

DOWNS FAMILY

F100

Lindsey Warren Downs (1840-1913) was the son of Issac and Elizabeth Wilcox Downs. Lindsey Warren Downs and Sarah Hinton Daniel Downs (1848-1928) were married May 18, 1865. They had eleven children as listed below.

John Lindsey Downs (1867-1926) married Hattie Maxey Downs; Edward (Ed) Warren Downs (1869-1911) married Mattie Anderson Downs; Malissa (Lissie) Elenda Downs (1871-1950) married Robert Clyde Elder; Emma Lou Downs (1873-1927) married William Lee Hall; Samantha (Mant) Rebecca Downs (1876-1972) married John T. Osborne; William (Will) Wesley Downs (1878-1960) married first Lottie Anderson Downs, and later, Floy Fambrough Downs; James (Jim) Asa Downs (1880-1950) married Eva Aycock Downs; Walter Lee Downs (1884-1970) married Mary Cantrell Downs; Annie May Downs (1886-1928) married Emory W. Hall; Sarah Elizabeth (Lizzie) Downs (1889-1971) married Thomas Lowe O'Dillon; Irby Reese Downs (1891-1939) married Mabel O'Dillon Downs.

Lindsey Warren Downs was a Confederate Trooper. The family has records noting that he was given an allowance to feed his horse. The family lived on Flat Rock Rd. in Oconee Co. and farmed. Lindsey Warren was a Methodist preacher and preached at Johnson Methodist Church on Flat Rock Rd. He also became a Circuit Rider Preacher.

Many of the eleven children settled in Oconee Co. where they lived their entire lives. Most became farmers.

Walter pursued his education more than the others and entered the teaching profession. His first teaching was in a one-room school in Oconee Co. He taught in Vidalia, GA for a number of years before going to Young Harris College. After a few years of teaching there, he became president of the college. On his retirement he continued to live in Young Harris, GA, until his death. He is buried in Johnson Church Cemetery.

On Dec. 21, 1884, John Lindsey Downs, the oldest child, married Hattie Maxey Downs (1869-1951). They had eight children, as listed below.

Gay Woodson Downs (1/5/1887-9/3/1903); Eula Hattie Downs (1/17/1890-4/14/1972); Katie Lee Downs (6/17/1892-4/1/1969); Alva Crawford Downs (11/23/1895-1968) married Gladys Fullilove Downs 1919; Lindsey Warren (Spec) Downs (10/25/1898-10/24/1981) married Harriet Colbert Downs 1928; Harvey Osborne Downs (10/7/1901-12/23/1980) married Lizzie Lou Dickens Downs 1925; Robert Hussey Downs (5/1/1904-10/23/1978) married Miriam Spruell Downs 1926; Edward (Ed) Hodgson Downs (5/7/1912) married Jeanne McCommons Downs 1934.

The love of the land was instilled in John Lindsey's children and all of the boys chose to stay in farm-related careers. Katie continued her education and got BA and MA degrees at the University of Georgia. Later she studied at Columbia University and Ohio State University. Katie's first teaching was in Watkinsville, GA. She taught at the State Normal School in Athens for several years before going to West Georgia College in Carrollton, GA, in 1953. There she served as Professor of Education and, later, as Registrar. Katie received many prestigious awards while at West GA. After her retirement in 1959 her influence continued to reach others via her Sunday school class, Delta Kappa Gamma, adult education classes, etc.

Two of John Lindsey's sons spent some time in the army. Alva served in the European theater in World War I, and Ed served there with Gen. Patton in World War II.

John Lindsey Downs and Hattie Maxey Downs are buried in Johnson Church Cemetery. Woodson, Eula, and Katie are also buried there. The other four brothers — Alva, Spec, Harvey, and Hussey — are buried in the Watkinsville Cemetery. Ed, the youngest son, continues to live in Oconee Co. as does Harvey's son, Harvey Osborne (Buddy) Downs, Jr.

by Harriet C. Downs

DOWNNS, SPEC

F101

Lindsey Warren (Spec) Downs (10/25/1898-10/24/1981), who was named for his grandfather, lived his entire life in Oconee Co. He, with his family, moved from Flat Rock Rd. to Watkinsville when he was six years old. Spec was the fifth of eight children of John Lindsey Downs (1867-1935) and Hattie Maxey Downs (1869-1951).

Hattie and Lindsey were loyal and devout members of Watkinsville Methodist Church (now Ashford Memorial Methodist Church). They instilled this in all of their children, as church activities became an important and integral part of the family's life. Even after the Downs became a vital part of Watkinsville Methodist Church, their loyalty and love of Johnson Church continued. For years, Hattie went with the children in the sturkey back to Johnson Church Sunday school which was held on Sunday afternoon. Sunday school was in the morning in Watkinsville.

