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November 1995

# The Family of Francis Marion Shaw Newsletter

Vol 04, No. 04.

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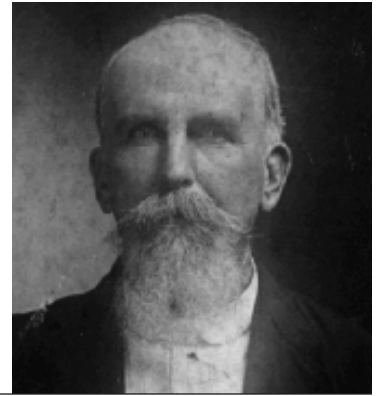
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# THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW



## RACHEL MOORE ALLEN SHAW, OUR PILGRIM CONNECTION



All of the previous issues of the *Family of Francis Marion Shaw* newsletters have featured the lives of Francis Marion Shaw or his children, with little recognition of the matriarch, Rachel Moore Allen Shaw. So perhaps as the Thanksgiving season approaches, it is timely and appropriate that we bring to the attention of her descendants, and acknowledge what a

great heritage she brought to her family. For not only was she a kind-hearted, loving, and God fearing woman, but literally through her veins flowed the true pilgrim spirit of this country. She is a ninth generation granddaughter of

Reverend John Robinson, spiritual leader of the Mayflower Pilgrims.

This newsletter will briefly detail how her ancestors came to America and eventually settled in southern Georgia.

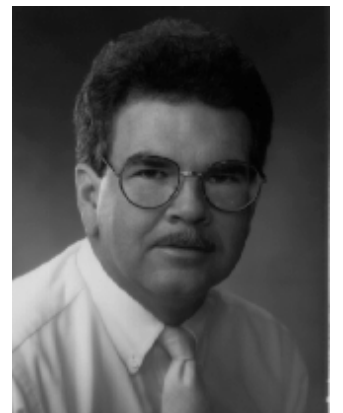
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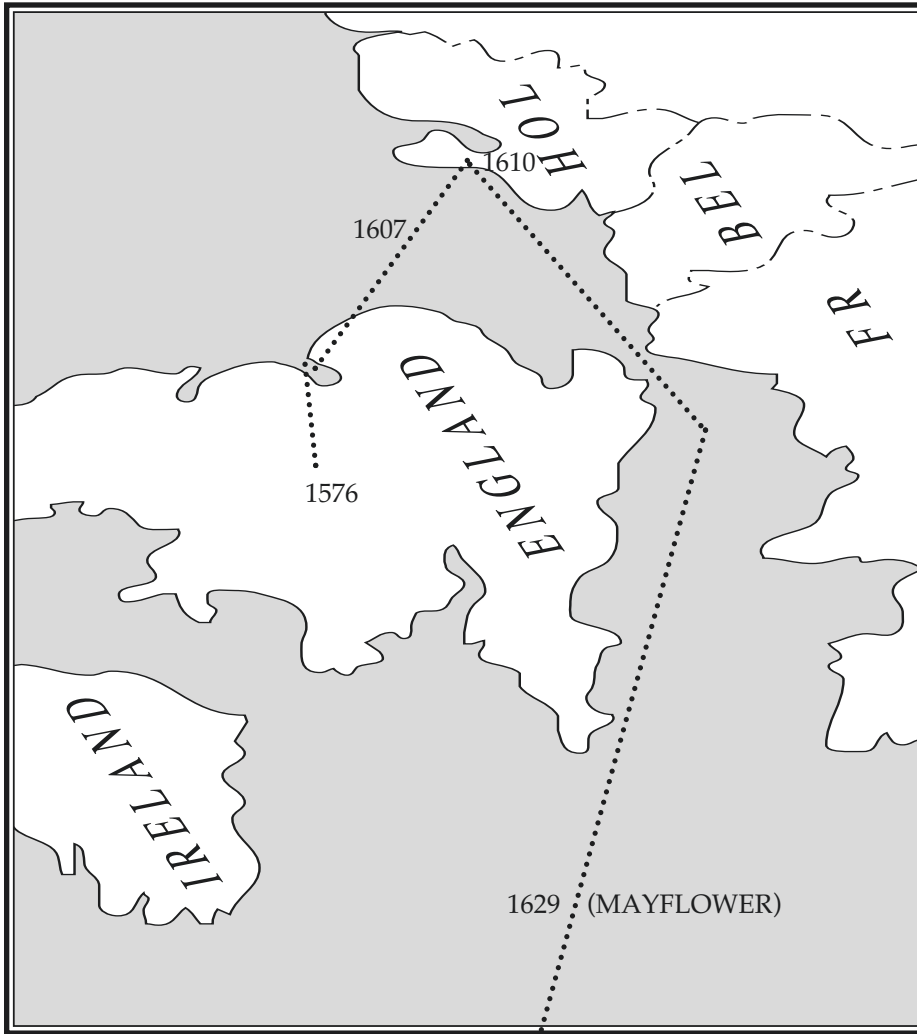
Volume 4 Number 4  
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*The Family of Francis Marion Shaw* is a non-profit newsletter published semi-annually or more frequently for the benefit of the descendants of Francis Marion Shaw and his wife, Rachel Moore Allen Shaw.

