

## Sidney Shaw

Hello, and thanks for dropping by. My name is Sidney Shaw and as you can see by my grave marker, I was born 188 years ago on September 21, 1825. I was born in the Newton/DeKalb County, Georgia area and I lived in Georgia until I moved to Holly Pond. My parents were Henry and Dorothy Barnett Shaw. By the way, for all you Alabama fan's, my momma was Paul Bear Bryant's Great, Great, Great Aunt. Roll Tide!

All of my wives and sons had nicknames. Vina's was Vicy, Susannah's was Susan and Roda's was Rody. John Hilliard's nick name was Hill, Greenville's was Green or G.V., and Milliard Leodus was Lon or Lonnie.

My first wife was Vina Watson. We married December of 1848 and our son, Hill was born 9 months later in September of 1849. After Vicy died, I married Susannah Russell in October of 1859 and our son, Green, was born 9 months later in July of 1860. After Susan died, I married Roda Martin in March of 1878 and our son, Lon, was born 9 months later in December of 1878. So, if you do the math, I was 24 when my 1<sup>st</sup> son was born, 35 when my 2<sup>nd</sup> was born, and 53 when my 3<sup>rd</sup> son was born.

In March of 1862, I volunteered to serve in the War of Northern Aggression, or as some called it, the Civil War. I served as a Private in Company F 42<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Georgia Volunteers. On July 4, 1863, I was captured at Vicksburg, Mississippi. I was only a prisoner of war for 3 days. I had to sign a document that I would not take up arms against the United States in support of the Confederate States of America. Well that didn't stop me, I re-entered the war as a Confederate Soldier and was later captured in Greensborough, N.C., and I was paroled in 1865.

After the War, I went back to Georgia to raise my boys, take care of my wife and mother and tend the farm. By 1880, my wife Susan had passed away, I had married Rody, had another son, and moved to Philips, a small town in Dekalb County, Georgia.

In the 1883/84 time-frame, we heard of some promising farmland over in Alabama, so Rody, Lonnie, and me along with my adult son's Hill and Green began moving to Alabama. When we got to Gadsden, Alabama the work looked promising, so Green and his wife, Martha Ellen and young son John, decided to stay in Gadsden. So, I continued on to Cullman County, Alabama with my family and my son, Hill with his wife Martha Jane and family. So when we got to Cullman County we decided to just homestead in Holly Pond. We hadn't much more than gotten settled in and my son, Green and his family decided to join us. I just can't remember the exact date, but I know his twins, Elbert and Ella were born about a mile and half in that direction in the Center Point Community in January of 1885, so it must have been sometime in 1884.

## A CEMETERY WALK NARRATIVE

Rody and me along with our family attended the Holly Pond Missionary Baptist Church (now First Baptist Holly Pond). My brother, Seaborn, was one of the charter members of the church. About 1900, they had some problems at the church, so Rody and I along with the Chance's, Mitchell's, Hendrix's, Barnett's, and a few others decide to just move on and start another church up the road. We named it The Baptist Church of Christ at New Hope (now New Hope #2). I served on the building committee along with Misters Chance, Mitchell and Hendrix.

Let me tell you a little bit about my family member buried here with me, my wife Rody is buried here. She died in the summer of 1919. My son Lonnie is buried here and his first wife Victora and son, Ray Ghaston, are buried here. They died the same day, January 20 of 1919. That is when the flu pandemic hit this area. A lot of people in the Holly Pond area got sick and died. My wife and Lonnie lived just right there before the bend in the road and when Victora and Ray died, poor ole Lonnie's other sick little children laid in the bed and watched out the window as their mother and little brother were laid to rest.

I enjoyed the 25 years that I lived in Holly Pond. 18 of my 22 grandchildren lived to adulthood and they gave me 92 great grandchildren. I now have a multitude of descendents including the eighth generation Shaw family members living in Holly Pond.