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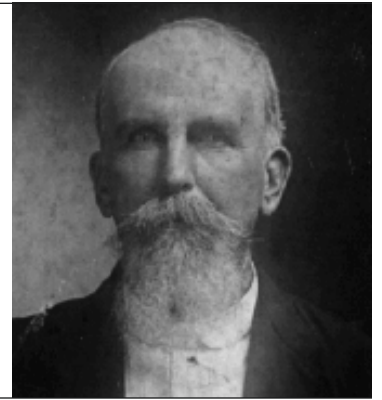
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THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW



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

CHARLES BRUNER SHAW, SR.

Have Badge, Will Travel

Charles Bruner Shaw, Sr. was the second-born son of

Francis Arthur Shaw and Victoria Giddens Knight. He was born on November 7, 1888 in a corn-crib shed on his uncle John Allen's farm just outside of Ray City, Georgia.

Less than a year later, Bruner's mother came down with scarlet fever which was spreading through the county. She died on September 2, 1889, leaving her husband with baby Bruner and his two-year-old brother, Brodie.

The boys were taken in by their grandparents, Marion and Rachel Shaw, while Arthur went about his way of



earning a living in farming and turpentine.

In November of 1891, Arthur married Gertrude Albritton, and moved to Willacoochee, Georgia, leaving Bruner and Brodie to be raised by the grandparents.

Bruner pursued his education at the two-room Pine Grove school, ceasing his schooling by the eighth grade.

In 1905, he caught the fancy of Mollie Register, daughter of

William Register, and they were married on December 30, 1905, in Berrien County.

Bruner attempted to make his living on a farm near Ray City, and was engaged in that livelihood when his first child, Juanita Victoria, was born on 21 October, 1906.

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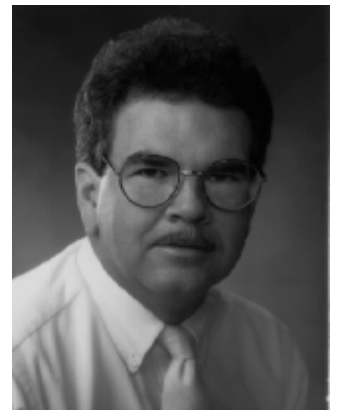
Volume 8 Number 3
December 1999

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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onearmshaw@mchsi.com
P.O. Box 417 Nashville, GA
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Bryan Lee Shaw, Editor