*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. Do not send the original photo unless you have no desire to have it returned. Send your non-returnable manuscripts and photo submissions to:*  
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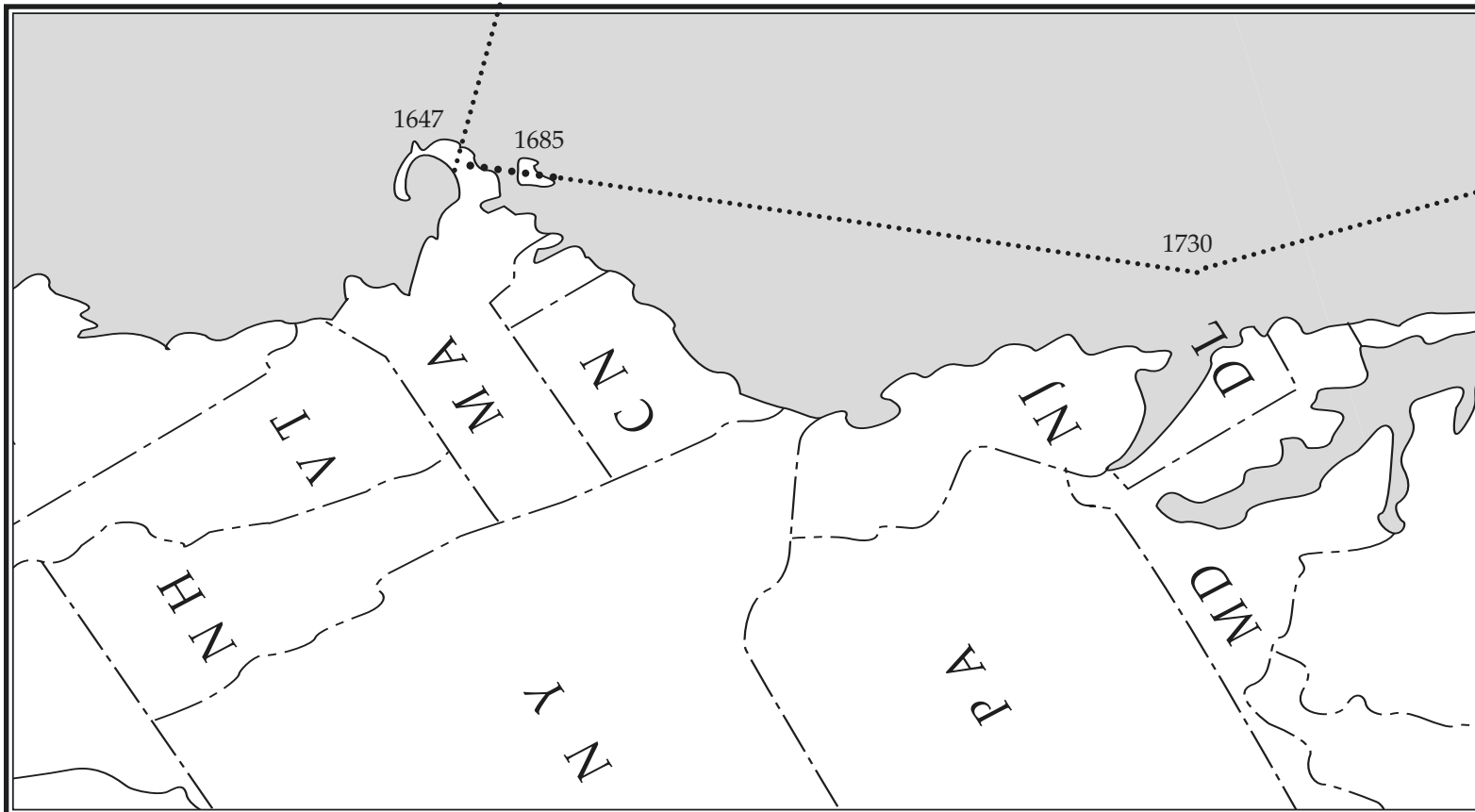
Rev. John Robinson's pilgrim roots began in England at the turn of the 17th century.

