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THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW



IN SEARCH OF OUR NAME

Volume 28 Number 1
June, 2019

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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P. O. Box 417
Nashville, GA 31639*

Growing up in Boise, Idaho, 3,000 miles away

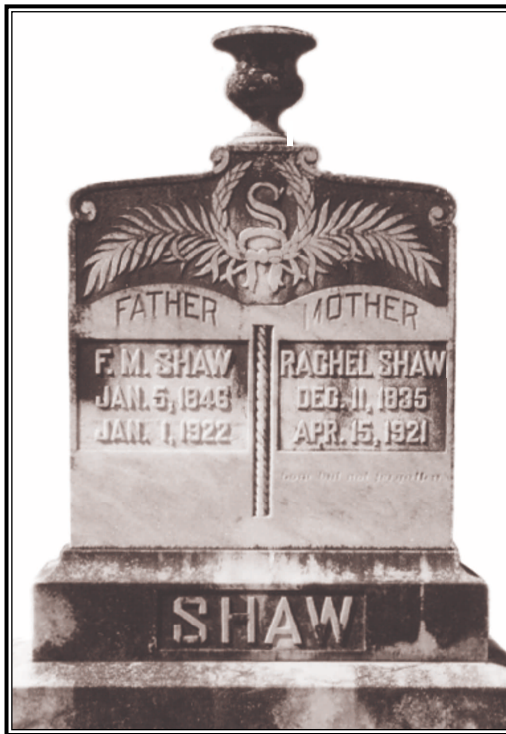
from my father's birthplace of Ray City, Georgia, I was not raised among family members from my paternal side, and certainly not around anyone who carried the name of Shaw.

All of my relatives in Idaho were from my mothers side, Simpsons mostly. The only person I knew that was a Shaw was my first-grade school teacher, and I only

knew her as Mrs. Shaw. I dearly loved her as she made me feel special because we had the same last name. But we were not kin, to the best of my knowledge.

In 1954 my father decided to return to the South, to Lake Wales, Florida, where my grandmother was living. I attended school there as a third-grader. We had a few relatives there who had our last name, but not aware of any others. I did, however, learn that I spoke differently than the other kids my age, as I was often referred to as a "Yankee" in a derogatory tone by my bare-foot classmates.

My father tried to allay my fears by sharing with me that one of my great-



grandfathers was a Confederate soldier in the Civil War—which did not mean much to me at the time, and did not seem to appease any of my classmates. I was pleased when my father decided to return to Boise after just one school year.

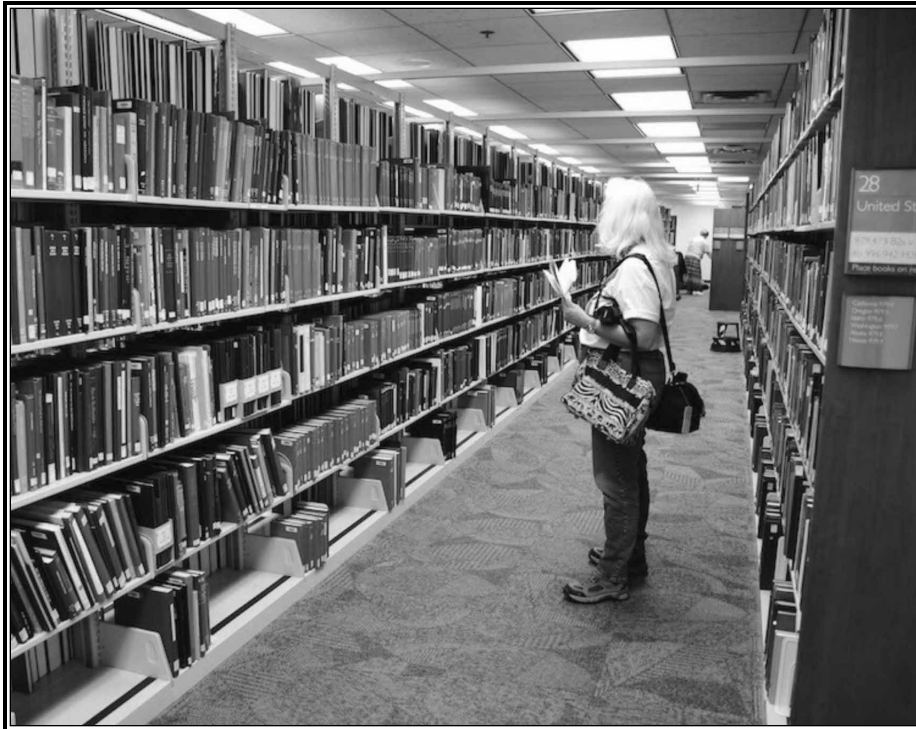
In 1970, I became more curious about my family history, and asked my father to tell me what he knew about my ancestors from Georgia. I discovered