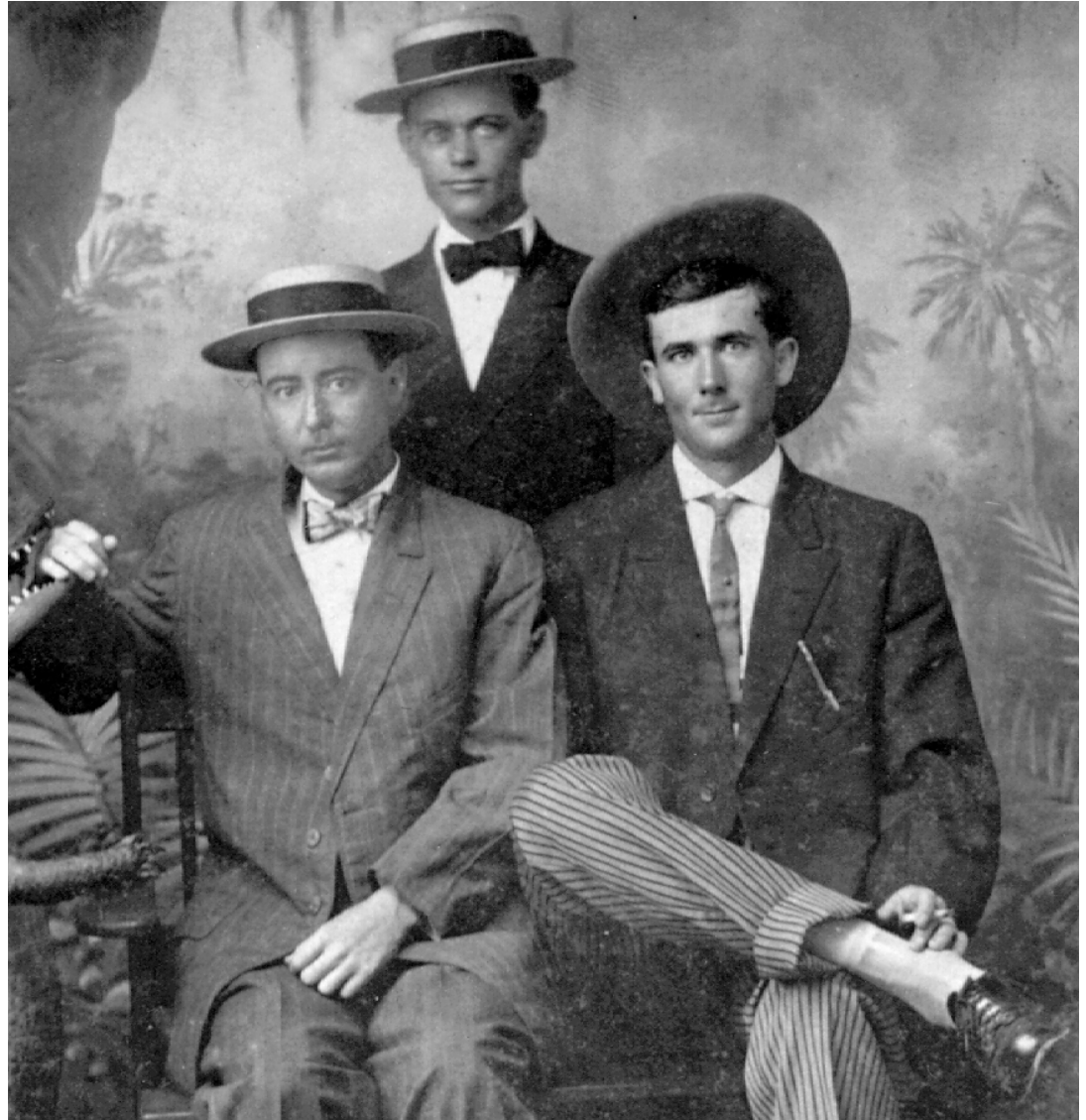
Young Bruner Shaw

Even though rebuffed by his father, Bruner, shown above at about the age of sixteen, was raised in the home of his paternal grandparents and received the love and special treatment of a grandson, often finding himself to be the center of attention. He was quite personable and found his good looks and ease of conversation assets to cultivate, often sweet-talking his way to his personal advantage.

In one instance, Bruner convinced his wife's Uncle Billy Parrish to loan him a new car that Parrish had traded a piece of his property for. (The property became the site of the Parrish School, and later the Methodist Church on Old Coffee Road.) Bruner ended up wrecking the car, and Parrish found himself without his land or his car.

*On another occasion, Bruner smooth-talked his Uncle Dock Shaw out of money that Dock had sold a cow for to repay a loan. That almost cost Dock Shaw his marital harmony with his wife Susie Bullard Shaw. (See *Family Feuds*, Vol. 5 No. 3, November 1996.)*

Bruner was a dapper dresser. Though often short of cash, he was never short of class, as evidenced in the group photo of Bruner (wide brim hat) with some of his unidentified chums. Photo was taken about the time of his marriage to his first wife, Mollie Register.



Bruner continued to farm near Ray City through 1910, while expanding his family with the birth of his first son, William Arthur, on 18 February, 1908, and another daughter, Pecola, about 1910.