**Rev. John Robinson**

Rev. John Robinson, born 1576 in Nottinghamshire, was a Cambridge educated minister who found himself having to decide between following the dictates of the Church of England, or risk the wrath of the new King James' strict conformity proclamation of 1604. He started his Puritan congregation but met with immediate resistance and threats of imprisonment. By 1607 the pressure was intolerable, and many of his followers encouraged him to move to Holland where the atmosphere was more favorable.

The exact year that Robinson and his family moved to Holland is not known, but by 1610 they had settled in the community of Leiden, Holland. Though his small group prospered there, many of its members looked favorably on moving the colony to the Virginia Company. By 1620 a small group boarded the *Mayflower*, and departed Holland destined for Virginia. However, last minute changes and weather conditions forced the ship to land at Plymouth, Massachusetts after sailing for more than two months.

Rev. Robinson never sailed to the new colony in New England. Instead he remained in Leiden, with his family, and maintained



his leadership of the larger congregation of the Puritan faithful until his death in 1625.

### Isaac Robinson

After Robinson's death, several of his children departed Holland for the Plymouth colony, including his son, Isaac Robinson, in March 1629. Isaac also sailed on the *Mayflower*, arriving in Plymouth in May of 1629 (The *Mayflower* made several voyages to the new world).

In 1636 Isaac married Margaret Hanford, and three years later moved across the bay to Barnstable, where most of his ten children were born, including his daughter, Mercy (Mary), in 1647. Besides being the granddaughter of Rev. John Robinson, and Rachel Shaw's ancestral line, Mercy was also a beneficiary in the will of Myles Standish.

### Mercy Robinson Weeks

Mercy Robinson married William Weeks in Barnstable in 1649. Weeks was a prosperous innkeeper, who also found himself active in litigation for such offenses as serving water-diluted rum. The family moved around quite a bit, from Barnstable, to Falmouth, Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard, back to Falmouth. The couple had eight children, the principle ancestor being Benjamin Weeks, born in 1685. Benjamin married Mary Chase in 1704.

### Benjamin Weeks

Marked by the crisis of the Salem witch

trials, the Puritan movement was waning by the end of the 17th century, being challenged by the more liberal Quakers and Baptists. The simple way of life was giving way to progressive enterprising cities and unsettled wild frontiers.

