CHAPTER 7

Robert Monroe (1802) Lusk

In 1827 Robert Monroe was listed as an inhabitant of Monroe County, TN. Father John (1776) Lusk was listed as living in McMinn Co., TN, in 1829. In 1825 John sold his land to son, Samuel Lusk in Carter Co., TN. (1)

Robert Monroe was listed on the 1827 Tax List for Monroe Co., TN. Robert first married Elizabeth Nave (Naive) in Monroe Co., TN, about 1829/1830. They had six sons: Matthew, b. 1830; unnamed son, b. between, 1831-1837; John, b. 1833; Hugh Boyd, b. 1835; Nathaniel, b. 1838; and Wiley, b. 1842. Elizabeth died in 1842 possibly in childbirth as the last child was born in the same year. Robert and his family are listed on the 1830 and 1840 Census for Monroe Co., TN. (2)

1830 Tennessee Census

1830 Tennessee Census, Monroe Co.

Name	Males Under 5	Free White Males	Free White Females
		20-30	20-30
Lusk, Robert	1	1	1

Child listed here was probably Matthew, the old st of Robert Monroe's children and his first wife. (3)

1836 Tax List

The 1836 Tax List records show that Robert Monroe still lived in Monroe Co. The tax list indicates Robert Monroe as a "double poll". A poll is the tax on the person owning the land and possibly the double poll included the wife although it was usually just the males. (4)

Robert Monroe may have gone earlier to Arkansas to purchase land as can be seen by the following land records:

Arkansas Land

SNDX NAME ACRES SIGN. DATE LAND OFFICE ACCESS.IMAGE# AUTH.CO L200 Lusk, Robert __ Apr 15, 1837 Little Rock, AR 0030.10 00005680 Apr 24, 1"820 3 STAT .566 Sale - Cash Entry

L200 Lusk, Robert _Apr 15, 1837 Little Rock, AR 0030.011 0000338 72002 Apr 24, 1820 3 STAT .566 Sale - Cash Entry SNDX is the soundex used in the census. It is not known why no acres were listed. (5)

1840 Tennessee Census

1840 Tennessee Census, Monroe Co.

Name	Free White	Males		Fr	ee White Females	
	Under 5	5-10	10-15	30-40	30-40	
Lusk, Robert M.	2	2	1	1	1	(6)

In "reading" this census, we see that Robert Monroe and Elizabeth were between the ages of 30 and 40. They now had five sons. Wiley, son number 5 was supposed to be born in 1842, but the birth date could be wrong on this census or there was another child born between 1831-1837.

After the birth of his last son, Robert Monroe was widowed and remarried about 1845. His children by Elizabeth went with him and lived with him and his second wife, Catherine McNabb. They evidently married around 1845, as their first child was born that year. (7)

Possible McNabb Connection

Another record from *East Tennessee Roots, V5, N2*, has an article in it on Nathaniel McNabb's Bible Records which states that Nathaniel was the son of Baptist and Margaret McNabb, b. 23 Aug 1819, in Carter Co.; moved with parents in 1820 to Monroe Co., TN, and died 23 Sept 1893 in Loudon Co., TN. There may be a relationship between these McNabbs and Catherine. (8)

Robert Monroe left Tennessee about 1849 and settled with his family of boys and he farmed out of the forest in Green Briar Township in Indpendence Co, AR. (9)

This is Lon Leo Lusk's family line--Robert Monroe and Catherine McNabb Lusk. Their first three children were: Joseph, b. 1845- d. 1846; Ozina, b. 1846; and James Joseph Monroe, also known as "Jim Bud", b. 1848 and all were born in Tennessee. (10)