In January 1911, he moved his family to Brooks county, where he purchased a 65 acre farm (north east corner of lot 523 in the 9th land district) from I. N. Harrell for \$1325. The farm was adjacent to his uncle Sovin J. Knight's farm, near Little River. However, perhaps due to the sudden death of his infant daughter, Pecola, or because of the untimely death of his Uncle Sovin, Bruner sold the farm to G. W. Pierce just seven months later in July, 1911, for \$1500.

Six weeks after the sale of the farm, on 31 August, Mollie went to Nashville to visit her parents, and fell ill there, suffering from the fever. She lingered in severe health until her death on 4 October, 1911. She was buried in the Pleasant Cemetery. The exact cause or date of death or place of burial of her infant daughter is not known.

With the loss of his wife, and two young children to be cared for, Bruner sought the company of Charlie Ruth Griffin, daughter of William "Hass" Griffin. Charlie had been taking care of the Bruner's children

and they had grown very close to their nursemaid. After a very brief courtship, the couple was married November 20, 1913 at the home of the Reverend Aaron Knight.

It was about this time that Bruner began his life-long pursuit of the law enforcement profession. Bruner enjoyed the excitement and attention that came from his association with his cousins Cauley Shaw and Frank Allen who were both constables in the county. Cauley and his brother Early Shaw, Sheriff of Coffee County, had both made a reputation of busting up "blind tiger" (liquor still) operations and hunting down murderers, thieves, and all other desperados.

As early as 1914, Cauley solicited the assistance of Bruner in keeping the peace in Ray City, Georgia, and on one occasion found themselves being shot at by the fugitive. The incident was reported in the *Nashville Herald*, October 9, 1914:

Considerable excitement was occasioned here Monday by a report that Cauley and Bruner Shaw and two other young men of Ray's Mill had been shot about twelve miles down the Valdosta Road. Several gentlemen from here went in an automobile. But when they reached the scene, they found that the wounds were not serious. A negro for whom they had a warrant, shot at them with a shotgun loaded with birdshot.

The next year, the first child of Bruner and Charlie was born on March 5, 1915, in Milltown, Georgia, being named Francis Marion. Two years later, their second child, Lynette, was born November 14, 1917, in Willacoochee, Georgia.

By 1919, Bruner had been hired by Sheriff J. V. Nix as a deputy. Bruner's large stature made him a formidable adversary for any offender of the law. *Nashville Herald*, January 2, 1920:

John Harris, colored, convicted of the offense of assault with intent to murder at the last term of Berrien Superior Court, has been granted a new trial by Judge Dickerson. It will be remembered by Herald readers that Harris assaulted Deputy Sheriff Bruner Shaw at the home of Will McSwain on the night of May 30th, last. The evidence was entirely circumstantial. Harris was ably represented by Story & Story.

Just a month later, Bruner's last child, Charles Bruner, Jr., was born on February 6, 1920, in a home on Trixie Street behind the Marion Shaw home in Ray City. Bruner and Charlie resided in the home for three more years, participating regularly in the events of the community, especially dances and song fests. *Nashville Herald*, March 15, 1923:

News from Ray City—Everybody that wants to laugh as they haven't since the war, come out on "Dad's Night" . . . Last but not least will be some very fine singing by several of our gentlemen singers. They alone will be worth your time, should we have no other attraction. Mr. Bruner Shaw has promised us they will give at least four selections.

The Shaw family remained in Ray City until some time after May 1923, as Bruner was present at the startup of Ray City's first power plant. But the pay was low for sheriff's deputies, and Bruner had heard from relatives in central Florida that "boom times" were happening there, the pay was good, and the weather was great.



Sometime that fall Bruner, Charlie Ruth, and their five children moved to Florence Villa, Polk County, Florida, where Bruner was hired as a deputy by Sheriff John Logan. He was thrust into the liquor wars, often teaming up with his good friend, Newt Hatcher, conducting moonshine raids with great personal risk.