Also settlements were becoming more established up and down the Atlantic coast. By 1729 the North Carolina land governors had overcome the severe Tuscarora Indian war and sold their holdings back to England. British governors offered new opportunities for anxious land-hungry settlers.

In 1730 Benjamin Weeks moved his family to Carteret County, North Carolina, then on to Onslow County by 1735. Among his family was his adult son, Theophilus Weeks, Sr.

### Theophilus Weeks, Sr.

Theophilus Weeks, was born in Barnstable County, Massachusetts about 1708. He married Grace Green, widow of Jonathan Green, who also had resided in Barnstable County. Theophilus remained in Onslow County with his wife and children, until his death in 1772. Of the children of Theophilus Weeks, Sr., the principle ancestor was Silas Weeks.

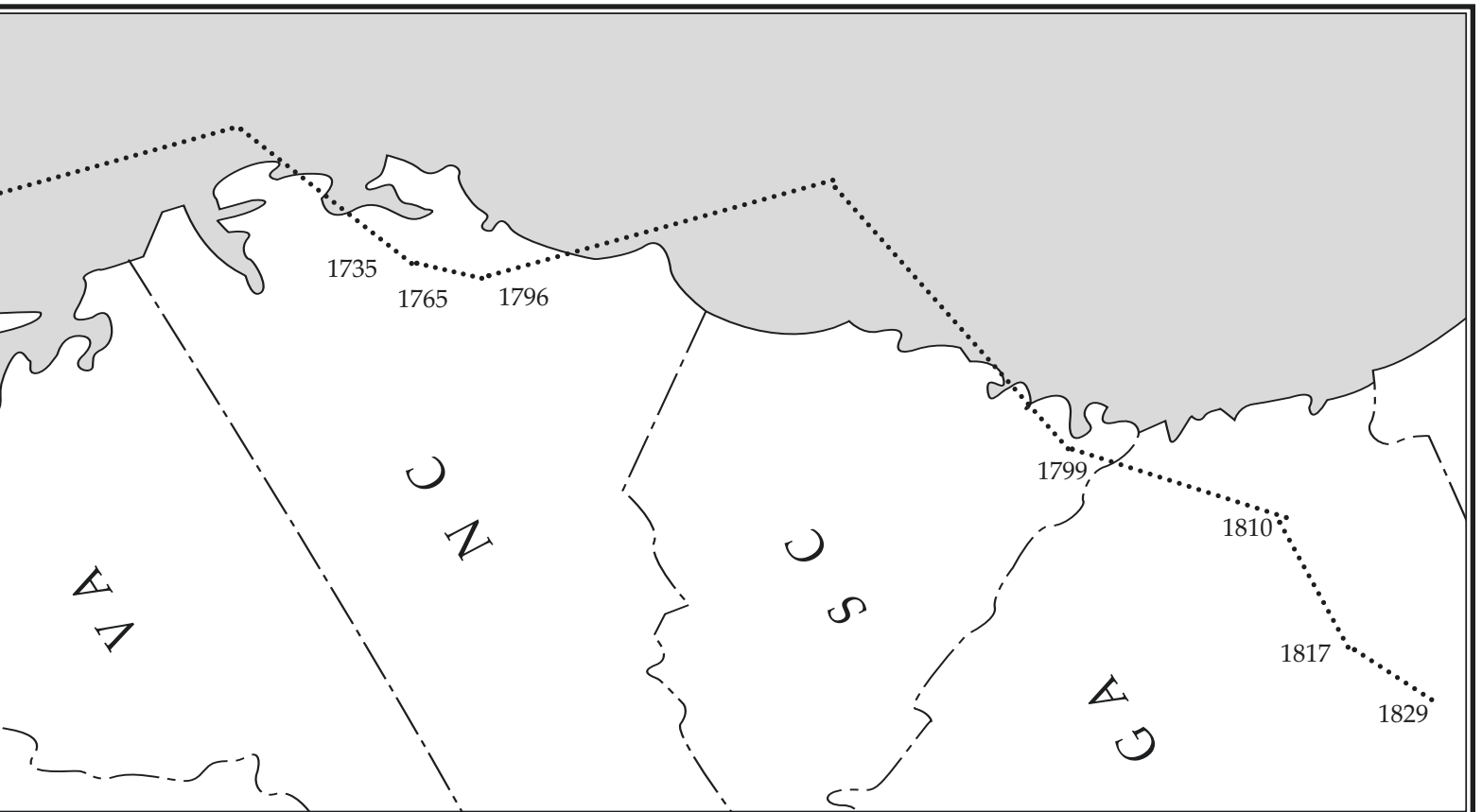
### Silas Weeks

Silas Weeks was born about 1725. He married Zillar Hunter, and by the outbreak of the American Revolution in 1776, Silas had at least three children; James, Theophilus, Jr., and a daughter, Ada.

**T** racing the journey of the ancestors of Rachel Allen Moore Shaw from England to America, and

eventually to southern Georgia, is made easier through court documents and land records. Aside from the voyage on the *Mayflower* in 1629, most of the modes of transportation are not documented.

There were a few crude roads sometimes covered with logs or stones, that connected some of the settlements. Indians were almost always a concern. But most of the journeys to new homes probably occurred aboard ships, at least until the families' movement into southern Georgia.



## SOURCES OF RESEARCH

So that you don't suppose that the information contained within this newsletter comes from my own exhaustive research, I wish to acknowledge the sources from which this brief history was gleaned. The major authority comes from *A History of the Dickerson Family*, by Theodore Vance Dickerson, Jr. of Tampa, Florida. Mr. Dickerson is an accomplished genealogist that has put many years of his life, and much of his financial resources in researching his family history. His family line connects to Rachel Moore Allen in the John O'Steen and Ada Weeks marriage. Their daughter, Argent O'Steen was a sister to Nancy O'Steen Moore, Rachel's mother. I also acknowledge the information contained in the *Pioneers of Wiregrass* by Folks Huxford.

