

CEMETERY WALK NARRATIVE

Narration of Martha Ellen Kelley Shaw (Maw Shaw)

Good Evening. My name is Martha Ellen Kelley Shaw, affectionately called Maw Shaw by all 37 of my grandchildren. As you can see from my headstone, I was born October 26, 1860 and died December 3, 1949. My father was William Timothy Kelley. He died of a fever in 1862 in Chattanooga while serving as a confederate soldier in the Civil War. My mother was Sarah Macon Susanna Jenkins Kelley. I was raised and married in Lithonia, Georgia. My dear husband of 37 years was Greenville Shaw also called Green by many, were married on December 22, 1881. Greenville died December 13, 1918.

Soon after we married Greenville was offered a job in Gadsden, Alabama so we moved there and began our family. We lived in a two room house on the river and would commute by bateau for Green's work and my shopping. Our first child, John Walter was born in Gadsden.

Greenville's father, Sidney Shaw, his wife Rhoda and son Lonnie came to this area and settled in Holly Pond in 1884. Greenville's brother, John Hilliard, his wife and family also came at the same time. Greenville, our son, John Walter, and myself migrated by covered wagon shortly after and we settled on a farm in the Center Point area, less than a mile from here. We had seven more children while living in the Center Point community. We had twins, Elbert and Ella in September of 1885. Eldora, Susan Modeanor, Ellen Rowena, Charles Victor and Henrietta soon followed.

Greenville's brother, Seaborn Shaw and wife Susan came to the area during 1884 as well. Seaborn was a Charter Member of First Baptist Church, Holly Pond. Unfortunately, in 1900, there was a split at First Baptist Church, Holly Pond and my Father-in-Law, Sidney Shaw and his wife Rhoda left and became Charter Members of New Hope #2 Baptist Church.

Around 1906, Greenville and our oldest son, Walter decided to move to the town of Holly Pond and go into the store business. Our first store was located where the present-day Holly Pond Café now stands. Around 1912 we constructed a modern-day store with plate glass windows installed by our second son, Elbert. This store was built where the Holly Pond Hardware store now stands. We had only been in this store for a short period of time when it was destroyed by a fire started by a fire from an older building next door. Then we rented and later purchased the JJ Davis Store across the road. Our Store was named GV Shaw and Son's General Mercantile. When my husband, Greenville, died in 1918, my sons and I ran the store business together until Elbert sold his portion of the business around 1922 to follow the love of his life, farming and carpenter work. I continued in the store business until I retired in 1929.

We lived where the new Holly Pond High School is now located. We were in the middle of all the local happenings, the school, the church and the town was all in rock throwing distance of my house.

CEMETERY WALK NARRATIVE

In 1924, my daughter Rowena's husband, Luther Coppock passed away at a very young age of 32. He left behind four young children and an expecting wife. I had them move in with me so I could help Rowena raise her children.

I always loved living in Holly Pond surrounded by my family and friends. My sons, daughters and many of my grandchildren lived close to me and I was blessed to have so much company, love and care. God was always good to me. During World War II, I had around 30 grandsons and grandsons-in-law that went to fight for our country and everyone came home alive. Hopefully, Green and I left a rich and honorable heritage for our children and grandchildren.

I truly loved my town, Holly Pond. Thanks for coming by, I enjoyed talking with you.