One of the biggest raids was conducted in late February, 1924. The *Polk County Recorder*, March 2, details the events of the raid:

"With drawn guns and expecting a battle to the death, sixteen deputies from Sheriff Logan's force [and two federal agents] surrounded an abandoned sawmill camp in Eastern Polk County. Deputies Hatcher and Shaw volunteered to be a party to call for the surrender of the men sought."

The raid was successful, with no injuries to Deputy Shaw except a when he and Hatcher received a thorough dunking

Peacekeepers

Most small southern Georgia towns had one full-time uniformed "marshal" who was paid to handle most of the lesser offenses and keep pressure on the "blind tigers". However, when the marshal need a show of force, he could swear in a posse of one or two of the part-time officers, and even a few of the young thrill-seekers from the community.

Shown above in this circa 1917 photograph is a group of Ray City peacekeepers, headed by Marshal Cauley Shaw, standing left, and his cousin, Bruner Shaw, standing center. The other gentlemen and dog are unidentified.



Haines City's Finest

Shown above, perhaps on the day that Bruner left the Haines City, Police Department to take the job with the Frostproof Police Department, are Chiefs Bruner Shaw, left, and Newt Hatcher, right. The two peace officers spent three eventful years pursuing the lawless and risking their lives.

On the opposite page, a younger Night Chief Shaw poses with two other Haines City officers in front of Bruner's squad car. Always wanting to look his best, each Saturday Bruner had his daughter, Lynette, polish the gold buttons and badges on his uniforms, and his son, F. M. was assigned to spit-shine his boots each night. He wore white shirts for day duty and blue shirts at night.

when the police car rolled off a soft shoulder, over into a lake while transporting the prisoners to the jail in Bartow.

On July 17, 1924, Newt Hatcher was hired as Day Chief of Police in Haines City, Florida. He hired his partner, Bruner Shaw, as Night Chief. Police work was much slower in Haines City, impounding horses, collecting fees for dog tags and occasionally rescuing an errant car. The *Haines City Herald*, December 18, 1924:

FORDS IN A FIGHT—An accident at the corner of Sixth Street and Ingrahm Avenue Wednesday afternoon caused considerable excitement and a great deal of mirth on the part of all beholders. A Ford truck disputed the right-of-way with a Ford touring car of rather ancient vintage and got its left front wheel knocked off. The touring car displayed no new scratches and when the crowd attempted to help matters by pushing it down the hill toward the station, the Ford started off as if nothing had happened. Everyone stood aghast but Chief Shaw, who bravely hopped aboard

and managed to steer it clear of further entanglements although he could not stop it until it got ready to tie up to one of the cement posts below the station.

However, by the end of the year things were getting pretty wild. In late December, a negro named Dunlap stopped a prominent business leader in the street and indiscriminantly shot him to death. The negro fled to a nearby house and barricaded himself. The *Haines City Herald*, December 22, 1925 recounts:

Police officers C. B. Shaw and W. G. Ward were called to the scene and engaged the negro in a gun battle in which they were joined by a number of citizens. The exchange of shots lasted for about fifteen minutes [over 100 shots were fired]. Several negroes also went to the assistance of the officers.

When Dunlap refused to come out of the house, Policeman Shaw and Pete Allison, a civilian, walked into the house and shot Dunlap, who had a gun in his hand as they entered [Allison, negro, fired the deadly shot].

But it was the capture of the "Bootleg Queen" that brought the spotlight most directly on the heroics of Chief Shaw. Again, as reported in the *Haines City Herald*, January 23, 1926:

BOOTLEG QUEEN NABBED IN SIX-MILE CHASE HERE. POLICEMAN SHAW IN SPECTACULAR CAPTURE ON DIXIE—Following a spectacular six-mile auto chase here, this morning, Marie Sanchez, 30, described as the queen of Tampa's Spanish bootleg ring, was captured by Police Officer C. B. Shaw and liquor valued at \$2000 seized.