Silas, at about the age 50, and his son, Theophilus, being only 16, both enlisted in the American cause. Theophilus enlisted in the North Carolina Line on or about May 20, 1776. He saw military action at the battles of Brandywine, Germantown, and Monmouth. At the expiration of his enlistment on November 20, 1778, he was honorably discharged at White Plains, New York, and returned home to his mother and sister.

Unfortunately, his father, Silas was not home to greet him. Silas Weeks had died in service earlier that same year, on May 22, 1778.

### Ada Weeks O'Steen

**D**aughter, Ada was only about 13 years old at the time of her father's death. By 1783 she had married a close family acquaintance, John O'Steen.

After their marriage, John and Ada O'Steen started an inland migration, moving first to the Beaufort District, South Carolina, near the Georgia border. About 1799 the family moved across the border to Effingham County, then to Liberty County, and then to Tattnall

Ada embraced the Baptist faith in her early years in Georgia, and John was baptized in the faith in 1823. They raised nine children and their sixth child Nancy, born in 1796, married John Moore in Wayne County on November 28, 1811.

### Nancy O'Steen Moore

**W**hich brings us to the parents of Rachel Moore Allen Shaw.

Rachel's parents, John and Nancy Moore moved to Ware County in 1817 and settled on Kettle Creek. In 1822 the family moved for a brief time to Florida, moving back to Kettle Creek in 1824.

John served in the War of 1812, the Wayne county militia from 1813-1814 and the Indian War of 1836-39. He was a baptized Primitive Baptist, and raised his family to follow the faith.

In 1829 they moved again to Lowndes County near the source of Cherry Creek. In 1834 he settled the place which later became known as the Jesse Moore farm where they raised their large family of eighteen children. Rachel was the fifteenth.