he knew very little. So I visited the Idaho State Genealogy Library there in Boise, where one of our neighbors, Freida March, was the librarian. She had a soft spot in her heart for my youthful curiosity in an avocation that is pursued primarily by those in their senior years.

In one afternoon, with the aid of what few names my father could recall, Mrs. March introduced me to the Huxford collection of the "Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia," and the U.S. Census records on microfilm. I became addicted. I found myself rushing from work every afternoon, four blocks down to the library, where I could spend an hour or so before they

Bryan Lee Shaw, Editor





The world's largest collection of genealogical records, mostly on tens of thousands of microfilm rolls, but also in published works, in the three-story, Mormon Church's Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

closed, scrolling through reels of microfilm, discovering names, dates and places which would become more familiar to me each year. Little did I know that those names and places would eventually be an everyday part of my life.

Three years later, I changed jobs and moved to Salt Lake City. I discovered I was working just one block away from the world's greatest single source of information for any genealogist, the Mormon Church's, Family History Library. It was filled with rows upon rows of tens of thousands of microfilm rolls of every court document available in the United States and the world, and every history book ever published on any family organization and location.

I spent the next twenty years loading and reading hundreds of microfilm reels (now being transferred to digital images), leafing through pages of family histories and state and local histories. I was discovering not only my own family's history, but also the history of the communities and the lives of those families who resided around those ancestors.

In 1992, my son Lucas and I loaded my Chevy Astrovan and made a crosscountry, two week journey to my ancestral homeland, Berrien County, Georgia. Though I had never been to Georgia before, as we drove through the communities of Nashville, Ray City, and Alapaha, I recognized the many names that I had been researching for almost 25 years—and suddenly I felt I was home.

During the course of those two weeks, I also visited the final resting place of two of my earliest known American ancestors, James Griffin, R.S. near Lax, Georgia, and Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. in Ludowici, Georgia.

Over the next nine years, I made numerous visits back to Georgia, researching the history of our Shaw-Allen family roots, and their families, and publishing newsletters, sharing the information I had found.

In 2002, I retired and made a decision to spend my final days in the land which had become so much a part of my life. Though I became somewhat the unofficial "family historian," my knowledge was limited primarily to the Francis Marion Shaw and Rachel Moore Allen Shaw descendants.

I had some knowledge of Jeremiah Shaw, Jr. and his father the senior, when it came to the origins of our Shaw family, but all roads seemed to end in Ludowici.

However, in the 1980's, Colonel Milton D. Weeks did perhaps what may be the most exhaustive search done to date on the origins of the parentage of Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. I quote freely from his manuscript dated, October 23, 1987, indicated here by italics:

Legends abound as to the ancestral roots of the two Shaw brothers of Wiregrass Georgia, Jeremiah Shaw and Martin Shaw. We know that the brothers were born in South Carolina and that Jeremiah was the older of the two. While there is no factual evidence which would disclose place of birth and parentage, it appears that they were born in the Laurens County portion of the 96th Precinct of South Carolina, children of a marriage between Shaw and Martin families.

