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The Family of Francis Marion Shaw Newsletter

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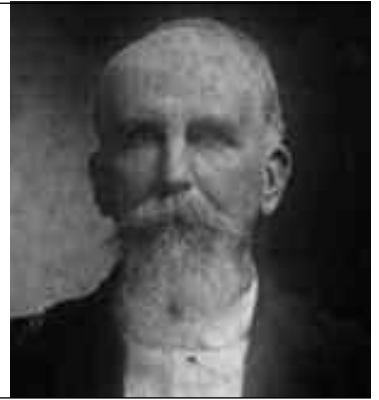
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THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION
SHAW
AND RACHEL MOORE ALLEN



BURIAL SITE OF
PVT. BARZILLA
ALLEN, CSA

If you have ever been on the campus of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, Virginia, then you were right adjacent to the most likely burial site of Pvt. Barzilla Allen. Father of three of Francis Marion and Rachel Shaw's children, Barzilla Allen enlisted in the Confederate cause early in the year of 1862. The exact unit he enlisted in is not known. He is not listed on the muster rolls from Berrien or any other adjoining counties, so he must have been assigned to a unit from another county soon after his enlistment.



Whatever unit Pvt. Allen had enlisted in during that spring of 1862, by early summer they found their encampment somewhere near the city of Charlottesville.

As was the case of many of the troops who were brought together in large contingencies, infectious diseases became rampant. The infirmary at the University of Virginia, the first such infirmary ever established specifically for treating college students illnesses, was suddenly forced into treatment of sick and wounded soldiers.

Measles and scarlet fever, along with pneumonia and dysentery, were conditions most prevalent and it was measles which afflicted Pvt. Allen in June of 1862.

As was the pervasive thought of that era, contagious conditions were created by breathing the foul odors of the facility, rather than unsanitary conditions due to poor hygiene.

The Varsity Hall infirmary was designed

He left his family of Rachel Moore Allen and their two boys, William and John, shortly after the first of February in 1862. Rachel was not showing at that time, though she was already pregnant with their third child, Eliza. She would be born on October 31, 1862. Barzilla would not see any of his family again.

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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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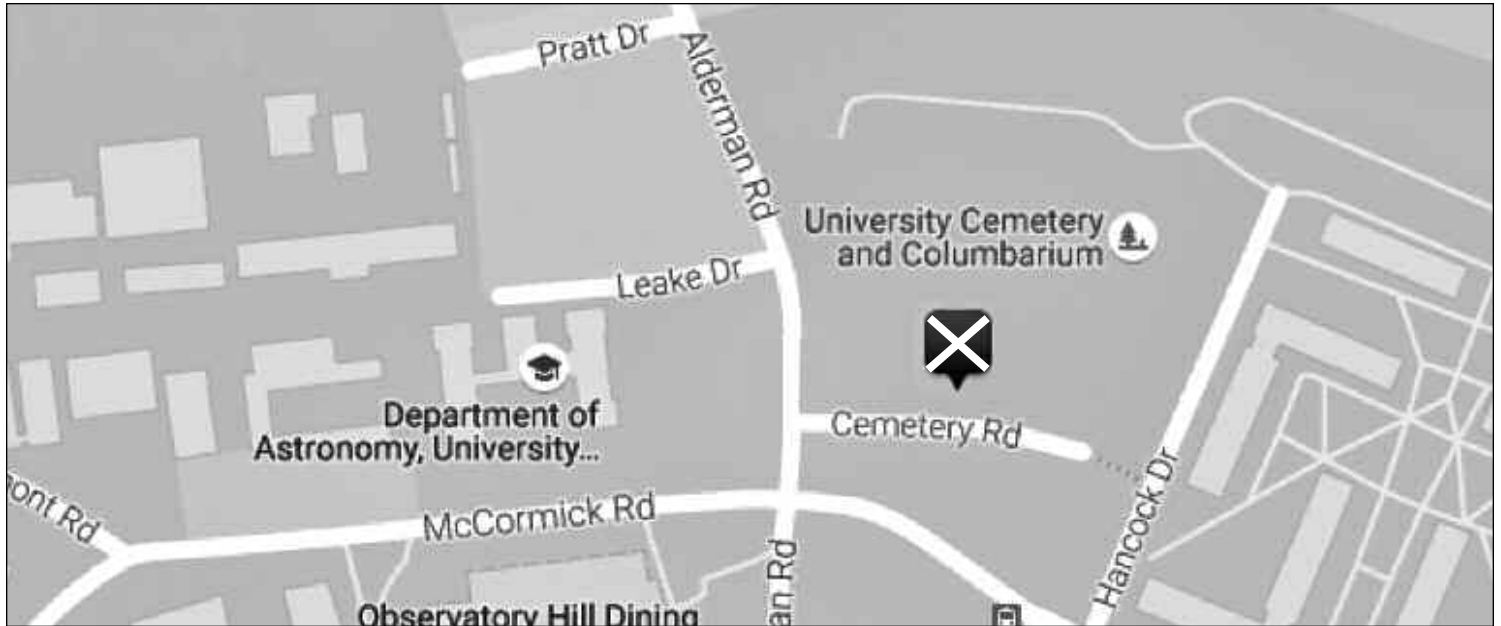


The University of Virginia Infirmary, pictured above in 1905 and later known as Varsity Hall, was the earliest known infirmary ever established for the express purpose of treating illnesses of the college students. The sudden onset of the Civil War and its proximity to many battle-field engagements, made the facility an immediate war asset.



