

born in Texas: A daughter Annie Mae, February 18, 1895, who died an infant, and two sons, Jesse Harris (my father), December 24, 1896, and John Eugene, October 21, 1899. About 1904, after the birth of another daughter, Maggie Lucille, October 25, 1902, Marshall again took up residence in his father's home just outside Goodwater, where their last child, Carlisle Thrower, was born August 29, 1905.

After the death of John F. Vardaman in 1906, his widow, Julia, Marshall Vardaman continued to live here with his family until ca 1910 when he moved back to Sylacauga in Talladega County. In 1917 he moved to Georgia, living for a time in Ocilla in south Georgia before moving to Miami, FL, ca 1923.

Marshall Vardaman died while visiting his daughter, Maggie McCranie, in Douglas, (Coffee County), GA, February 20, 1927, and is buried there. His widow, Odie Carlisle Vardaman, who lived for more than 30 years after his death, mostly with her daughter, Maggie in Douglas, died in a nursing home in East Point, GA, June 30, 1960, and is buried with her husband in Douglas, GA. The children:

William Kilpatrick ("Willie"), married (1st) Velma Mooney of Shelby County, March 12, 1911, (divorced 1912); (2nd) Henry Hunter Wildsmith, daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Curry) Wildsmith of Birmingham, March 25, 1921, (divorced 1935) and (3rd) Miss Minnie Belle Chapman, daughter of John William and Dixie (Powell) Chapman, in Birmingham, July 26, 1939. His only issue were twin sons from the 2nd marriage. After a career with the U.S. Post Office in Birmingham, Willie died November 22, 1967, and is buried with his last wife, Belle, who died September 23, 1977, at Forest Hills Cemetery in Birmingham.

Louie Everett, an automotive electrical instructor with the U.S. War Department and WW I veteran, married (1st) Laura Barrett, August 7, 1921, in Ocilla, GA, (divorced 1943) and (2nd) Jessie Evelyn Baldwin, daughter of John Randolph and Elizabeth Katherine (Bazemore) Baldwin, December 27, 1945, in Atlanta, GA. The second marriage produced one daughter. Louie died in Atlanta, March 18, 1965, and is buried with his second wife, who died March 28, 1991, at Westview Cemetery in Atlanta.



Marshall E. Vardaman Family in front of family home near Goodwater

Ada Myrtle, an expert seamstress, married (1st) J.T. Bush, August 18, 1925, in Coosa Co., AL, (annulled) and (2nd) Claude Burlingame, April 27, 1926, in Miami, FL. There was no issue from either marriage. Myrtle died September 26, 1962, and is buried with her husband Claude, who died March 25, 1961, in the Vardaman plot at Douglas City Cemetery in Douglas, GA.

Jesse Harris, an auto mechanics instructor with the Georgia Department of Vocational Education, married (1st) Elsie Lorraine Bell, daughter of Louis George and Ada Estelle "Stella" Calhoun Bell, October 1, 1919, in Millersburg (Holmes Co.), Ohio. They had 4 children: one daughter who died as an infant, another who died while a child and two sons who grew to maturity. Jesse was the first vocational auto mechanics instructor at Bessemer High School, Bessemer, AL, (1934-1943). Elsie died April 2, 1966, in Atlanta and Jesse married (2nd) Mrs. Marian K. Stewart, June, 1968, in Atlanta. He died August 19, 1968, and is buried with his wife Elsie at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Bessemer, AL.

John Eugene ("Johnny"), a career employee with the McKesson-Robins Pharmaceutical Co. in Miami, FL, married Bernice Maxine "Bea" Murphy, November 26, 1932, in Miami, FL. They had two children, a son and a daughter. Johnny died December 15, 1980, in

Miami and is buried with his wife Bea, who died December 19, 1973, in the Vardaman plot in Douglas City Cemetery at Douglas, GA.