Three automobiles figured in the chase which rounded back and forth through the business district of Haines City for several minutes before pursued and pursuer turned out on the Dixie Highway, where capture was effected in the case of the woman near Camp Monson. The third auto, which the Sanchez woman admits to be her own, driven by a negro whose name she gave as John Davis, got away, after attempting to turn Policeman Shaw's machine into a ditch. Shaw, with keen presence of mind, made a quick turn, entirely blocking the highway, preventing the passing of the woman in her car. He leveled his gun on the fleeing negro who by this time was out of range of the shots.

The arrest of the Sanchez woman is the culmination of a tip on which Police Officer Shaw has been working for some time.

The confiscated liquor was stored in the city bank for quite some time, creating speculation that the city fathers were sampling the evidence.

Some time shortly after April, 1926, Bruner was hired as Police Chief, in Frostproof, Florida. The move meant more money for the Shaw family, however it brought an end to his close working relationship with Chief Newt Hatcher.



Juanita Shaw Cribb



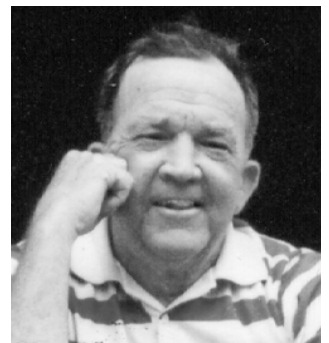
William Arthur Shaw



Francis Marion Shaw



Lynette Shaw Craver Foulks



Charles Bruner Shaw, Jr.

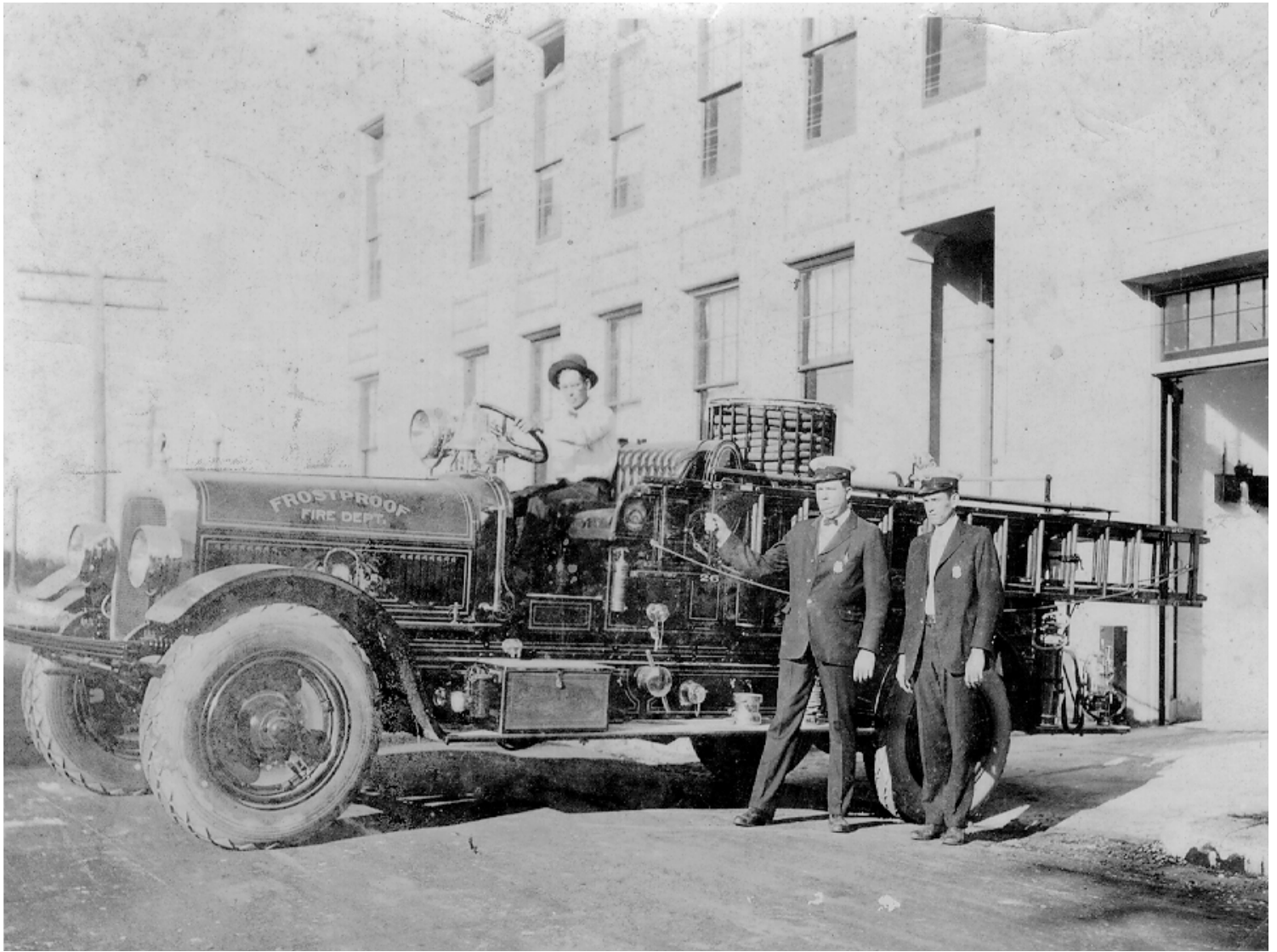
The time that Chief Shaw spent in service to the city of Frostproof was the longest of all of the communities in which he resided. According to old residents of the city, his exploits were well documented in the local newspaper, *The Frostproof News*. However in 1936, the publisher went berserk and put a torch to the office, and within it, all of the previously archived issues. No issues have been located during the service years of Chief Shaw in Frostproof. All that remain of his performance are anecdotal accounts by his family, friends, and townsfolk.

