

Alvenia (Booles) Durham, March 14, 1854, in Harris County, GA. See separate article on the Peter Vardaman family elsewhere in this book. *Submitted by: Paula J. Vardaman* family elsewhere in Pike, Apt. 5203, Knoxville, TN 37912. Sources: Family history; History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography by Thomas McAdory Owen; records of Guy Vining of Hurtsboro, AL; personal research, etc.

Thomas Jefferson Vardaman

Thomas Jefferson Vardaman was born April 4, 1823, in Putnam County, Georgia, the second son and seventh child of Thomas and Annie (Vining) Vardaman and grandson of Revolutionary War Patriot James Vardaman of Newberry County, SC. When he was about 5 years old, his father moved the family to Meriwether County, Georgia. In 1836, when he was 12 years old, the family moved to Coosa County, Alabama, where T.J. would spend the rest of his life - a life cut short during the Civil War when he was only 41 years old.

T.J. grew to maturity in the Mt. Olive area of Coosa County where his father had settled. He began to acquire land there in the early 1850s and soon became a prominent citizen of that community. He was appointed a magistrate (Justice of the Peace), and performed many Coosa County marriages between 1850 and 1864. He was also a Lieutenant in the local militia. On November 24, 1853, at the age of 30, he married 20 year old Nancy Ann Benton Newman, daughter of Wormsley/Wormley/Wombly Newman and Mittie Benton of Coweta County, GA. Nancy Ann was born February 27, 1833, in Coweta County.

Earlier, ca 1851 in Coweta Co., when Nancy Ann was about 18 years old, her mother died in childbirth and her father quickly remarried (Mrs. Susan Harrison). Nancy then left home and moved to the Mt. Olive area of Coosa County to be near other family members who had previously moved there. Her father died shortly after this second marriage leaving eight minor children orphans. These minor children, 5 sisters and 3 brothers of Nancy, also came to the Mt. Olive area to be raised in the homes of various relatives.



The John Lafayette Vardaman Family in front of home at Mt. Olive

Although Thomas J. Vardaman is believed to have been an opponent of the secessionist movement, he enlisted in the Confederate Army and was in Co. B of the 60th Alabama Regiment. He was later detached to the employ of a Daniel Watts in Talladega County who was manufacturing munitions for the Confederacy. T.J. died July 16, 1864, while serving in the Army. His widow, Nancy Ann, lived another 35 years raising their five children on their farm in the Mt. Olive Community. She died February 19, 1900, and both are buried in the Mt. Olive Baptist Church Cemetery at Mt. Olive. Many other Vardaman family members are buried in this cemetery including T.J.'s parents, Thomas Vardaman who died in 1857 and Annie (Vining) Vardaman who died in 1850. Thomas and Annie are buried without markers.

Their children:

Annie Artamissa ("Artie"), one of twins born February 27, 1855, at Mt. Olive, married William Francis ("Frank") Lambert, November 9, 1871 at Mt. Olive. Frank was born December 28, 1851, the son of Charles W. and Catherine (Levie) Lambert of Coosa County. Frank and Artie lived in Jefferson County, AL. Artie died February 25, 1900, when she was only 46. They had 10 children, 9 of

whom lived to maturity. Frank married a second time, Cora Linderman, March 4, 1901, in Jefferson County and had two more children. Frank died in October, 1937. It is not known where either is buried.

Mittie Melissa, the other twin born February 27, 1855, at Mt. Olive, married Isaiah Moncrief, December 10, 1872, at Mt. Olive. Isaiah was born December 15, 1851, the son of Isaiah (Sr.) and Sarah (Garrett) Moncrief of Coosa County. Isaiah and Mittie who lived in Jefferson County, AL, had 7 children who lived to maturity. Mittie died June 8, 1920, and Isaiah married second, Mandy Hensley, December 4, 1920. Mittie and Isaiah, who died February 24, 1925, are buried together at Chalkville Baptist Church Cemetery in northeast Jefferson County together with other family members.

The two twins were named after their grandmothers, both of whom were deceased before their birth - Annie after her paternal grandmother, Annie (Vining) Vardaman and Mittie after her maternal grandmother, Mittie (Benton) Newman.

Frances Farrin ("Fannie"), born September 12, 1857, at Mt. Olive, married her first cousin - once removed, George Washington Adair, January 9, 1878, at Mt. Olive. George, born December 23, 1854, was the son of Edward Martin Adair and Mary Bruce Vardaman of Clay County. Born in 1832 and only 9 years younger than her uncle, Mary Bruce was the daughter of T.J.'s much older brother, Edwy Lyles Vardaman. George and Fannie had 5 daughters and one son, all of whom lived to adulthood. Fannie died May 2, 1942, and is buried with her husband, who died June 15, 1934, at the Mt. Olive Baptist Church Cemetery in Mt. Olive. This couple lived all their lives near the Mt. Olive Community of Coosa County.

Susan Jane ("Susie"), born October 24, 1860, at Mt. Olive, married William Elbert Shores, son of Wingett Jennett and Minerva Shores, and grandson of Elijah and Frances Margaret "Peggy" (Maddox) Shores, January 13, 1895, in Clay County, Alabama. He was born in August, 1869, in Clay County. They had two children. Susie died August 24, 1943, and is buried with her husband, who died June 22, 1943, at Rock Springs Baptist Church Cemetery, Clay County, AL, without markers.

John Lafayette, born August 26, 1862, Coosa County, married Lucy Priscilla Durden, daughter of Franklin M. and Jane (Yarbrough) Durden, December 28, 1892, in Coosa County. Lucy was born January 22, 1869 in Coosa County. A prosperous farmer and prominent member of his community, John, called "Candy John" for his habit of always carrying peppermint candies in his pockets, lived his entire life on the Vardaman farm near the Mt. Olive Baptist Church. John and Lucy had 2 sons and 4 daughters, the most notable being their son Claude O. Vardaman of Birmingham, noted Chairman of the Republican Party in Alabama from 1942 to 1962 and a strong supporter of General Dwight D. Eisenhower during his two terms as president. John died July 1, 1932, and is buried with his wife, who died December 24, 1944, at Mt. Olive Baptist Church Cemetery.

Pictured is the John L. Vardaman family in front of their home at Mt. Olive, ca 1907. L-R: Tom Frank, Anyne Myrtle, Claude O., Ila Jane, Lucy holding Cora Grace, and John L. *Submitted by: Geneva A. Easterwood, 9242 Dudleyville Rd., Dadeville, AL 36853.* Sources: Family history, personal knowledge and census, cemetery and court house research.

William Kilpatric Vardaman

William Kilpatric ("Willie") Vardaman, the first child of Marshall Everett Vardaman and Clara Owen ("Odie") Carlisle, was born on Tuesday, August 7, 1888, near Goodwater in Coosa County, Alabama. "William" is a name that has been passed down through several generations of Vardamans. Although always called "Willie" by his family and friends. His wife, Hunter, called him affectionately "Scout", a name she gave him early in their marriage which she continued to her death.

We know very little about Willie's early life. He grew up helping his father farm. However, after returning from Texas around 1902 where Willie's father moved and worked for a short period, Willie, age 14, attended high school in Goodwater in Coosa County. During this time he probably lived with his Vardaman Grandparents (John F. and Julia) on their farm near Goodwater; or it may be that the entire Marshall Vardaman family lived with Marshall's parents at the Vardaman farm off and on from 1904 through 1910. In any event, he would have worked and farmed on the family farm when not in school.