Trip to Arkansas by Flatboat

About a year after Jim Bud's birth, Robert Monroe and Catherine, their three children Robert Monroe's four sons of his first marriage, the Yorks, Harmons, Blevins, McSpadden, and other families went to Arkansas by way of flatboats. The men built the flatboats out of logs and they floated down the Tennessee River that went through Monroe Co., and then south into Alabama. They only floated down the river in the daytime to avoid the rocks, deadwood, etc., that were in the river and to watch for Indians. Indians presented a danger along both the Tennessee and Ohio Rivers. They took what they could pack onto a flatboat--tools, seed, a few animals, and chickens plus their household goods. The Tennessee River then passed through Muscle Shoals and then on up to the Ohio River. They continued to follow the Ohio River to the Mighty Mississippi River to the White River in Arkansas in their flatboats. (11)

Oral family history and family letters said that the trip took weeks--maybe months to get to the mouth of the Mississippi River. It is thought that the trip was made in 1848-49. They met other boats at the mouth of the Mississippi and stayed for many days to rest up from their ordeal and to prepare for the last leg of the journey.

The Lizzie Lusk Letter

A letter was written by-Lizzie (Elizabeth) Blevins Lusk, wife of Hugh Boyd Lusk, son of Robert Monroe to Jeremiah, sometime before her death in 1908.

"This is the name of your grandfather Lusk's name and family that lived in Missouri, Robert was your father: James, Hugh, Bill, Alfred, Wylie (he died on his way to California years ago), Polly, Rebecca, Sarah, Martha. (Robert and others listed are the children of John). Jerry Lusk family came to Arkansas in 1849 the same year that my father came. We all got together on the river a long way above Memphis. I was in my twelfth year. I remember the trip until yet. Many things I never will forget while I keep my senses. Jerry, I am glad I found out where you live. I want you to write and tell me all about that country. I want to come see you in the worst way. Keep this. Uncle Bill Lusk went to Iowa and died there. He never raised but one child. Your cousin John Lusk told Boyd all about the connection when he was down there in the time of he Civil War. Jerry, remember your Grandfather's name was John Lusk Jerry, this is about all that I can tell you. Your Uncle James Lusk settled up the estate in Missouri that much I know. That man that came to your house I guess he was a fraud your grandfather never left any children in Tennessee. They all went to Missouri with him. Except your father and he came to Arkansas about 1849." (12)

Lizzie was probably talking about Greer County, Oklahoma, where Jeremiah and Sallie Ann Lusk went to about 1894. She mentioned that James Lusk, son of John Lusk, settled up the estate. She did not seem to know about the Guardianship papers for Jeremiah and his siblings when the grandfather, John Lusk, died and whose administrator sent Robert Monroe's 6 children \$1,200 in Arkansas. Jeremiah had forgotten about the guardianship and that he had requested that he be given his last \$50 and be released from the guardianship. (13)

Lizzie was a widow at this time and was living in Arleto, Oregon, where she and her husband, Hugh Boyd Lusk, had moved. (14)

WhiteRiver

Robert and his group took their flatboats up the White River where it flowed into the Mississippi River, to Independence County, Arkansas. Land grants for Robert Lusk and for Sallie Ann's father, Andrew York, were obtained in 1830. (15)

1850 Arkansas Census

Robert Monroe and his family were listed on the 1850 Arkans;:IS Census, Green Briar Township, Independence County, on November 7, 1850. Robert was listed as the head of the household, was 49 years old, a farmer and was born in Tennessee. His wife, Catherine, was 30 years old and was also born in Tennessee. Matthew, age 20; Hugh B., age 14; Nathaniel, age 12, and Wiley, age 8 were all born in Tennessee and were the sons of Robert Monroe and his first wife. The next children Ozina, age 4, and Jamey, age 2, were children by Catherine and were born in Tennessee. Jeremiah was 5 months old. (16)

Our Jeremiah was born about May in the year of 1850 and was the first of the children to be born in Arkansas. This census is the only birth record that could be found for Jeremiah. (17)

