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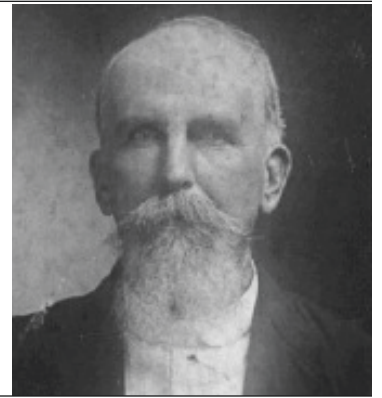
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THE FAMILY OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW



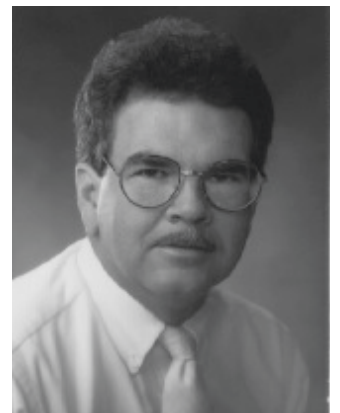
DEATH PAPERS OF FRANCIS MARION SHAW

Volume 4 Number 3
July 1995

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.

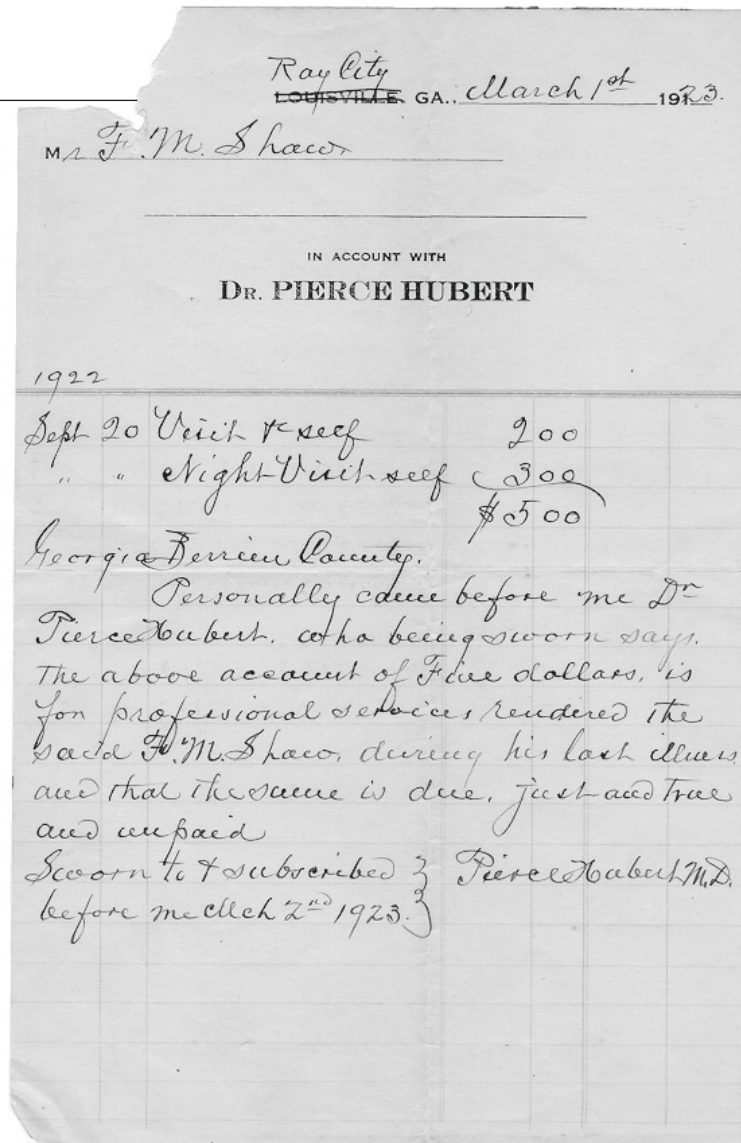
Historical contributions are requested. Your family histories including character traits, religious affiliations, professional pursuits and vital information such as birth dates and places, marriage dates and places, and death dates and places, are all welcome. Photographs help make the newsletter come 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:
Bryan Lee Shaw, Editor
5366 New Hampton Drive
Murray, Utah 84123

Bryan Lee Shaw, Editor



At the most westward end of the Pleasant Cemetery near the rural community of New Loist, the most prominent headstones in the cemetery. It identifies the final resting place of Francis Marion Shaw and his wife, Rachel.

