

**FAMILY OF  
ELIJAH JACKSON DOWNEY  
AND  
ALLIE FLORENCE DAWSON DOWNEY**

Elijah Jackson Downey was born in Cherokee County, AL, on June 15, 1874, and was the son of Ambrose Franklin Downey and Mary Matthews Downey. His father served in the Confederate Army, was captured at Missionary Ridge, Tennessee, and was released in June 1865 at Rock Island Barracks, Illinois. The Downey family migrated from South Carolina and Georgia and settled in Cherokee County. However, in 1899 Elijah moved to Sand Mountain and contracted himself out as a laborer. He left Cherokee County to make a better life for himself. He boarded with the Alexander Williams family in the Pope Community near Rainsville. There he met Allie Florence Dawson and was married on January 22, 1902. Florence was born in the Pope community on July 25, 1883, and was the daughter of Almarine Franklin Dawson and Evaline Frances Dickert Dawson.

Elijah and Florence had four children. Orvin Franklin Downey was born on November 22, 1902, in the Pope Community, died in October 1940 and was buried in Gardena, California. Orvin married Amelia Brown in Birmingham, AL, and had two children: Delores Jane Downey and Barbara Ann Downey. Flora Estelle Downey was born on June 11, 1905, in the Pope Community and died on September 17, 1998. She married Hubert Roy Tumlin and had two children: Mary Gail Tumlin of Scottsboro, AL, and Hubert Paul Tumlin who now lives in the Tumlin home place in Rainsville, AL. The third child was a daughter born and died in 1912, and the fourth child was Joseph Paul Downey born July 14, 1916, in the Pope Community. Paul married Mildred Hicks and had one child, Danny Gerald Downey. Paul died in October 1963 and is buried in Dayton, OH.

Elijah was an industrious and prosperous farmer. He continually bought and sold property in the Pope Community and Rainsville areas. Also, he gave the land on which the Pope School was built about 1909 and was one of the first trustees. In 1918, he bought 89 acres in Rainsville stretching from what is now downtown Rainsville to the Robertson Chapel Methodist Church property, generally along Highway 35. The Downey homeplace in Rainsville was built ca 1900 by Alphonzie Robertson. Unfortunately, it burned in 1970. The house was located next to the existing Roy Tumlin house built in 1939. Elijah and Florence lived in the original house built ca 1900 until their deaths. They were charter members of Broadway Baptist Church in Rainsville and were buried in the church cemetery in 1949 and 1959, respectively. They were both known, not only to the church, but to the entire community. They always helped their neighbors in sickness and death, shared their resources with others, and served as counselors to all. Their grandson, Hubert Paul Tumlin, lives in the Roy Tumlin home place, and their granddaughter, Mary Gail Tumlin, lives on Langston Rd, in Jackson County, AL.