As to the legends which relate to their ancestral roots, some claim that Jeremiah and Martin were sons of John Shaw, a poor Irish immigrant who arrived in South Carolina prior to the American Revolution. In this respect you have the choice of at least six John Shaws: one a Jacobite captured at Preston and transported to South Carolina in 1729, two were associated with the Oglethorpe settlement in the 1740's, two arrived in South Carolina in 1768 and the last in 1773.

Other descendants claim that Jeremiah and Martin Shaw were sons of John Shaurer for whom a land rant for 100 acres was platted and recorded on May 23, 1751 on Broad River in Craven County South Carolina. The similarity of names, Shaw and Shaurer, may be of significance as there were several families of Shaw and Martin during the Colonial period.

Without any question, the name of Martin is of great significance to the genealogy of Jeremiah Shaw and Martin Shaw. Apparently it was a family name, possibly that of their

mother, and has been passed down through many generations of Shaws to the present day.

About 1999, I became acquainted with Julian and Carol Causey Harper, of Howie-in-the-Hills, Florida, when they attended one of the early Shaw-Allen Reunions in Ray City. Carol is the 2nd Great Granddaughter of Richard James Shaw, 1830-1869. Richard James was the brother of Francis Marion Shaw. Carol and I are 4th Cousins. Carol and Julian, mostly Julian I believe, had been doing some extended research of their own on the parentage of Jeremiah Shaw, Sr.

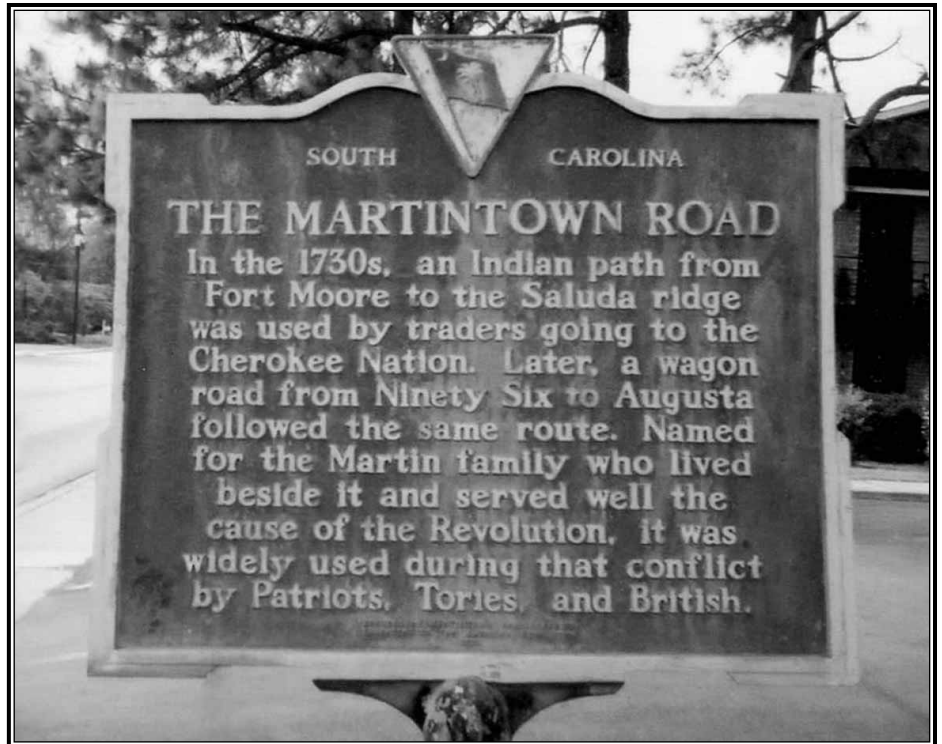
Julian did not link Jeremiah Shaw to one of the previously mentioned parental possibilities, however he mapped out the time frame and movement of the Shaw's and Horne's (Rachel Horne was the wife of Jeremiah Shaw, Jr.) from South Carolina to Georgia. His time frame and location of the Shaw and Horne families in South Carolina just before Jeremiah's and Martin's movement to Georgia seem to coincide. I continue to quote from Col. Weeks manuscript:

It is not known when Jeremiah Shaw or Martin Shaw moved from South Carolina to Georgia as the Federal census records for the State of Georgia prior to 1820 were destroyed during the War of 1812. Neither Jeremiah nor Martin are found in any 1790 census.