The inscription relates that Rachel was born December 11, 1835, slightly more than ten years before Francis Marion's birth date of January 5, 1846. She also preceeded him in death, on April 15, 1921. His date of death is inscribed on the headstone as January 1, 1922. This date has been accepted by family descendants and historians as being the actual date of death. Folks Huxford's volume III of *Pioneers of Wiregrass Georgia*, likewise states that Mr. Shaw died January 1, 1922. But recently, Judge John Pat Webb brought to my attention several documents from the Berrien County probate records which cast a reasonable doubt on that date.



Dr. Pierce Hubert billed the estate of Francis Marion Shaw \$5 for two visits to the senior Shaw during his last illness leading up to his death. Note that the date of service is identified as 20 September, 1922, nine months after his reported death.

DETAILS OF THE PAST ON BRITTLE, YELLOW PAPERS

The simple letterhead and statement to the right tells us more about life in Ray City, Georgia in 1923, than the estate of Francis Marion Shaw owed Miller Hardware and Furniture Company \$50.85.

It lists the principle officers in the company, states that the company had stores in Ray City, Nashville, and Milltown (Lakeland) with capital stock of \$35,000.

It also identifies some of the merchandise that it carried—automobile supplies, hardware, furniture, stoves and ranges, mill supplies, farm implements, paint, oil, glass, sash, doors, lime, plaster, and cement.

It also shows the handwritten signature of L. C. Miller, and of L. F. Giddens, the Justice of the Peace for Berrien County.

Paper clips were not yet in standard use. The cover letter (not shown) was held together with the statement by a tin pin, now rusted, in the upper left corner.

W. L. MILLER, PRES. & GEN. MGR.
W. F. SHERMAN, VICE - PRES.

M. C. LEE
C. S. PARHAM

A. H. MILLER, MGR. RAY CITY STORE
J. A. COLLINS, MGR. NASHVILLE STORE

STOVES AT
RAY CITY, GA.
NASHVILLE, GA.
MILLTOWN, GA.

MILLER HARDWARE & FURNITURE CO.

HARDWARE
STOVES RANGES

CAPITAL STOCK \$35,000.00

AUTOMOBILE SUPPLIES
FURNITURE & HOUSE FURNISHINGS
MILL SUPPLIES & FARM IMPLEMENTS

PAINTS
OILS
GLASS
SASH
DOORS
LIME
PLASTER
CEMENT

SOLD TO F.M. Shaw Estate

Jas. H. Gaskins Admn.

TERMS _____ DAYS _____ STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT FOR MONTH OF _____

DATE	ARTICLES	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Nov. 15	To Balance due on Casket	\$50.85	
<p><i>Personally appeared before me L. C. Miller who an oath says that he is Manager of The Miller Hardware & Furniture Co. and says that the above acct is just true and unpaid</i></p> <p><i>L. C. Miller</i></p> <p><i>Swore to and subscribed before me this 15th day of Nov 1923. L. F. Giddens J.P.</i></p>			

SPECIAL THANKS

A special salute is in order for the thoughtful consideration that Judge John Pat Webb, Sr. has shown the Shaw family in their pursuit of family history. In the past three years since my first acquaintance with Judge Webb, he has gone out of his way to be accommodating to me in my research and is ever alert to information that could be of assistance in that research. He is also a wealth of information on Berrien County history. To you Judge Webb, we express our heartfelt thanks.

—BLS

Upon my initial review of the papers, I was caught up in the variety of information contained in them. They consisted of three tax receipts from the Beaver Dam School district; a bill from Dr. Pierce Hubert, the attending physician during the last illness of Francis Marion; a bond title for the Shaw properties on Jones Street and Trixie Street; a bill from Miller Hardware and Furniture Company for the senior Shaw's casket; a fire insurance policy; two bank drafts for insurance premiums paid; a receipt for a bond premium payment; an accounting record from P. T. Knight for outstanding accounts in the Ray City Supply Company, in which Francis Marion apparently had some interest in with his son Lacy; two hand written accountings, one for home repairs, the other for disbursement of funds for claims against the estate; the public notice of the estate sale; and finally, the invoice and receipt for

recording the claims with the county.

