

## Tom Marshall's Weekly News, May 15, 2006

**Esther Marshall and Her Branch of the Shallcross Family:** I've written a lot about the Auburn Heights Marshalls, probably more than you want to know. Here's a stab at telling you a little of my mother's family: My mother, Esther Shallcross Marshall (1885–1979) was the fourth of six children born to James Thomas Shallcross (1847–1911) and Mary Ellen Vandegrift Shallcross (1852–1944). The average longevity of the six was 92 years, the youngest to die making it to 79 and the oldest to 103. As you can see, my mother was 94.

My great-grandfather, Sereck Fox Shallcross (1816–1906), a Quaker who emigrated from Byberry in northeast Philadelphia to the Middletown-Odessa area of Delaware about 1842, was a successful farmer who bought several farms around what was later called Shallcross Lake, which backed up behind a dam on Drawyers Creek. He built a large brick home with three floors and a mansard roof on a farm called Oakland, south of the lake. The farm to the north of the lake was called Belleview, and here my grandparents lived. My mother and all her siblings were born at Belleview. Still another family farm that bordered the Boyd's Corner-Mount Pleasant Road was named Whitehall.

James T. Shallcross, my grandfather, dabbled in Democratic politics, somewhat to the dismay of my grandmother. In addition to farming, he took the train daily from Mount Pleasant to Wilmington, where, during the 1890s, he was Recorder of Deeds for New Castle County. My other grandfather, Israel Marshall, and his brother Elwood (the original "Marshall Brothers") obtained water rights from Levis Lamborn to the stream that runs near Auburn Mill Road, and the deed was recorded in 1892 with both my grandfathers' names appearing on the same piece of paper! I'm sure they didn't know each other then, and probably never did, as they both died in 1911, 10 years before my parents were married.

Esther Shallcross married my father, Clarence Marshall, at Old Drawyers Presbyterian Church near Odessa on June 4, 1921, and she became the new hostess of Auburn Heights. More will be told of her 58-year tenure and her accomplishments in future editions.