Martin Shaw was enumerated in the 1800 census of Prince William Parish, Beaufort District, South Carolina. This was the same Martin Shaw, brother of Jeremiah, who moved to McIntosh County, Georgia about 1805 where he is identified in several land records. The names of Jeremiah and Martin Shaw do not appear on the list of Registrants for the Georgia Land Lottery of 1805. This was the first and only land lottery of the State of Georgia which lists all persons eligible to participate and who so registered in their home county. As the registration for the 1805 lottery was made in 1803, the absence of the names of Jeremiah Shaw and Martin Shaw leads to the assumption that they did not arrive in Georgia prior to that date.

From the probable birth dates of his children, it appears that Jeremiah Shaw may have arrived in Georgia about 1803 to 1805. However, research of various county records of the State do not disclose his presence [in Liberty County, Georgia] until 1813.

I will fill out the life of Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. in more detail with a subsequent newsletter, but suffice it to say, most of his remaining life, after arriving in Liberty County, Georgia, is well documented by



family tradition and in published form.

I have focused my attention over the past 50 years of my life, with the personal histories of the descendants of Jeremiah Shaw, Jr., third son of Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. More specifically, I have strived to detail as much of the life of one of his 16 children, Francis Marion Shaw and his wife Rachel Moore Allen Shaw, and their nine children as I could in that time span.

However, about a year or so ago, one of the descendants of Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. began to question if there was scientific evidence that we were even sure of that kinship.

Tom Shaw, Jr., is the son of Clyde Thomas Shaw, Sr., grandson of Clyde Chester Shaw, great grandson of Lacy Lester Shaw, 2nd great grandson of Francis Marion Shaw, and 3rd great grandson of Jeremiah Shaw, Jr.

Tom and I had just renewed our on-again, off-again pursuit of our common family history, but Tom wanted to pursue our search using the science of DNA, more specifically the more definitive science of YDNA, the tracing of strictly paternal genetic markers. This science filters out the cross mutation of the maternal genetic markers in each generation. This genetic tracking should not be confused with the broad DNA testing that is through 23andMe, or Ancestry.

To start with, Tom wanted me to test to confirm our own paternal link, however I told him I felt positive about our common

The Martintown Road historical marker, located at the terminus of the road in Akin County, South Carolina, across the Savannah River from Augusta, Georgia. This road may have traced through the Martin and Shaw communities prior to the Revolutionary War. It appears that eventually the parents of Jeremiah and Martin Shaw moved farther downstream to the Prince William Parish of the Beaufort District, South Carolina, prior to 1800. By 1808, most likely, they both were living in Georgia.



Clyde Thomas Shaw, Jr.

Tom Shaw has been spearheading the most recent YDNA research for the origins of the Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. family in America.

He was born in Orlando, Florida in 1948, son of Clyde Thomas Shaw, Sr. (1928-2005), and Anne Babb Shaw. It was his mother who instilled in him and encouraged, the curiosity of his Shaw family history and lineage. He has been interested in that history since his teenage years.

His professional career path was as a musician, taking him around the world, performing on the international stage as the cellist of the Audubon String Quartet (1974-2011).

He was married to Teresa Chen Shaw, with whom they had three sons, Alexander Babb Shaw, Jeremiah Thomas Shaw and Franklin Anderson Shaw.

Since 1988, he has been married to Doris Lederer, a violist and also a member of the Audubon String Quartet.

If you have any questions regarding the Jeremiah Shaw, Senior family YDNA research project, contact: Clyde Thomas (Tom) Shaw, Jr.