Maggie Lucille, married Wesley Martin McCranie, a WW 1 veteran, March 11, 1923, in Worth County, GA. After the birth of two daughters, he died August 4, 1929, and is buried in Douglas City Cemetery in Douglas, GA. Maggie, who never remarried, still lives in Stone Mountain, GA.

Carlisle Thrower, married (1st) Leland Fornell, June 11, 1934, in Douglas, GA, (divorced 1935 - no issue) and (2nd) Elizabeth Lorraine Sweat, July 1, 1940. They had two children, a son and a daughter. He died February 19, 1994, and is buried with his wife, who died five weeks later on March 27, 1994, at Oakland Cemetery, Waycross, GA. Submitted by: O.C. Vardaman, 4731 Olde Village Lane, Dunwoody, GA 30338.

Sources: Family history, personal knowledge and research in census, cemetery and court house records.

Peter Lafayette Vardaman

A very early settler of Coosa County, Peter Lafayette Vardaman came to the Mt. Olive area of Coosa County with his parents at the age of six. Born February 11, 1830, in Meriwether County, Georgia, he was the third son and youngest of nine children of Thomas and Annie (Vining) Vardaman.

Although Peter came to Coosa County in 1836 and was raised and received his education there, for reasons unknown to us at this time he returned to Harris County, Georgia, around 1850 where he was closely associated with the family of his uncle, Joseph Vardeman. Joseph's wife was Rachel Vining, twin sister of Peter's mother, Annie; consequently, Joseph and Rachel's children were Peter's double first cousins and he appears to have been especially close to his cousin, Albert G. Vardeman. The Joseph Vardeman branch of the family came to spell their name with an "e" rather than an "a".

While in Harris County, Peter met and married Susan Matilda Durham, on March 14, 1854. She was born May 18, 1831, in Greene County, Georgia, the daughter of Silas M. and Alvenia (Booles) Durham. The Durham family had moved from Greene to Troup County during the 1840s and then to Harris County early in the 1850s.

After their marriage, Peter and his new bride returned to Coosa County by 1855, prior to the death of Peter's father in 1857. They settled near Peter's brother, Thomas Jefferson Vardaman, on Vardaman Creek in the Mt. Olive Community where Peter would become a prosperous farmer and prominent citizen.

During the War Between The States, Peter enlisted as a private in Company B, of the 34th Alabama Infantry, when it was organized on May 26, 1862, with John M. Slaughter of Coosa County as Captain. Peter served three years as a wagon master and saw action at Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge and, later, was present during the Dalton Campaign and at Atlanta. He was paroled at the end of the War and returned to his family in Mt. Olive.

The Vardaman property was located on both sides of a portion of the road running from Mt. Olive north to Holman's Crossroads (now County Road 66), about one half mile north of Brown's Road (now County Road 49). This portion of road was once part of the "Old Plank Road" that ran from Wetumpka to Winterboro in Talladega County during the 1850s.

Here Peter built his bride a home which, in later years, became the home of his youngest son, A. Rufus Vardaman. Rufus was born, raised and died here. He lived his entire life in this house, bringing his bride there to live in 1887. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in this house in December 1937. The house was destroyed sometime after 1946.

Peter died September 9, 1903, and is buried with his wife, who died March 24, 1913, in the Mt. Olive Baptist Church Cemetery at Mt. Olive.

Of Peter and Susan's five children - all sons, four lived to adulthood while one, Jefferson Davis Vardaman, born in 1861, lived only a year, dying in 1862. He is also buried in the Mt. Olive Baptist Church Cemetery.

The four sons who lived to maturity were:

Walter Albert Vardaman, born in April, 1855, in Chambers County while Peter and Susan were returning to Coosa County. He married Laura Ann Jones, daughter of Young Alexander and Susannah (Lowery) Jones, December 21, 1875 in Clay County. She was born in Tallapoosa County, May 11, 1859. W.A. became a carpenter and lived in Sylacauga before moving to Birmingham sometime after 1900.