

JAMES “MONROE” PRENTICE (1884-1969) (#831)

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

Pg. 301 – James “Monroe” Prentice was born on April 14, 1884, in Buffalo Valley, TN, to James “Jim” and Martha Wallace Prentice. Monroe was the grandson of Robert and Elizabeth Prentice and great-grandson of Robert J. and Ann Prentis.



He married Susan Frances Coleman (b. 1885-d. 1952) on May 8, 1903. She was the daughter of Zachariah Taylor Coleman and Susan J. Stewart Coleman (1851-1891).

(Picture: James Monroe Prentice, courtesy of Fred Prentice Jr.)

Their children were Fred Ray Prentice (5-19-1904-1-11-1977), Arby C. Prentice (3-24-1906-6-15-1988), Mary Eileen Prentice Walker (10-17-1907-9-20-1985), Carmel Prentice Pappas (11-1-1909- 1-6-1934), Paschal “Pat” Prentice (5-24-1911-2-2-1951), James “Henry” Prentice (6-14-1915 – 2-6-1996), and Dulcie Modema Prentice (2-11-1921-8-25-1922).

Monroe and Susan moved to Arkansas by covered wagon before 1904 with Susan’s parents. Monroe left his family in care of his parents many times over the years to go in search of work. He worked as a carpenter and a store-keeper. When he kept a store, his family went with him, but when he did carpenter work, they stayed behind. He also tried to farm, but didn’t seem to have much talent or love for it. He worked in the cotton mills in Atlanta, GA, was a proprietor of a store in Baxter, TN, and ran a gristmill in Silver Point, TN.

Monroe’s second marriage was to Maggie May Delaney on November 2, 1932. They had no children and lived in Silver Point, TN. They had their living quarters in back of the store they ran in TN Monroe died on March 11, 1969, in Silver Point and is buried in Cookeville City Cemetery at Cookeville, TN. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

Another of Monroe’s grandsons (Ronald “Ron” Wayne Walker, Sr.) was told the following story by one of Monroe’s friends not long before Monroe died. It seems Monroe and some friends went swimming in the old mud hole. Suddenly one of the friends got a severe leg cramp and started to drown. All of the friends ran off, scared, except for Monroe, who was much smaller than the drowning friend. Monroe dove in to try and save the friend, but the friend grabbed Monroe and nearly drowned them both. Monroe got to the bank and got the biggest stick he could find and smacked the friend on the head and knocked him senseless. Monroe then swam with the friend to the bank, saving his life. When the friend came to, he was so angry with Monroe and went to get his knife. The friend told Ron that the “wiry” Prentice jumped on his back and bit part of his ear off. After that, they became best friends and remained so for the rest of Monroe’s life.

Story submitted by: Fred Prentice, Jr., grandson 18 Woodland West, Heber Springs, AR.

<http://www.ajalmbert.com>