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ancestor, at least as far back as Jeremiah Shaw, Jr. And quite frankly, the cost of YDNA is expensive, and gets even more expensive, with the more levels of testing that are done. So Tom went ahead with his own YDNA test without my participation.

Now let me say this for starters. I find YDNA or even DNA much too confusing for a person who barely passed high school Algebra 101 with a D-. So I will not try to explain how it all works here. But what little I think I understand, in YDNA there are specific "male markers" in each generation that are unique to that person and that generation.

So if another person has the same markers or same density of markers as another person in that same generation, then there is a strong likelihood that you have a common ancestor with that YDNA marker in that generation. These markers carry a code for identification. If you can get enough folks who have a similar code in a group comparison, it gives you a pattern that can distinguish what family line you descend through.

These groups are referred to as Projects, and Tom had his YDNA compared in a project and discovered that another common descendant of Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. had also taken the YDNA test and had closely matching markers in the project. It was Dan Shaw, of Miami, Florida. Dan Shaw is a descendant of Daniel K. Shaw, who was the brother of Jeremiah Shaw, Jr.

I actually became acquainted with Dan Shaw years ago when Dan and his brother Jack Shaw, and a few of their closer cousins all pitched in and permanently marked the grave of Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. in Ludowici, Georgia. But Tom had never heard of him and was so excited to have connected, just through the YDNA Project.

Tom began reaching out to others who were engaged in YDNA Projects who specialized in interpreting the codes and how their generational density may or may not link families together. Through a few of these contacts, Tom was able to connect with two other Shaws whose YDNA testing showed they had descended from John Shaw's in South Carolina, who lived about the same Colonial period. Unfortunately, their markers and codes were not a match.

However, a "no-match" is part of the science of testing and elimination. The elimination of one of the John Shaw descendants actually helped cancel an erroneous link that has been published on Ancestry.com and Familysearch.org.

Therein, Jeremiah Shaw is listed as the

son of John Patrick Shaw and Eleanor Martin. One of the proven YDNA lines of John Patrick Shaw, did not match the Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. YDNA. Unfortunately this linkage has been picked up and used as fact in an effort to claim Jeremiah Shaw as a Revolutionary Soldier, even though it has been disproven in research as well as YDNA. I refer once again to Col. Weeks manuscript:

Some descendants of Jeremiah Shaw, Senior claim that he was a Soldier of the American Revolution and that he was listed on Militia Rolls of the State of South Carolina as William Shaw. It was further claimed that he was identified in early church records as a Revolutionary War Soldier, but the church records were destroyed by fire. There are no known facts which can support a claim of military service during the American Revolution. The claim was not made by Jeremiah Shaw but by some of his descendants. The statement that he was identified in church records as a Revolutionary War Soldier appears to be erroneous as the only church in which Jeremiah Shaw was a member was the Jones Creek Baptist Church and no such notation appears in the minutes of the Church.

In the 1820 Land Lottery in which Jeremiah Shaw was a "Fortunate Drawer", there was no notation of Revolutionary War service. Such service in the war gave special drawing rights which Jeremiah Shaw would have invoked, if he had been a soldier of the Revolution. Further, there is no evidence to support the claim that his name was William Jeremiah Shaw. Again, this claim appears to be based on an assumption, a grandson was named William J. Shaw so it was assumed to have been the name of the grandfather. However, in this instance, the name of the grandson was William Jasper Shaw, not Jeremiah.

No direct YDNA link has been established beyond Jeremiah Shaw, Sr., however, YDNA projects in Ireland have made earlier generational links with YDNA of Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. descendants.

Tom, and others from the Jeremiah Shaw, Sr. lineage who have tested in YDNA had strong markers with codes linking them with the family of Shea or O'Shea, from the southwestern county of Kerry. These links occurred several generations prior to the American Colonial period. It appears quite likely from early testing analysis, that the immigrant Shaw's of South Georgia may have derived their name from the Gaelic name of Shea, and did not become Shaw until they set foot on American soil.

—Bryan L Shaw