

JAMES ROBERT PREAS (1882-1971) was born 20 Jan. 1882 in Bedford County Virginia and came to Texas with his parents. He married Mertie Mae Jones (1884-1916) and she bore him six children - Johnny Y., Nelvin ([1903-1905]), Era, Roy Creston, James Audren, and Francis Orvil.

Parents of James Robert Preas were John Henry Preas and Eliza F. Overstreet of Bedford County, Virginia. Eliza is the daughter of Benjamin Overstreet (German ancestry) and Martha A. Turner (English) both from Bedford County Virginia.

The brothers and sisters of James Robert Preas were - Martha L., Annie Elizabeth, Walter Nugent, Texas Ula, Mack Henry, Joseph Benjamin, Hettie N., George Washington, Charley Wesley, Lucy Myrtle, John William, Edgar Combs, and Era Francis.

The family moved to Delta County, Texas in 1883.

MERTIE MAE (JONES) PREAS (1886-1916) married James Robert Preas in 1899.

The parents of Mertie Mae were William Jones and Mary Elizabeth (Martha) Castine. Mertie Mae died during a flu epidemic in 1916 somewhere along the Gulf Coast (she already had T. B.). She was 32 years old and had 6 children. The cemetery washed away during a storm or hurricane. This cemetery was close to Old Ocean.

Mertie Mae's sisters and brothers were as follows. The first two were born in Missouri, the others were born in Texas, the last four were born in Delta Co.

Francis (male, Oct 1876-), Maud E. (f. May 1881-), Sarah (f. Sept 1884), William B. (m. May 1887), Benjamin H. "Ben" (m. 8 Dec 1889-4 March 1967), Emma L. Jones Gafford (f. 27 March 1892-22 June 1977), Allie B. (f. Aug 1893-31 July 1983) m. John T. Holder, Jefferson C. "Jeff" (m. Feb 1894) moved to Oklahoma and married Olio ??, Bertha E. (7 Nov 1898-) m. Edwin O. Pentecost.

The parents of Mertie Mae were William Jones and Mary Elizabeth (Martha) Castine. William Jones (July 1854 -) was born in Missouri. Mertie Mae's mother was Martha E. Chastine (25 Feb 1857-24 Dec 1934). She was born in Missouri and is buried in the Burkett cemetery, Coleman County, Texas. Williams father was born in Kentucky. Martha E. Jones ran a country store 1/2 mile north of Echo at a place called Jonesville. Later they moved the store to Echo. Martha Jones was often called Widow Jones, but I believe she was divorced and didn't want anyone to know.

Martha Jones was the Post Master and Allie was clerk. In 1907 a Methodist church was organized and charter members were T. D. Edmenson, Mrs. M. E. Jones and daughter Allie B. Jones,

After Mertie Mae died, James Robert Preas married a widow, **Annie (Collins) Hare** (who had a son - Tucker). She bore him three children: Annie Lois, Robbie Eunice, Vera Mae. James Robert's grandfather was **Joseph Preas, Jr.** (1812) married 3 Aug 1835 **Mahala (Bahala) Parker** (1815), daughter of William Parker (English) and (mother not known), in Bedford County, Virginia. **Joseph and Mahala** had eleven children: Charles W., William E., Martha A., Joseph N., James T., Sarah L., John Henry, George H., Amy E., Mahala F., Joel Robert.