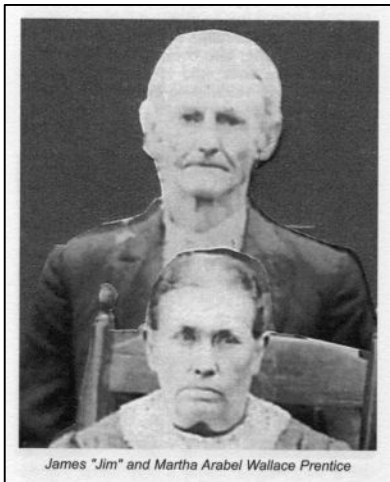


JAMES "JIM" PRENTICE (#491)

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

PG. 178 – Jim Prentice at thirteen years of age moved with his parents to district 13 of Putnam County. His parents were Robert and Elizabeth Prentice. In August of 1865, his father bought 50 acres bordering Mine Lick near the falls. The farm also ran westward with the Cookeville and Buffalo Valley Road. Jim's younger brother George W. was born there in 1867.



James "Jim" and Martha Arabel Wallace Prentice

(Picture: James "Jim" and Martha Arabel (Wallace) Prentice).

Jim's dad Robert was born about 1831 in Smith County to Robert J. and Sarah Prentice. With the formation of DeKalb County in 1838, the Prentices without moving became residents of that county. This was district 8, known then as Mine Lick. This district was called Rock Castle later. Part of this district was taken by Putnam County in 1854.

Jim's father Robert joined the Union Army on Oct. 21, 1863. Cpl. Robert Prentice served under Commander Wade Jones of Buffalo Valley. He was a soldier in the First Mounted infantry of C Company. His service ended on Dec. 13, 1864.

Robert's first wife Elizabeth died between 1880 and 1887. He married a wealthy widow Adelaid Wallace Smith on Dec. 12, 1887, at Silver Point. Two years later on Jan. 1, 1890, he died. His remains were buried at the Christian Cemetery in Silver Point.

In the fall of 1870, on Sept. 22, Jim Prentice married Martha Arabell Wallace, a neighbor's daughter. His bride was born Oct. 5, 1852, to Joseph Josiah "Joe" and Jane Coffee Wallace. Martha had 7 brothers, John B. "Peg Legg" and Pink McDonald were born to Martha's mother. Joe Wallace's second wife Sarah "Sally" Franklin bore Abraham, Jefferson d., Joseph, Hugh, Sr., and William.

Joe's parents were Hugh A. and Nancy Jared Wallace. Hugh A. was born 11-5-1798. Nancy Jared's parents were Joseph and Martha "Aggie" Beard Jared. Joseph Jared's parents were John and Hannah Whitacre Jared. Both families helped settle the area now known as District 13.

The 1880 Census showed the Jim Prentice family in the 13th district near his parents. He was a blacksmith then and had three children. By April 7, 1884, Jim bought 100 acres for \$600. It came from the Hugh Wallace land through a sale by an heir Malinda Wallace Lee. His occupation as farming was listed on the 1910 Census. The 1910 Census also showed he and Martha had 13 children with only 9 living. Two were unnamed and probably stillborn. Two children Johnny and Martha died young. Three of the adult children also preceded their mother in death. Martha died Dec. 6 1919. They were wed 49 years. She was buried at Silver Point, TN. The 1920 Census showed Jim living in district 8. Living with him was his son Lon, a widowed daughter Bettie, and three grandchildren. Jim was a carpenter at this time. Family stated he helped construct some of the finer homes in the Cookeville area. This new home located in Putnam County was one of many properties that Jim bought and sold from 1884 to 1924.

Shortly after the 1920 Census, Jim married widower Amanda Brassell Cox. She had no children by her first spouse Attorney Nathan M. Cox. She was a merchant and owned a general store in Baxter. It was at this point that Jim became a merchant. They sold the store in 1924 and retired to district 20. There they had a home on their farm located on the Buffalo Valley Road just outside Baxter. Jim lived nine more years, dying on Aug. 3, 1933. He was buried in the Odd Fellows Cemetery at Baxter. Amanda joined him in death May 24, 1934.

Amanda wore on her forefinger a ring given to her by one of her brothers. Jim's grandchildren remembered seeing the ring and were told the following story. Two of Amanda's brothers J. L. and "Joe" and GA "Teek" Brassell were hanged for murdering two brothers Russell and J. J. Allison in Nov. of 1875. They were arrested, tried, and found guilty. After much notoriety and many years of appeals, they were hanged on March 28, 1878. Amanda, young and single, rode a horse to the gallows behind her brothers. No other family came. There was a crowd of 10,000 people gathered to witness the event. She hugged her brothers and wept bitterly. One brother put the ring on her finger and begged her to leave before the hanging. She complied with his request. An article about the hangings was covered even in the New York Times on March 29, 1878. A book recording the stories of all the events is *The Brassell Hangings of Putnam County, Tennessee* by Donald E. Spurlock.

Jim's adult children were as follows: Frances Elizabeth "Bettie" (1872-c.1956) married James T. Hamilton and had nine children; Mary J. (1875-1898) married Birdsong Puckett and had one child; Josephine "Josie"



(1879-1918) married first Russell M. Kinnard, divorced and married second William "Bill" Love and had no children; Caroline (1881-1930) married Luster Lee Ashburn and had 8 children; James "Monroe" Prentice (1884-1969) married first Susan Frances Coleman, with whom he had 7 children, divorced and married second Maggie Mae Delaney; Martha Susan "Susie" (1888-1924) married Bradley Carr and had 2 children; Martin Bradley "Brad" Prentice (1889-1981) married first Bryzena Garrison, divorced and married second Gladys Sutton and had a total of 5 children; Lonnie Dowell "Lon" Prentice (1891-c 1950) married first Daisy Webb and had 3 children before they divorced and married second Martha

(unknown); Erma M "Ermy" (1897-1917) died unmarried at twenty.

(Picture: Caroline (Prentice) Ashburn, 1927)

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