

MONGER FAMILY SETTLED AT SNOW HILL

by John Wilson

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Peter Monger joined the migration to the recently opened Indian lands at Snow Hill in 1843. He took the Union side in the Civil War, though his wife's brother, William Snow, was a violent Confederate.

The Monger name is an English one meaning "one who sells." Louise F. Wilcox of El Reno, Okla., who wrote a book on the Mongers, said the Roman name for a dealer in slaves was mango. The family is said to trace back to John Munger, who arrived in Virginia in 1638. In 1650 he received 1,100 acres on the north side of the Rappahannock River in the section that became Lancaster County. This was in payment for transporting groups of settlers to the colony. The descent goes from John to Robert and to Robert Jr., who got a grant of 300 acres on Kerbey Creek north of the Meherrin River in 1745. Robert Jr. died in 1752 in Southampton County, Va. One of his sons, Joseph, was born about 1710. After his first wife's death, in 1769 he married Martha Vick, widow of Richard Vick. Joseph's sons by his first wife are said to include Henry and Jethro. Henry married Elizabeth Harris in 1767 in Southampton County, Va., and Jethro was security for the marriage. Henry Monger made his way to Anson County, N.C., then to Wilkes County, Ga. At Bute County, N.C., in February 1778, Jethro Monger took the oath of loyalty to the state of North Carolina to "support, maintain and defend the Independent Government thereof against George the Third, King of Grate Brittain." His wife's name is believed to be Tabitha. She may have been a Kimball since the names Spell and Peter were used in that family and afterwards in the Monger line.

Henry, who is believed to be a son of Jethro and Tabitha, was born in North Carolina in 1781. He married Alcey Jones in 1803 in Northampton County, N.C., and took Nancy Haun McKinney as his second wife in 1836. She was the widow of John McKinney. Henry Monger made his way to Tennessee to Anderson County, then Roane County. He was in Roane in 1830 when he signed his name "Hennerly Munger" to a petition to form the first school district. He was a slaveowner, including the purchase of "the slave girl" Martha for \$375 in 1842. Henry Monger died in 1855. His children included Joseph John who died of yellow fever in New Orleans, Priscilla, Mary Garland, Peter, James K. Polk, Catherine, Sampson who was a tanner in Kingston, and William.

The Mongers were neighbors with the Snows in Roane County with both living near the Clinch River. The father of the Snows, Thomas, drowned in the Clinch River in 1818 when many of the children in his large family were small. Mary Garland Monger married Fielding Snow and Peter Monger married Elizabeth Jane "Betsy" Snow. Her twin, Emily Snow, married James Monger. Priscilla Monger married Dudley Snow. Emily Monger married William Snow, but she soon died. He was remarried to Mary Waller and moved to the section that was named Snow Hill for his family.

Peter Monger settled about two miles north of Ooltewah on the west side of Snow Hill Road near Wolftever Creek. When the war broke out, he was a delegate to a convention that petitioned that Unionist East Tennessee be allowed to separate from the rest of the state. He was appointed a magistrate by military governor Andrew Johnson. William Snow organized a cavalry company for the Confederates. However, Peter Monger remained loyal. Near the end of the war, Peter Monger had 435 acres valued at \$5,000 and his annual property tax was \$27.50. But he wound up with the nearby farm lands of Confederate sympathizer Thomas Shirley. By the 1866 tax year, Peter Monger had 1,035 acres valued at \$10,000 and his tax had risen to \$60. Shirley returned from refugeeing in Georgia, filed suit and won back his land. Peter Monger died about 1887. Betsy Snow Monger spent her last years with her son, Bird Snow Monger, in Avondale. The other children were Spell, Rufus, Thomas, John, Jane, Alfred King, Elizabeth, Fielding Snow and Maryline.

Spell Monger was born about 1834 in Roane County, and he married Martha Teenor. When he was a young man, he was killed after a ruckus broke out at a dance. A woman had refused to dance with him, and when he tried to disrupt her and her dancing partner the fight began and he was knifed to death. His children were Mary J., A.P. and John.

Thomas Monger married Sarah Jane Elder. Their children were Alfred Robert who married Zerelda Smith, and Nancy Irene who married Arthur Thomas Edwards. John Monger married Nancy Luvenia Matthews in 1866.

Bird Snow Monger married Sally Jane Hess and then Lena Belvin Barnard. He is buried with both wives at the McDonald Cemetery on Snow Hill Road. Bird was a drayman in James County and with Davenport Brothers. His children were William C., Myra, Dollie, Rufus Snow, Gus J. and Bird Orlena. William C. Monger was elected county clerk in James County, but he was accidentally electrocuted in 1906 before he could take office. Rufus Snow Monger married Alley E.M.A. Davis and then Cleopatra Robertson. Gus Monger married May Sular, and Bird Orlena Monger married Ernest Fann and moved to Marietta, Ga.

Alfred King Monger was named for a Baptist minister at Ooltewah. He lived portions of the time at Magazine, Ark., and finally settled at Purcell, Okla. He married Lois Thaney Hicks. Their children were Lillie, Elsie, William Peter, Stella, Alma L., Grover Cleveland, Bessie M., Eva Lucille, Maud S. and Eunice.

Maryline married Thomas J. Bean.

Fielding Snow Monger married Margaret M. Cannon. He bought a farm on Snow Hill Road from the Shirley family in 1919. That property later passed to his grandson, Claude Monger. Children of Fielding Snow Monger were Luther Elvin, Charles L., Elizabeth J., Robert Pete, Mary L. and Berdie. Elizabeth J. married Thomas Griffin Shirley - ending the old Monger-Shirley feud. Robert Pete Monger married Sarah A. Bettis in 1919. Their children included Charles Quinton, James Richard, Claude, Glenn Franklin, Joe Edwin, Lillian Margaret and Raymond Snow. Charles Q. married Joyce Fitzgerald. Lillian married Gordon Gilbert. Raymond S. married Joyce Murray. Claude Monger was living at the old Spell Monger place when artist Ben Hampton painted several popular scenes there, including one titled "Claude's Creek." The old house on the property was torn down in 1973. Claude Monger was killed in a tractor accident in 1994. The property was sold at auction and it was developed for homes and a golf course as the Hampton Creek development by Phil Martin. Raymond Monger remained on Snow Hill Road.

*Read more stories by John Wilson at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>