

ROBERT PRENTICE (#492)

Source: Heritage of Putnam County Tennessee – 2008 by Putnam County Heritage Book Committee and County Heritage Inc.

PGS. 178 & 179 – Robbert moved his family to Putnam County, TN in 1865. He was born about 1831 in Smith Co., TN. His parents were Robert J. and Sarah (unknown) Prentice, Robert J.'s second wife. With the formation of DeKalb County in 1838, the Prentices without moving became resident of that county. This was district 8, then known as the Mine Lick area.

His father Robert J. was born in 1777 in Virginia, according to the 1850 Census. It is believed that Robert's father could have been William Prentice of Virginia. Robert J. was an Ensign in the Tennessee Militia from Sevier County on 10-10-1796. His first wife was Ann (unknown). He was in Jackson County by 1820 and was already widowed with eight children. By 1830 he was married to Sarah and there were four children with them. Sarah had born him the two youngest in Smith County. By 1840 the family was in District 8 of DeKalb County. His daughter Magaret married Nicholas Parsley that same year. Two years later on April 9, Robert J. had deeded his son-in-law his 75-acre farm. On 7-3-1843 Robert J. apprenticed out Robbert to Nicholas Parsley. In 1850 Robert J., Sarah, and their two son-in-laws family. Margaret had born Nicholas six children by then. They were Monroe, Louisa, Sylvanius, Luther, Levi, and George.

Robbert was nineteen, attended school, and helped his brother-in-law. His brother John was five years older and labeled an "idiot" on the Census. The Nicholas Parsley family left DeKalb County, after 11-8-1852, and moved to Sharp County, AR. It is believed that Robert J., Sarah and even John died before this time since there is no record of them anywhere after 1850. Robert J.'s known children were Margaret, John, Robbert, Issac, and Jackson.

During these years, Robbert married a neighbor girl named Elizabeth (probably Kirkland). Their firstborn James "Jim" arrived in July 1851 or 1853. The 1860 Census recorded that Robbert was 28; Elizabeth, 27; and James, 7. They resided in district 8 of DeKalb County. He was a tenant farmer. Three years later on October 21, Robbert volunteered for military service at Carthage, TN. he was enrolled for one year of service with the Federal Troops. Cpl. Robbert Prentice was a member of Company C, First Tennessee Mounted Infantry. He served under Commander Wade Jones of Buffalo Valley. He was honorably discharged 12-13-1864 at Carthage, TN. According to his record, his personal description at that time was as follows: age 31 years; height 6 feet 5 inches, complexion-fair; hair-light; eyes-blue.

After returning home on 8-14-1865, Robbert purchased a 50-acre farm from Charles Smith. It was located across the county line in district 13 of Putnam Co., TN. The land was bordered by the Cookeville and Buffalo Valley Road and on the north side of a branch of the waters of Mine Lick near the falls. Two years after the family moved there, Elizabeth born Robbert a second son George W. In 1868 he applied for an invalid pension with the government. He stated that he had received injury to his left elbow when his horse fell with him in a forced march from Gallatin to Nashville, TN. This happened on a dark rainy night. He also stated his eyesight was later damaged in service.

In 1870 Census recorded the value of his land at \$900 and his personal property at \$1000. He was a farmer by occupation, and his sons were 18 and 3 years old. He and Elizabeth both were listed as 39 years old. He signed all of his recorded business, spelling his first name "Robbert".

In 1880 Robbert and Elizabeth were listed as 48 years old each, and he was still a farmer. Their son James had married a neighbor Martha Arabell Wallace 9-21-1870 in Putnam County. They lived close by and had three living children. Robert's youngest son George W. was 12 years old and at home with his parents. Within the next six years, Elizabeth died. On 12-12-1887, Robbert wed a wealthy widow Adelaid Wallace Smith in Silver Point. She was a cousin to Martha, Robbert's daughter-in-law. Robbert's son George W. had married Siletha Jane Anderson in 1887, the daughter of Thomas and Mary Anderson.

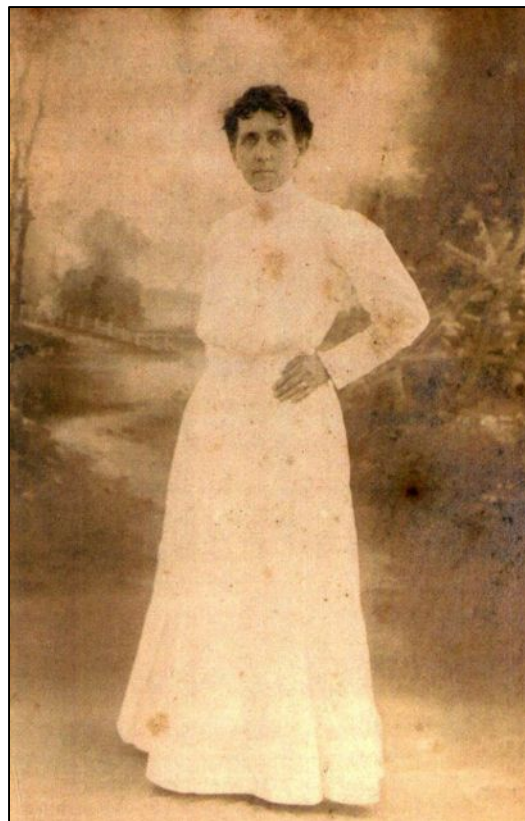
On 7-31-1889, Robbert and Adelaid sold an easement right of way to the Nashville and Knoxville Railroad Company. The easement was 100 feet wide on a 35-acre tract of land. They received \$70 a year. If it wasn't used by the railroad with 5 years, then the agreement became void. Robbert had made a previous deed on 9-27-1887 on a 150-acre farm of his to the railroad for a right of way.

On 1-2-1890, Robbert died from a "disease of his urinary organs," which was on record where Adelaid filed to receive a widow's pension on his military service. Robbert was laid to rest in a cemetery now known as the Christian Cemetery in Silver Point. He had a monument, which read "Robbert Prentice, Corp'l Co. C 1st, Tenn Mt'd Inf." His widow drew his invalid pension she applied for. Adelaid paid George W. \$450 for his dad's property on 7-15-1890, which he had inherited. George W. and Jane had a daughter Effie Lou (1889-1959). She was the wife of Joseph Cronk. George W. died before the 1900 Census. His widow remarried in 1909 Adelaid died 5-24-1923.

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*See Chapter 15 & Wallace files at:

<http://www.ajlambert.com>



Adelaide (Wallace)
Smith - Prentice