares between communities throughout Berrien, Atkinson, Coffee, Lanier, Cook, and Lowndes Counties. I walked through woods and sifted through rotted remains of buildings that the families of these two ancestors once called home.

The results of these new findings are compiled in the first two newsletters that will be published this year, starting with this one featuring the life of Bernard T. Shaw. The life of John Thomas Allen will be made available at the Reunion in September.

In addition to the findings stimulated by the pursuit of recorded history on these two individuals, I also uncovered more information on the business ventures and turpentine operations of Chester and Lacy Shaw. I will share that information at the reunion as well.

Two years ago, my youngest son, Lucas, called me and asked how much I knew about Lt. Joshua A. Jones who, along with Marion Shaw, was wounded at Cedar Key, July 6, 1864. I indicated that my earlier research suggested that Lt. Jones had died from his wounds.

Lucas revealed that he had come across a diary entry of a member of their regiment that mentioned the skirmish and identified both soldiers by name and their wounds. It stated therein that Pvt. Shaw had his arm amputated, but Lt. Jones had survived his wounds. This information prompted Lucas to search the Confederate pension records for Lt. Joshua Jones.

His widow, Lucinda Delilah Jones, had filed for a widow's pension in Levy County in 1907, and therein she states that Lt. Jones was wounded at Cedar Keys, Natural Bridge and Darby Mill but survived. This information sent Lucas searching into the census records of Joshua A. Jones in Judson, Levy County, Florida. Shortly most of the children and grandchildren of Lt. Jones were identified.

These past few months, extensive searches of census records, newspaper obituaries, and court records helped us to identify the surviving descendants of Lt. Joshua A. Jones.

This spring the Lucas and I decided to make a pilgrimage back to the Civil War battle site and to the settlement that Lt. Joshua Jones called home. Through the thorough research of Lucas, we were able to identify a surviving great-granddaughter of Lt. Jones, who was still living near the old family home place. On May 2, on the front porch of Lizzie Mae Jones Watson, the memory of two Civil War veterans who shared a common fate, was celebrated by a reunion of two of their descendants almost 142 years later. Details of this search and the surprising results will be shared also at the 2007 reunion.