Shortly after Bruner arrived in Frostproof, one of the most severe hurricanes in Florida history hit the town of Moore Haven, near Lake Okeechobee. Chief Shaw, along with many other law enforcement officers were called on to go down and help the survivors of the tragedy. While there, he became good friends with R. E. Edwards, himself a

survivor. Bruner brought Edwards, his wife, and 6 children, back to Frostproof, set them up with housing next door to the Shaws, and hired Edwards as a policeman.

By 1927, Bruner, known simply as "Chief", had become quite large in girth as well as in stature. He not only kept the peace and the moonshiners on the run, but also helped solve some of the more "unique" problems of the community.

On one occasion, a dog crawled up into a large culvert emptying into Clinch Lake, became lodged there and died. After several days, the neighbors complained of the stench and of water backing up, and called upon "Chief" to solve the problem. The pipe was too small for a person to crawl into and the dog was too far into the pipe to be dragged out. As the story is told, Bruner brought a small alligator to the opening of the culvert, let it take a whiff of the rotting flesh, and turned it loose up the pipe. In a few minutes, the dog was consumed, the water flowing and the 'gator satisfied.



Proud additions

In 1926, the city of Frostproof, Florida purchased its first fire truck. Only a few weeks earlier, Chief Shaw, had gone down to Moore Haven, Florida, to help the survivors of a devastating hurricane. While there, he met and hired R. E. Edwards to serve as a Frostproof policeman. In the photo above, taken in front of the old city hall, is Charlie White, driver, Bruner Shaw, center, and R. E. Edwards, right.

The family of Chief Shaw was not given any special privileges in the community. On one occasion of a local carnival celebration, Bruner's oldest son, Arthur and one of his pals decided to slip off and have a few drinks to loosen up before attending the gaiety. After they had arrived at the carnival and had made the rounds in a rather boisterous manner, Chief Shaw got word of the young men's condition and decided to teach them a lesson.

He placed both of them under arrest and hauled them off to the city jail, which at that time was a cellar under the main floor of the City Hall. It had solid walls and door, with no windows. After securing the prisoners and locking the door of the small cell, Chief Shaw made his way back to the carnival, planning to return later, after the boys had a chance to consider their behavior.