Robert Monroe settled with his family in the Green Briar Township at the western side of Independence Co. Alderbrook was once a post office near where they lived. Here Jeremiah D. was born in 1850. Seven more children were born to Robert and Catherine, and the last child, Margaret, was born after Robert's death, in 1858. (17)

Children born in Independence Co., AR were Jeremiah D., b. 1850; Elizabeth Jane, b. 1851; Noah Monroe, b. 1852; Mary Catherine, b. 1854; Robert Henry Neil, b. 1855; Sarah Finah, b. 1856; and Margaret, b. 1858. The older children--Matthew, Hugh Boyd, Nathaniel, Wiley, Ozina, and James (Jim Bud) married and settle down in the Locust Grove area.(18)

Tax Lists

The 1853 Tax List consisted of Robert M. Lusk, 1 Poll tax, no section listed, value of horses and mares was \$1.60, value of head of cattle, \$2.22, and total value of property was \$82. If this . property was under the Homestead Act, the property was usually free of taxes until improvements were made. That may be why there is no tax listed before 1853.

Tax List 1854- Poll Tax, 1/4 or 112 Section No. Range acres Total value of Land/Improvement Lusk, Robert 1 SW33 13 7 160 \$480

Another Tax List for 1854 on 14 April 1854 lists only Robert Monroe's name and that there was one Poll Tax.

In 1855, the Tax List lists one Poll Tax and the section and range numbers were the same for those in 1854 and for 160 acres the value was again \$480.

No records were found for 1856, 1857, 1858 or 1859. The next listing was under Catherine's name and the date was hard to read. It could have been 1859 or 1860. The section, township number, range number and number of acres were the same as in 1855. The total value now was \$640. (19)

Death of Robert Monroe

By September 1857, Robert Monroe, at age 54, died, leaving Catherine a widow with 6 children and expecting number seven. On the back of the paper work that came from the Independence County and Probate Clerk is a statement by Margaret Boothby " that the records show that there was no will filed in the Administration and Guardian Books. (20)

Henry Neil was appointed administrator for Robert Monroe's estate according to the papers in the Probate box. (21)

Life of the Family

"From the papers that I received from the Estate of R.M. Lusk, some comments can be made about the household. I have not identified any property owned, but we do know that he had to have cleared sufficient land to raise 300 bushels of corn, 100 bushels of wheat and to have 112 acres of undug potatoes which were part of the inventory at the time of death. The land was not free of obstructions as we can show the purchase of a keg of blasting powder and many trips to the local blacksmith for the sharpening of the plows during the two years before his death. He owned two wagons. His livestock consisted of 5 cows, 2 heifers, and 3 calves, 50 hogs, C{nd 3 horses--a sorrel filly, a colt, and one other. He may have owned two oxen but I am not sure if they are talking about an oxen's yoke or a yoke of oxen.

In the papers was a two-year listing of items purchased on credit from the local dry goods store. From it the following comments are made. At least one person in the household wore glasses. This is based upon the purchases of 19 February 1857 and 20 March 1857 of one pair of spectacles with case.

The education of the children was not ignored Besides a note for \$50 at 8% interest to the Common School Fund, there was purchased on 18 February of a copy of the First and Second Readers. In June, two additional readers were purchased. On 1 July 1857, a dozen slate pencils and a dozen penholders were purchased. On 22 August 1857, 2 copies of Mitchell's Geography were purchased The final purchase relating to education was a Third reader purchased on 29 August 1857.

Catherine and her daughters made much of the family's clothing. On 5 March 1875, a cloth coat was purchased for one of the sons for \$10.00, as was a satin vest for \$3.50. (It is wondered if this was Hugh Boyd Lusk's courting clothes as he married two years later.) On 23 August 1857, they purchased a linen coat for \$3.50, a child's vest for \$2.50 and 2 pairs of socks for 50 cents.

Powder and bars of lead were purchased on occasion. It is assumed that they were for bullets. Whiskey and plugs of tobacco were also purchased. It is interesting to note that a gallon of whiskey cost \$.75, but you had to pay an additional 15 to 25 cents for the jug.

