

Ollious, became Chairman of the Alabama Republican Party, and in 1951 visited General Eisenhower at NATO Headquarters in Europe to encourage him to run for president. Claude was also a close friend of Herbert Brownell, the attorney general during the Eisenhower administration.

John and Lacy Vardaman were strong willed people. There is a family story that when he asked Lucy's father for her hand in marriage, her father said, "take her, maybe you can do something with her. I haven't been able to do anything with her".

By the time of their marriage, John Lafayette had, through purchases from his mother and sisters, accumulated nearly 160 acres of land, the same land on which he was raised. The property consisted of cleared land, timber, and bottom land next to a fast flowing creek. The main crops were cotton and corn along with two large gardens. The usual chickens, milk cows, pigs, and farm horses were on the farm. John Lafayette, a smart, hard working man supported his family on this farm. Lucy Priscilla kept the household moving, guiding the children, tending the gardens and in general keeping everybody moving in the same direction.

Religion with church attendance was a major activity in the family of John and Lucy Vardaman. John taught Sunday

School at the Parkdale Methodist Church for over twenty years. His love for peppermint candy was well known and as a young man he picked up the nickname of "Candy John". On Saturday afternoons he could often be found in a back room of a hardware store in Goodwater eating peppermint candy and reviewing the Sunday School lesson for the next day with friends.

John and Lucy Vardaman were a credit to their community and county.

John Lafayette Vardaman died in his sleep on July 1, 1932. Lucy Priscilla Vardaman died suddenly from a heart attack on December 24, 1944. Both are buried in the Mount Olive Cemetery. Submitted by: Thomas E. Rainwater (Grandson), 1940 Brook Drive, Camden, SC 29020

Louie Everett Vardaman

In 1918, while serving with the newly established U.S. Army Air Force in France during WW I, this Coosa County native became one of the earliest aviation mechanics in Army Air Force history.

Louie Everett Vardaman was born April 5, 1890, at his grandfather's home near Goodwater in Coosa County, the second son of Marshall E. and Clara "Odie" (Carlisle) Vardaman and grandson of John F. and Julia (Flynn) Vardaman. Ca 1892, when he was about 4 years old, his father moved the family to east Texas where they remained until 1902 before returning once again to live in his grandfather's home at Goodwater. He attended high school in Goodwater beginning in 1903 and finishing in 1907, after which he embarked on a career as an automobile mechanic.

In 1915, after working in Sylacauga, Louie journeyed north to Detroit, Michigan, where he was employed in the automotive industry. In April, 1917, the U.S. formally entered World War I in Europe and, in December of that year, now 27 years old, he returned to Alabama to enlist in the Army at Birmingham. By August 1918 he was serving in France as an aviation mechanic in the 354th Aero Squadron of the infant Army Air Force service.

Discharged from the Army in June 1919, Louie returned to his family, now in Ocilla, Georgia, where he joined his father and

brother in the operation of an automotive repair business. When this business was discontinued at the end of 1920, Louie moved to Atlanta to pursue courses in the Vocational Department of the Georgia Institute of Technology. While in Ocilla, he met a local girl, Laura Barrett, and on August 7, 1921, they were married.

Louie completed his 4-year course of study in electrical engineering at Georgia Tech in May 1925 and moved to Tampa, Florida,

where he was employed as an automotive electrician. By July 1928, however, he and Laura had returned to Atlanta where he continued his career as an automotive electrician and where he would live for the rest of his life.

In May 1941, with WW II raging, Louie, joined the U.S. War Department as a storekeeper at the Atlanta Army Ord-



Louie E. Vardaman with his mother, Clara C. Vardama

nance Depot (now Fort Gillem). Shortly thereafter, following in the footsteps of his grandfather and brother Jesse before him as educators, he became an Automotive Electrical Systems Instructor at this base and would remain there in this capacity until his retirement in November 1956.

His marriage to Laura wasn't successful and the couple divorced ca 1944, without issue. He subsequently married Miss Jessie Evelyn Baldwin, daughter of John Randolph and Elizabeth Katherine (Bazemore) Baldwin, on December 27, 1945, in Decatur, Georgia. On January 22, 1947, a daughter, Emily Elizabeth (now Mrs. Alton M. Adams of Toccoa, Georgia) was born.

After his retirement from the Defense Department, Louie, for a time, was a representative for Field Enterprises, publishers of World Book Encyclopedia. He died on March 18, 1965, and is buried at Westview Cemetery in Atlanta. Later, Evelyn moved to Toccoa, GA, near her daughter, where she lived until her death, March 28, 1991. She is buried with her husband at Westview Cemetery. Submitted by: Mark A. Adams, 15717 Mahogany Circle, Apt. 107, Gaithersburg, MD 20878.

Sources: Family records and history.

Marshall Everett Vardaman Family

In the accompanying photo, the Marshall E. Vardaman family is shown in front of the home of his father, John Forsythe Vardaman, located about 2 miles north of Goodwater on the old Lineville (Ashland-Goodwater) Road. This picture is thought to have been made ca 1904.

The persons in this picture are (left to right): Unknown, Louie E. Vardaman, Jesse H. Vardaman, Marshall E. Vardaman, Maggie L. Vardaman (young child standing in front of Marshall), Myrtle A. Vardaman, William K. Vardaman, Clara O. (Odie) Carlisle Vardaman and John Eugene Vardaman. All of the young people in this picture, except the first unknown child, are the children of Marshall and Odie Vardaman.

Marshall Everett Vardaman, born September 27, 1866, in Talapoosa County, was the older son of John Forsythe and Julia (Flynn) Vardaman. In February 1868, when Marshall was not yet two years old, his father moved his family to this site on the old Goodwater-Lineville road where he first built a log cabin and later ca 1880-81, a nicer more permanent home. Marshall was raised on this homestead and was educated by his father who was the first school teacher at Goodwater and later taught at Kellyton.

On October 2, 1887, Marshall married Clara Owen ("Odie") Carlisle, daughter of John Bunyan and Nancy Harris (Craddock) Carlisle of Mt. Olive, Coosa, County. Marshall became a carpenter and mechanic and, after his marriage, brought his bride to live in his father's home. Here were born their first three children, William Kilpatrick, August 7, 1888, Louie Everett, April 5, 1890 and Ada Myrtle, December 25, 1892.

In 1893 or 1894, Marshall moved his family to Texas where he lived for about 8 years before returning to live in Sylacauga, Alabama, in 1902. Marshall and Odie's next three children were