Arthur and his pal felt they could break their way out of confinement if they could just pry the door off its hinges. They saw a

loose pipe hanging from the ceiling and tried to twist it off the connecting joint. What they accomplished instead was breaking the water main, which immediately began to flood the cell room.

Chief Shaw finally returned to the jail just in time to find the boys screaming for help as the water had filled the cell up to their necks.

In the fall of 1929, the Shaw family returned to Berrien County, Georgia, where Bruner sharecropped the John Strickland property on the old Valdosta highway. While the family went about bringing in crops of corn, tobacco and cotton, and the children were attending school at Kings Chapel, Bruner found temporary employment with the Berrien County Sheriff and the Ray City Police.

A year later, in the fall of 1930, Bruner Shaw became Chief of Police in Alapaha, Georgia, and moved his family there. His

efforts in maintaining the peace in Alapaha seemed well received. In the *Nashville Herald*, 18 December, 1930:

Last Wednesday afternoon Chief C. B. Shaw and Deputy Sheriff Wesley Griner and W. W. Griner went over near Glory and went down in the river swamp about one mile west of Glory and found 180 gallons of corn mash. There was no still found with this buck. The officers poured out the contents and busted up the barrels. The people of Alapaha are pleased with the work of Mr. C. B. Shaw since he has been Chief of Police. We all hope that Mr. Shaw will stay on here as he is doing such good work and helping to clean up the community by catching blind tigers.

Though his work was appreciated, the pay was meager, and he moved his family back to Frostproof in the summer of 1931. However, since his position as Chief of Police of Frostproof was already filled, he hired on as a regular policeman. But the wages of a regular-beat peace officer just wasn't enough to keep the family going. The depression was in full swing, and almost every member of the Shaw household was employed in the citrus industry just to make ends meet. Finally, Bruner traded in his badge for regular work in the citrus sheds.

In 1933 the family moved to Babson Park, and then again in 1934 to Winter Haven, Florida, where he worked as a crew foreman in the citrus industry. The children were almost completely married off by then, except for young C. B., Jr., and he was working in the printing plant of the *The Chief* newspaper. Between the years of 1922, when Bruner left Ray City, to 1940 when he resided in Winter Haven on Carroll Avenue, the Shaw family had lived in 26 different homes!

Shortly after the outbreak of World War II, Bruner and Charlie Ruth purchased a home on Commerce Street in Sebring, Florida, where they operated a fish market adjacent to the home, purchasing fresh fish and selling them retail.

In the spring of 1945, Bruner had the idea of operating a fish camp on Arbuckle Creek on the outskirts of Sebring. He sold his home on Commerce Street, moved out to the fish camp and operated it until after the war.

During his stay in the Sebring area, Bruner once again pinned on a badge, this time as a security officer on the Avon Park Bombing and Gunnery Range.

In 1947 the Shaws moved to Wauchula, Florida and operated a fish market there until Bruner suffered the first of three strokes over the course of three years—each one being more debilitating than the



next. Charlie Ruth nursed him with love and affection, while working in the restaurant business and doing sewing in the home. Finally, on November 15, 1950, Bruner suffered his final stroke, which took his life at the age of 62. He was buried at the Pinecrest Cemetery in Sebring, just a few yards from the mass grave of the victims of the 1926 Moore Haven hurricane.

Charlie Ruth continued to lead an active life, working as a celebrated cook at Koppels' Diner in Lake Wales, Florida for several years, often baking 25 pies a day.

She survived Bruner by 37 years, spending most of her final years in a small cottage near the home of her son, C. B. Jr., in Boise, Idaho. She died there on May 8, 1987. Her wish was to be buried in Boise.