Two other housing facilities on campus were put into use as part of the "hospital". On the immediate right is one of the buildings known as Dawson Row. These structures are no longer in existence. However the other housing structures, far right and bottom, known as East and West Range Dormitories are still in use today and are prestigious accommodations for upper classmen.





to increase the patient exposure to fresh air. Cool air was forced up through ventilation shafts from the basement, and windows were left open, even in chilling conditions. None of which did anything to lessen the exposure to the virus, but only made the patient more uncomfortable.

By mid-year in 1862, the war was at full throttle and with casualties of battles and disease mounting, the University of Virginia campus was converted to a hospital. Though termed Charlottesville General Hospital, the facility was made up of numerous buildings, including the forementioned Varsity Hall, a series of buildings known as Dawson Row Dormitories, and buildings referred to as the East and West Range Dormitories. Tents were also placed in the Gymnasium field. In addition, private residences and hotels were used to house the afflicted soldiers.

Without having the daily hospital

Only a few headstones are present in the Confederate Cemetery at the University of Virginia. However over 1,097 known soldiers are interned there without any markings or indications of their location. A Confederate soldier stands at rest atop a monument honoring the named soldiers. Of these, 82 are from Alabama, 13 from Florida, 224 from Georgia, 84 from Louisiana, 4 from Maryland, 69 from Mississippi, 200 from North Carolina, 161 from South Carolina, 10 from Tennessee, 12 from Texas, 192 from Virginia, 29 whose states are uncertain, and, 17 are from northern states.

1861.	June 29	June 29	June 29	June 29	June 29	June 29	June 29	June 29	June 29
1865.	July 27	July 27	July 27	July 27	July 27	July 27	July 27	July 27	July 27
1861.	July 26	July 26	July 26	July 26	July 26	July 26	July 26	July 26	July 26
1861.	August 16	August 16	August 16	August 16	August 16	August 16	August 16	August 16	August 16
1861.	September 16	September 16	September 16	September 16	September 16	September 16	September 16	September 16	September 16
1861.	October 7	October 7	October 7	October 7	October 7	October 7	October 7	October 7	October 7
1861.	November 12	November 12	November 12	November 12	November 12	November 12	November 12	November 12	November 12
1861.	December 28	December 28	December 28	December 28	December 28	December 28	December 28	December 28	December 28
1862.	January 5	January 5	January 5	January 5	January 5	January 5	January 5	January 5	January 5



“Deceased Soldiers” Record of Charlottesville General Hospital military patients, 1861-1865., above, lists most of those who are buried in the Confederate Cemetery at the University of Virginia. Closer scrutiny of this record may help confirm the final resting place of Private Barzilla Allen.

The Maplewood Cemetery, above right, is the oldest cemetery in Charlottesville, Virginia, established in 1827. Numerous Confederated soldiers with marked graves are buried there. However it is said that it also contains the remains of over 100 unidentified soldiers. It is the closest cemetery to the Delevan Hotel, used as a hospital during the Civil War.

reports, it would be difficult to identify the location of the bed Pvt. Allen was being treated in. However there are a couple of possible locations.

In a recent publication titled “The Seven Moores of Company H” by Jesse Moore, the author details the activity of the Georgia 26th Regiment in which the brothers of Rachel Moore Allen served. The Georgia units had been assigned as part of General Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia, to defend the southern capitol of Richmond.

Georgia and Florida troops had been rushed up to Virginia as Union troops edged toward Richmond. Upon their arrival at Richmond many of the soldiers were sick with the mumps, measles and other maladies. In a letter written from a Richmond hospital by Stephen Moore, he tells his wife Mary:

“I am mending. I am in the hospital at this time, but will leave here in a day or two. I think John More is with me. There is about 23 of our company in the hospital together.”

Five days later on June 17, Stephen wrote Mary again, now in Charlottesville:

“I am at the hospital in Charlottesville in tolerable good health . . . Several of the boys were left at Richmond for five days, and we had liked to perish to death there and when we went to Charlottesville we found Brother Jess and Brother Irwin in the hospital and Brother Jesse was very sick and Irwin was left to wait on him as I was not able to march I took Irwin’s place and he went on to the regiment and I stayed on to wait on Jesse. Shrug [Barzilla] Allen is at the hospital here in the same town about three quarters of a mile from me but I went to see him this morning. He has the measles and he is very low at this time but he thinks he is a little on the mend.

Barzilla “Shrug” Allen died 7 days later.

This letter by James Moore confirms that Barzilla was indeed being treated in the “hospital” in Charlottesville, less than a mile from the hospital Jesse Moore was recovering in. Most likely it was in a building within the University Campus.

When his final hour arrived, Pvt. Allen most likely was buried along with several hundred other comrades in unmarked graves next to the University Cemetery, southeast of the main campus of University of Virginia.

The monument in the cemetery identifies 1,097 soldiers who are interred there. Barzilla Allen is not among those. However there are also many buried there without record of their placement.

One of the other hospitals in Charlottesville, known as the Delevan Hotel, was located in the center of town adjacent to the railroad, about three-quarters of a mile from the University of Virginia campus. That hospital is near the oldest cemetery in Charlottesville, the Maplewood Cemetery. Though Pvt. Allen is not among the marked graves, newspaper accounts in the *Daily Progress* of June 10, 1902 assert that there are over 100 unmarked Confederate graves in the cemetery. It too is a possible location of the final resting place of Barzilla Allen.

Though the exact location of the final resting place of Barzilla Allen cannot be pin pointed at this time, his death put in motion a set of infinite circumstances. Each and ever member of the Marion Shaw family can attribute the passing of the life of Private Barzilla Allen for their very existence.