Upon closer examination, I realized that all of the claims and accountings were dated after 1923, with the exception of one of the tax receipts from the Beaver Dam School District. That receipt was dated December 20, 1922, and was received of Francis Marion Shaw! Almost one year after the inscribed death date. The two other receipts, one dated December 19, 1923 and December 16, 1924, were both received of J. H. Gaskins, administrator of F. M. Shaw estate.

Add to that inconsistency that the bill for services rendered by Dr. Pierce Hubert states that he visited F. M. Shaw "during his last illness" on the day and again in the evening of September 20, 1922, more than nine months after the inscription date of the headstone! Dr. Hubert's claim was dated March 1, 1923. It seems more reasonable that the doctor would recall more accurately that the illness had occurred the previous fall, and that he would make his claim within a few months after the death

rather than letting fifteen months pass by.

Likewise, the statement from Miller Hardware and Furniture Company for the balance due on the casket was sworn to on November 15, 1923, which would be almost two years after the inscribed death date. The sale of the estate and property of Francis Marion Shaw was originally set for November, 1923, but was rescheduled and conducted in October of 1924.

With these conflicting documents the facts seem to indicate that Francis Marion Shaw lived one year longer than the date inscribed on the headstone.

There are only a few remaining family members who might recall the circumstances of his death and possibly the exact date. The headstone was likely set and inscribed well after the death of Rachel and Francis Marion. Over the years, those visiting the grave site would have the inscribed date reinforced.

It is not so important, of course, what the actual date was. The character and life of our common ancestor is no less valid. But the contradiction may serve to help us all be a bit more conscious of details relating to the lives of our family members. What we each recall about our parents and grandparents may well be lost if we don't take the time to commit those recollections to record, now, while the faces and circumstances are still fresh in our minds.

Meanwhile, as we contemplate the evidence, Francis Marion and Rachel Shaw rest in peace, side by side as they have since January, 192—something.

Editor's Note: Later documentation confirms that Francis Marion Shaw died on September 21, 1922.—BLS

J I Norwood, Ordry,
JASH GASKINS
~~CLERK SUPERIOR COURT BERRIEN COUNTY~~
~~CLERK OF THE COURT OF WASHVILLE~~

NASHVILLE, GA., February, 2nd, 1924.

J H Gaskins Administrator, Estate F M Shaw.

Nashville, Ga.,

The papers sent me for record have had my careful attention and the fee for recording same is as follows. Kindly send me check to cover this amount at once, as all recording should be paid in advance.

To Temporary letters,	1300		
To Permanent letters,	17.00		
To warrent of appraisement,	5.50		
By Cash,		25.00	
To notice to Dr and Cr,	6.00		
To application and leave to sell land and etc.	1100		
By Check,		7.00	
	52.10	31.00	
To balance due,		21.10	

OK, By, *J. A. Alexander* Attorney,

*Received Payment
This Feb 2 - 1924
J I Norwood
Ordry*

1 door ----- \$2.75
3 glasses ----- 2.25
1 can putty ----- .15
3 locks ----- 1.50
Brick & rope ----- .80
Worce ----- 7.35

This work was done on the red house owned by the Shaw estate. This amount was ordered paid by W. B. Allen approved by R. D. Swindle Apr

THE COST OF DYING

The expenses associated with settling a deceased family member's estate back in 1923-24 seems rather small in comparison to a settlement in today's economy. The documents are much less formal; from crossed out letterhead of the court clerks to hand scratched invoices on scraps of paper.

W. B. Allen, noted on the bill to the left is the oldest son of Rachel Allen Shaw and was Francis Marion's step-son.

If you are a descendant or relative of these families, you have a great heritage that you are a part of:

Descendants of Francis Marion Shaw and Rachel Moore Allen Shaw

Descendants of Barzilla Allen and Rachel Moore Allen

Francis Arthur Shaw
Ida Jane Parrish
Jesse 'Doc' Shaw
Effie C. Clements
Lacy Lester Shaw
Chester D. Shaw

William B. Allen
John Levi Allen
Eliza Allen Knight

"WAS GRANDPA A BOOTLEGGER OR A COP?"