It seems quite fitting that a wife who spent so many years following her spouse from one job to another, from one town to another, from one home to another, would be buried 2,000 miles from the final resting place of her husband, the wandering peace officer, Charles Bruner Shaw, Sr. —BLS

Enterprising Family

During the war years, Bruner and Charlie Ruth operated a fish market adjacent to their home at 447 Commerce St. in Sebring, Florida. In the photograph above, about 1944, Charlie and Bruner gather a few of their grandchildren around them. Shown left to right, Yvonne Craver, Billy Craver, Charles Craver, and in the arms of his grandfather, Larry Shaw.

**AT HOME IN
SEBRING, FLORIDA**

After serving in the law enforcement profession for more than 30 years, Bruner and Charlie Ruth enjoyed their late years together, operating a fish camp near Sebring, Florida. Shortly after this photo was taken, Bruner suffered his first of three strokes, the last one finally taking his life.



**THE NEXT
GRANDCHILD**

The next newsletter will feature the life of Burie Webster Clements, son of William Clements and Effie Shaw Clements. And after that, the life of Marion Mansfield Knight, son of Sovin J. Knight and Eliza Allen Knight. However, I need more photos and histories on other grandchildren of Francis Marion and Rachel Shaw before I can continue the series. Please help me with your own accounts and photos. I will research to fill in the missing pieces as much as time permits.

**MARION
SHAW IS ON
THE WEB!**

Check out the Family of Francis Marion Shaw on the world wide web, thanks to the effort and talent of Tom Shaw, Jr., great grandson of Lacy L. Shaw. The web address is: <http://www.music.vt.edu/faculty/aq/sft/fmshaw.html> Not exactly a catchy site name, but it will get you there!

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

CHARLES BRUNER SHAW, SR. Law enforcement officer

Born: 7 November, 1888, Lois, Berrien, Ga

Died: 15 November, 1950, Sebring, Highlands, Fl Buried: November 17, 1950, Sebring, Highlands, Fl

SPOUSE

MOLLIE REGISTER

Born: 24 January, 1886, Berrien, Ga

Died: 4 October, 1911, Nashville, Berrien, Ga

Married: 30 December, 1905, Berrien, Ga

Buried: Pleasant Cemetery, New Lois, Berrien, Ga

CHILDREN

Juanita Victoria Shaw

Born: 21 October, 1906, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Died: 23 September, 1982, Tampa, , Fl

William Arthur Shaw

Born: 18 February, 1908, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Died: 20 August, 1964, Avon Park, Polk, Fl

Pecola Shaw

Born: About 1910, Berrien County, Ga

SPOUSES

Edmond Cribb *Married: 25 July, 1925*

Edna Merle Overstreet *Married: 23 December, 1932*

Born: 13 January, 1911, Lake Butler, , Fl

Died: 30 November, 1975, Orlando, Orange, Fl

Died: About 1911, Death and burial sites unknown

SPOUSE

CHARLIE RUTH GRIFFIN

Born: 25 June 1897, Nashville, Berrien, Ga

Died: 8 May, 1987, Boise, Ada, Id

Married: 23 November, 1913, Nashville, Berrien, Ga

Buried: Terrace Lawn Cemetery, Boise, Ada, Id

CHILDREN

Francis Marion Shaw

Born: 5 March, 1915, Milltown, Berrien, Ga

Died: 15 March, 1984, Lake Wales, Polk, Fl

Lynette Narcis Shaw

Born: 14 November, 1917, Willacoochee, Coffee, Ga

Charles Bruner Shaw, Jr.

Born: 6 February, 1920, Ray City, Berrien, Ga

Died: 26 April, 1999, Boise, Ada, Id

SPOUSES

Mary Louise Hallman *Married: 18 January, 1936*

Ida Lee Crawford *Married:*

Virginia Johnson *Married:*

Kermit Franklin Craver *Married: 27 July, 1935*

Richard Gable Foulks *Married: 27 August, 1955*

Velda Marie Simpson *Married: 14 November, 1942*

Born: 7 August, 1922, Carey, Blaine, Id