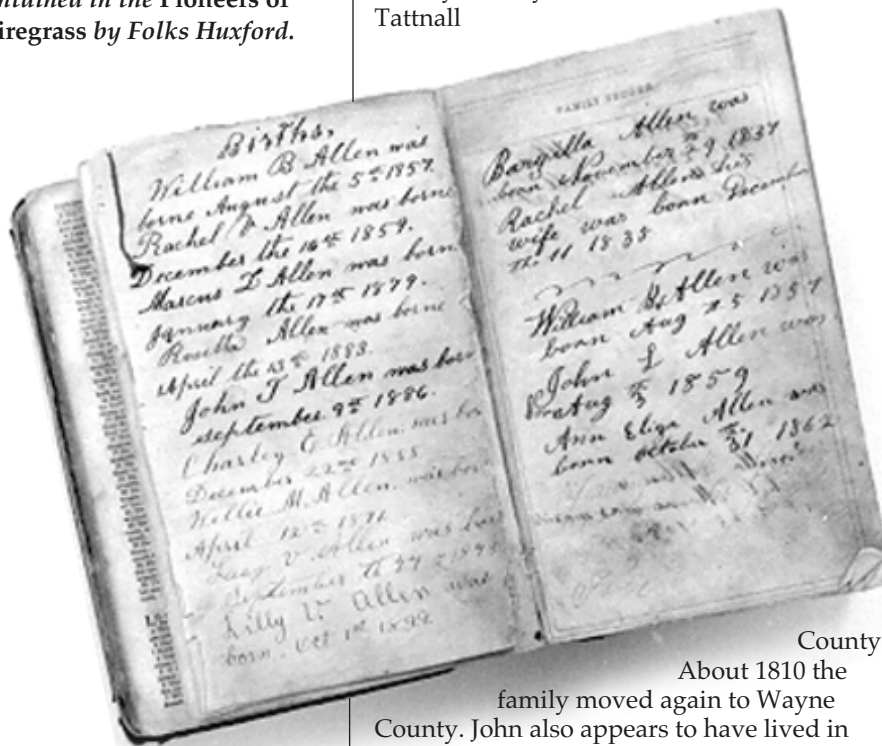
### Rachel Moore Allen Shaw

Rachel Moore was born December 11, 1835. She married Barzilla Allen in 1856. They had three children, William B., John Levi, and Ann Eliza. A tragic fate of the great Civil War conflict found her ancestral cousins taking the life of her husband and father of her Allen children. A fate that each descendant of Francis Marion Shaw owes his very existence.

So nine generations after a religious leader organized a small congregation of faithful followers against the will of a King, this daughter of a faithful Primitive Baptist found herself following the teachings of her religious heritage. It was a heritage that had covered two hundred years, thousands of miles of ocean, and thousands of miles of wilderness. Though the doctrines of her religion evolved from Puritan to Baptist the basic heritage of a pure faith in God sustained each ancestor as they confronted wars, epidemics, and the rugged frontier.

They each suffered and sacrificed much, always for the hope of the next generation. Some to the extent of laying down their life.

Yes, each one of us, Allen or Shaw has a great heritage that we are absolutely indebted to. No generation can say that they have no need of another. We are who we are because of who they were. We are who we are because of who she was. Rachel Moore Allen Shaw, a pilgrim granddaughter who had love for those who came before and those who have followed.



Shown above, recorded in the handwriting of Rachel Moore Allen Shaw, births of the Allen children and a few of the grandchildren. The entries were made in her well-used Bible, which is now in the possession of Minnie Vickers Allen, a granddaughter-in-law.

County. About 1810 the family moved again to Wayne County. John also appears to have lived in Camden County for a time, where he served in the militia as an Indian spy.

When Appling County was created in 1818, He and Ada became two of its first settlers. John served in the militia in Appling County as a First Lieutenant from 1821-1822. In 1825 his home was included in the new county of Ware, which later became present-day Clinch County. He served as Justice of the Inferior Court from 1829-1833 in Ware County. He also served as surveyor and postmaster in the same county.