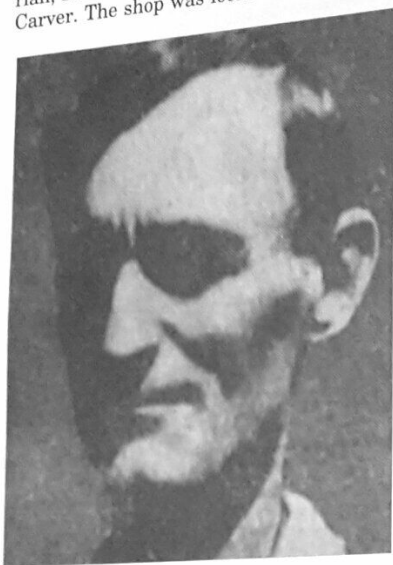


John B. Dooley Blacksmith Shop

Sometime in the early 1920's, my grandfather, John B. Dooley, was one of two blacksmiths in Goodwater. According to local historian, Robert Smith, the other shop was operated by a man named Carver. The shop was located on Main Street and Socapatoy Road



John B. Dooley

which is now Hwy. 511. At that time the street was dead-end. As a youngster, Mr. Smith recalls the blacksmith shop as an exciting place to visit, watching the sparks fly as the blacksmith pounded the red-hot metal being formed on his anvil. The blacksmith shop was later moved to the Dooley home place on East Mill Road at Midway in Clay County.

According to family oral history, Mr. Dooley stayed at the shop during the week, living in a room at the rear, and came home to his family in Midway on

the weekends. In the early 1900's he had come to Midway from Jasper County, Georgia, where his father, Theodore W. Dooley, was one of two blacksmiths in the community of Eudora. Mr. Dooley married Maggie Lee House of Midway in 1906 and they raised a family of seven children there. Records show that he was very active in the Midway community, being appointed Justice of the Peace in 1912, 1917, 1920, 1925 and 1928 and was a trustee of the school at Midway for many years. In 1939 my grandfather died in a tragic car/school bus accident at Midway. Submitted by: James E. Fazekas, 7624 Desoto Caverns Parkway, Alpine, AL 35014. Sources: Historian Robert Smith and Dooley Family oral history.

John F. Vardaman Homeplace

During 1868, John Forsythe Vardaman built his first home, a log cabin, on the south side of the old Lineville road in northeast Coosa County (Goodwater area) on property purchased from his father. He moved his wife and two young sons into this log cabin home where they lived for the next 12 or so years.

In 1880-81 John built a new, larger home befitting his status as a prosperous farmer, educator (he was the first teacher in Goodwater)



Vardaman/Humphrey Home Spring 1993

and substantial citizens of Goodwater. The new home was a 'dog trot' house, added to over the years.

There was a good spring down the hill behind the house. During Marshall E. Vardaman's residence, a unique feature was added, a cable was strung from the back porch

to the spring on which a trolley rolled with a bucket attached. A rope was on the bucket and a regular wellwindless which enabled the bucket to travel down to the spring and then wound back full of water. Only those who have had to go to the spring to fetch a pail of water can fully appreciate this ingenuity.

John dammed up an area near the spring forming a pond which supplied fish for the family for many years.

This house was used by several generations of the Vardamans and then passed to E.G. Harris and finally to John and Minnie Humphrey. Unfortunately, it was destroyed by fire in 1995. Submitted by: Jesse H. Vardaman, 361 Wrights Mill Ct., Alpharetta, GA 30004 Source: from an original article by James Bassett Gwin.

Miss Patti Fleming

Miss Patti was always useful. She was probably first useful in the First National Bank in Goodwater which was owned by her Uncle Will Dean.

The most useful part of her life was as City Clerk of Goodwater and that was for a long and very successful time. It was she who introduced Ben Carlton to John Watkins, head of the League of Municipalities, who first hired him as organist for that organization's conventions. That was at a function at the Goodwater Library. Ben has played every year since.

In her spare time she created ornaments from anything imaginable: bottles, tin cans, boxes, you name it. "Making a silk purse out of a sow's ear" is the appropriate old saying. These were Christmas decorations and the most visible one was the Angel which was on her door for Christmas made of newspaper. It is such a shame that Southern Living never took notice of her ingenuity. We miss you Miss Patti. Submitted by: Ben Carlton Source: from personal knowledge and a Coosa County News article by Beckie Mosley.

Claude Vardaman

Claude Vardaman, that friendly efficient Alabama GOP leader who might have been elected to all kinds of Alabama public offices had he been a Democrat, is all for Ike again ...

A country boy from Coosa County has gone a long way when he gets to dine at the White House with the President of the United States and then is sent on to New York as the Chief Executive's personal emissary in certain delicate matters. That's what happened to Claude Vardaman, Alabama's state Republican Chairman.

And may we add that it couldn't have happened to a fellow who deserves it more, not only on the basis of his own wonderful gifts and capabilities for loyalty, but on the basis of his deep and genuine patriotism and long record of public service.

Claude was one of those who played a major part in the President's decision to run. With Mrs. Vardaman he was a guest of the Eisenhower's when Ike was stationed with NATO near Paris and there he told the general of the armies just how the country felt about him and how much he was needed.

Since that time the two men have been close friends as well as political associates. Claude O. Vardaman was Ike's campaign leader for Alabama.

Source: From *Where I Stand* by Vulcan (Vincent) Townsend, Sr.) *The Birmingham News, Alabama Journal* and *Talladega Home*

Hatchett Creek Church and Community

Before there was a Goodwater or an Adkins Gap there was Brownville and or Hatchett Creek. The Presbyterian Church there was the Mother Church for an entire area. According to Misses Annie and Mira Carmichael, the church has offered service to the community for more than 175 years.

Although Hatchett Creek is at least three miles into Clay county it is a part of the Goodwater community. In 1868 The Church actually dismissed 58 of their members to the Church in Goodwater because they felt that the membership was large enough for two churches. What a novel idea! Can you imagine that today?

This Church and area are stories unto themselves and are well documented, the purpose of this commentary is to explain the communal feel between the areas. The Hatchett Creek Church and the Goodwater Church have always shared a minister and they are now sharing a providentially provided Rev. W.R. 'Pete' McElrath, this is true even though he is a native of the area. Submitted by: Ben Carlton Source: from Personal and a 1973 *Outlook* article

Mt. Olive Baptist Church



Mt. Olive Baptist Church Church and Cemetery

Mt. Olive has been an outstanding community over the years. There were beautiful homes and good schools and churches. It figured heavily in the building of the Plank Road. In fact, in Deed Book W-36 dated 9/30/1852 Central Plank Road