

THE SNAWDER FAMILY (of the Bear Camp Settlement)

Information from L.L. Hill, 735 S.W. 63 Ct., Miami, FL 33144

The emigrant to this country was Thomas Snawder born about 1764 in Germany. He was a farmer and in Kentucky probably as early as 1789. On March 19, 1790 he married Miss Catherine Sterner (or Starneter) who was also born in Germany about 1765, Catherine and her family were in Kentucky as early as 1785. She had brothers John Sterner of Washington County, Ill.; Andrew Sterner, a War of 1812 veteran of Gibson County, Ind.; Francis Sterner and Joseph Sterner and sister, Elizabeth (Mrs. Abram Thorn). The marriage record for Thomas & Catherine is recorded at the Nelson County Court House in Bardstown, Ky. However, they were probably married in what is now Bullitt County, Ky which was formed from a part of Nelson County, Ky in 1797. They were married by the Rev. Benjamin Linn a pioneer Baptist Minister. Shortly after their marriage Thomas changed the spelling of his name from Schnatter to the Anglicized present day spelling of Snawder. In 1817 he purchased 311 acres on Briar Creek from Nicholas Buckner. The land is situated mostly in Jefferson County, Ky but a small part joined in Bullitt County, Ky. Bear Camp road and Briar Creek run through the property from one end to the other. Thomas died in the fall of 1824. Catherine died about 1845. Thomas and Catherine had at least eight children: John, Joseph, Thomas Jr., Andrew, Peter and (three daughters who's names and who they married are not preserved). There are at least two old cemeteries on the property, the old Wilson-Snawder cemetery on the east side of Bear Camp Road and the old cemetery on the west side of Bear Camp road, surrounded by a rock wall containing about five graves (probably those of Thomas Sr., Catherine, Thomas Jr., his wife, Mary and probably one of Thomas Junior's sons.

1) **John Snawder** born 1791 and died in the winter of 1846-47. He married Miss Elizabeth Arnold March 21, 1810 the daughter of Adam Arnold the founder of Arnoldtown, Ky. She was born in Washington Co., Md. in 1793 and survived her husband by a few years. He was a farmer on 154 acres on Bear Camp Run settlement on branch of Pond Creek which he purchased in 1831. Their children: (1) Ann Snawder married Hiram McDaniel, (2) Samuel Snawder married Nancy Matzenbaughen, (3) Peter Snawder married Sarah Ann Ray, (4) Elizabeth Snawder married Francis Sheely, (5) Catherine married William Smith, (6) Margaret married Anthony Wiser, (7) Mary married David Wilson, (8) Joseph married his first cousin, Mary Jane Snawder (daughter of Peter).

2) **Joseph Snawder** born 1796 and died about August of 1880. He married Miss Luvinah Collins 20 April 1820. She was born in Virginia and survived her husband by a few years. Joseph got control of his fathers land (311 acres) by buying the shares from his brothers and sisters. He made a will May 8, 1879 leaving 34 5/9 acres to each of his children or said child's heirs. They and at least six of their children are buried in the old Wilson-Snawder cemetery. Their children: (1) Thomas married Sarah Ann Lee,

The Snawder Family continued

(2) George P. married Thursa Jane Rarden, (3) Clementine married William Dillon, (4) James married Eliza Collins, (5) Adeline married John A. Stone, (6) Angeline married John Dillon, (7) Ben Franklin a soldier in Civil War (Union) married Sarah Stone, (8) Melvina married John T. Rarden, (9) Peter soldier in Civil War (Union) died of pneumonia 12 May 1865 at the Cumberland Gap (10) William married Barbara Harshfield.

3) *Thomas Snawder, Jr.* born 1798 and died about 1833. Married about 1822 Miss Mary _?_. They lived and farmed on his parents land. Their children: (1) Fountain Snawder married Elizabeth Dooley and (2) Francis Snawder married Alcy D. Burgess.

4) *Andrew Snawder* born 1800 and died in the early 1850's. He married Miss Catherine Pohon Oct. 1823, the daughter of William Pohon a Revolutionary War soldier from London, England. About 1851 he and his children moved to Shelby County, Missouri. Lived on Pond Creek.

5) *Peter Snawder* born 1808. He married Miss Delilah Arnold in 1832. He lived on 122 acres on Pond Creek. Shortly after the Civil War he and his children moved from the state of Kentucky. It is believed they moved to Illinois.