Alva Downs, Spec's older brother, helped their papa manage the farm. When he went in service in the 1st World War, Spec stepped in to take his place. Lindsey (Papa) owned a 100 acre farm on the Old Bishop Rd. and rented another 100 acres across the road from Mr. Woodson Ashford. Cotton was the main crop. The family had several Negro field hands who



L-R, Spec and Harriet Downs.

worked regularly, but the Downs boys all knew how to work and often worked right along with the hands when needed.

Lindsey and Hattie built a new home on their farm in 1920. Spec lived with the family in the new home from 1920-1922, continuing to help Papa with the farming. Papa was working regularly now for Hodgson selling fertilizer, etc., so more responsibility was put on Spec. The Negro hands called him "little Boss."

For the year 1923, Spec was policeman of Watkinsville. Since he had to live within the city limits, he boarded with Dr. and Mrs. Hodges, who lived across the road from the courthouse. C.G. (Rabbit) Hardgrove and Burney Hale boarded there, too. The three of them remained lifelong friends.

In 1928 Spec married Harriet Colbert. They met in the fall of 1923 when Harriet was a junior at the University of Georgia.

Spec, Harvey (10/7/01-12/23/80) and Hussey (5/1/04-10/23/76), brothers, were charter members of the Watkinsville Civitan Club in 1931. They took much pride and were involved in all projects sponsored by the Civitans.

In 1933 Spec and Harriet built their house on Whitehall Rd. There, Spec lived the rest of his life. Harriet continues to live in this house.

Spec ran a country store for twenty-five years and was a local representative of Bernstein Funeral Home for almost forty years. His first store was in a small frame building on the corner of 441 and Barnett Shoals Rd. (now Buds 'n' Bows). This building was rented from R.E. Fain who lived next door. In order to get started in business, Spec had to borrow six hundred dollars. Later, in 1945, he built a new store a couple of blocks north on 441 near the courthouse (now House's Heating and Air Conditioning).

Camping was always a joy for Spec. Many happy times were spent down at Pearl Aycock's Camp at Wire Bridge on the Oconee River. Later he was given the privilege of using Rowan Elder's camp on the river. The Jack Elders let Spec and Harriet share many good times with them at their shack.

In 1950, a lifelong dream of Spec's was at last fulfilled. He bought a hundred-acre farm on the High Shoals Rd., just out of Watkinsville.

There he raised beef cattle.

In 1953, he built a cabin on the farm near a couple of springs and a creek. Now his love for camping could be enjoyed on into his declining years.

In the early 1960's, Spec's doctor advised letting go of the business, so he reluctantly sold the store; but continued working with Bernstein's and enjoying his cows for a few more years.

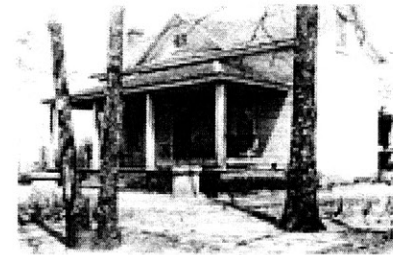
One of Spec's greatest joys in life was pop-calling on shut-ins and elderly friends. His little sacks of soft peppermint candy were trademarks of his visits to both young and old.

Spec and Harriet had no children, but they maintained a close bond with all of the boys who worked with him in the store. They took pride in the successful careers and lives of each one. They were and always will be "Spec's boys."

by Harriet C. Downs

DURHAM, LEONARD PHINEZY AND RUTH ROBISON

F102



Home place of Ruth and Phinezy Durham.

Listed in the 1860 Census Milledge Spence Durham was an MD, age 47. His wife, Elizabeth was also 47. Children were: Milledge L., age 23, trader; Reubin, 18; Henry Clay, 16 (March, 1843); and Paul E., 11. Elizabeth owned 362 acres and Milledge 226 acres on both sides of the Athens Road beginning at Calls Creek.

Henry Clay Durham on April 30, 1875, had a farm one mile north of Watkinsville on the Athens Road. He and wife Emma, daughter of Green R. Duke, had three children then. The home was a large frame house. The farm joined his father's on the east, John S. Robison and William Murray on the north, Robert L. Harris on the west and M.S. Durham on the south and contained 107 acres. Clay farmed and also worked at the Durham mill on Calls Creek.

Children of Clay and Emma were: Clay, Jr.; Willie; Emma Pauline; Dexter; Luckie; Ella Marzie; and Phinezy. Luckie married a Means, Marzie married a Williams, and Phinezy married Ruth Robison on February 10, 1918.

Leonard Phinezy Durham was born 5/8/1876 and died 10/17/1947. Ruth was born 2/28/1886 and died 10/1/1968. Both are buried in the Durham square at the Watkinsville Cemetery.

Phin built their home in the oak grove high on the hill along the Watkinsville to Athens Road. It was considered a modern home with