FAMILY JEOPARDY

- This great conflict cast young Francis Marion into battle way:
 - Revolutionary War
 - Civil War
 - Spanish-American War
 - WW I
- Rachel Moore Allen Shaw lost her first husband by this tragedy:
 - Died from scarlet fever
 - Kicked by a horse
 - Killed in Civil War
 - Drowned in Altapoke River
- This son of Francis Marion and Rachel ate a fatal meal of quail and died at the age of 37:
 - Francis Arthur
 - Jesse Shelby "Dock"
 - Chester David
 - Lacy Lester
- Francis Marion was wounded and lost this appendage at a skirmish near Cedar Keys:
 - Right leg
 - Left leg
 - Right arm
 - Left arm
- These two grandchildren were raised by their grandparents, Marion and Rachel:
 - Brodie and Bruce Shaw
 - Curtis and Cleo Shaw
 - Claude and Burt Clements
 - Leon and Guy Parrish
- Their home was built on the east slope of Possum Creek, but was destroyed by fire:
 - "Dock" and Socie Shaw
 - Life Jane and Bartow Parrish
 - Arthur and Gertrude Shaw
 - Lacy Lester and Tula Shaw
- This school was the primary source of the Shaw children's education:
 - White Pond
 - Old Lela
 - Pine Grove
 - King's Chapel
- He built two fine homes and loved the farm home so much that his ghost is reported to still reside there:
 - John Allen
 - Chester Shaw
 - Lacy Lester Shaw
 - William Allen
- The unusual tool shown here was successfully used by this Shaw farmer:
 - Francis Arthur
 - Lacy Lester
 - Francis Marion
 - Jesse Shelby "Dock"
- She and her mother were taken in by Marion and Rachel when her father died and they lost their property:
 - Effie Idell Clements
 - Kathleen Knight
 - Essie Parrish
 - Letha May Allen
- This son-in-law of Francis Marion sold dry goods and buried deceased local citizens:
 - William Clements
 - Bartow Parrish
 - Sultrom Knight

Just one of several interesting handouts that will be available only to those attending this year's reunion. Don't miss it!

Brodie Shaw
Charles Bruner Shaw
Bernard T. Shaw
Lowndes W. Shaw
Brooker Hodges Shaw

Essie Daisy Giddens
Lessie Lenuia Gaskins
Lacy Leon Parrish
Guy Marvin Parrish

Cora Aline Griffin
Beatrice E. Carter
Marvin S. Shaw
Charlie J. Shaw
F. W. M. Shaw
Buford T. Shaw
Mary Idyll Ennis
Henry Gribbon Shaw

Claude Clements
Minnie' Sirmons
Buri Webster Clements
Gus Clements
Idelle Clements

Aubrey Shaw
Elmer Atwood Shaw
Cleo Shaw
Clyde Shaw
Curtis Shaw

Chester D. Shaw, Jr.

Marcus L. Allen
Rosetta Allen Weaver
John Thomas Allen
Willie Marion Allen
Lillie V. Allen Young
Chester Edgar Allen
Letha Allen Patten

Mae Allen
Collis Allen
Mittie Allen
Frank Allen

Mansfield Knight
Effie Knight Guthrie
Leland Knight
Ada Knight Gaskins
Fanny Knight Gaskins
Rossie Knight
Lena Knight Hickman
Kathleen Swindle
Rachael Knight Chism

FIND OUT AT THE 2ND ANNUAL FRANCIS MARION SHAW FAMILY REUNION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6, 1995
RAY CITY, GA. SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER
REGISTRATION STARTS AT 10:00 A.M.

CALL OR WRITE, TODAY!

Family history can be fun and fascinating to all ages. And our family heritage is an essential gift we all have received and must pass on to our children and grandchildren. It will give them a sense of who they are and where they came from. It is a bonding power that can hold all families together in a common understanding that others have weathered equal or greater challenges and we can too.

Be sure to set aside one day, Sunday, August 6, 1995, that we can all celebrate

and learn more about that precious heritage. There will be activities and materials available that will help make this event a special occasion.

Registration and socializing starts at 10:00 A.M. Sunday, followed by a shared luncheon about 12:00 noon. Fix a meal for your own family and we will all taste and enjoy.

Please write Diana Shaw (Doc Shaw's granddaughter-in-law), Rt 2 Box 820, Nashville, Georgia, 31639, or give her a call at (912) 686-5601 and let us know that you are planning to be there.