The account closed on 7 September 1857, the day after Robert Monroe's death. One of the last items purchased was one dozen coffin screws.

Robert Monroe Lusk is buried in the family plot in the Locust Grove Cemetery. A new marker has been placed in the plot. Catherine McNabb Lusk, his second wife,

was believed to be buried in the same area, but the grave site has not been identified " (22)

This gives one an insight in the life of the ancestors living in Arkansas before the Civil War. Times were hard.

Farm Sale

The following farm sale occurred on November 7, 1857. The auction account shows that many relatives, neighbors, and friends bought the farm items. Certain animals, crops, and tools were designated to be Catherine's dowry and the rest was sold at auction. The sale gave Catherine about \$600.

"An account of the Sale of the personal property of the Estate of Robert M Lusk, decsd This 7th day of November 1857,

Articles of Purchase	· Amt. Paid
Pitchforks	\$.70
Shovell	.50
Shovell	.50
Pitchfork	.75
1 Diamond Plough	4.00
1 Diamond Plough	6.75
1 Turning Shovell	.50
1 Cropcut Saw	2.50
^	1.10
1 new hand saw ,	1.50
1 lot Augers & Chisels	.65
1 lot extra Augers & Chisels	2.50
2 old Axes	.25
3 hoes	.70
1footAdz	.75
1 Steel Square	1.00
1 Saddle	1.95
1 Scythe & Cradle	3.25
1 Grind Stone	.75
1 set of bench planes	2.75
	Pitchforks Shovell Shovell Pitchfork 1 Diamond Plough 1 Diamond Plough 1 Turning Shovell 1 Cropcut Saw 1 hand Saw & drawing knife 1 new hand saw , 1 lot Augers & Chisels 1 lot extra Augers & Chisels 2 old Axes 3 hoes 1 footAdz 1 Steel Square 1 Saddle 1 Scythe & Cradle 1 Grind Stone

Second Page of Sale		Amount brought over \$33.35
Nathaniel Lusk	112 acre of undug potatoes	9.00
Benjamin Taylor	1 Oxwagon	51.00
William Crawford	11ot 100 bu corn at \$.28 per bu	28.00
J.D. Blevins	1 lot 100 bu corn	28.00
A.J. Dunlap	1 lot 100 bu corn more/less	36.50
Thomas Elms	1 lot 20 bu wheat \$.73 per bu	14.60
R.B. Green	1 lot 20 bu wheat \$.70 per bu	14.10
Wm. Long	1 lot 20 bu wheat \$.73 per bu	14.60
Thomas Elms	1 lot 20 bu wheat \$.75 per bu	15.00
Henry Smith	1 sorrel filly	101.00
Thomas Morgan	1 bald horse	49.50
Daniel James	1 bay colt	50.25

Daniel James	1 lot hogs 10 head first choices	54.50
Daniel James	1 lot hogs 10 head second choice	44.25
Frank Desha	1 lot hogs 15 head third choice	42.00
Henry Smith	1 yoke oxen	44.00
BoydLusk	1 Small yoke steer	15.60
Henry Smith	1 Spotted Heifer	9.50
Lewis Chaney	1 Old Milch cow and calf	13.50
A.J. Dunlap	1 Red Cow & Calf	17.25

Whole Amount of Sale

\$691.65

L James Grisham, Clerk of the sale of the personal property of the Estate of Robert M Lusk deed do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true account of said sale.

Given under my hand This 7th day of November A.D. 1857, James E. Grisham, Clerk" (23)

Catherine's Dowry

The following paper states what was deemed to be Catherine's dowry:

"L Catherine Lusk, widow of Robert M Lusk, decsd, late of Independence Co., AR, do hereby acknowledge myself to have received of Henry Neill as Administrator of the estate of said Robert M Lusk, decsd, this day November 6, 1857, the following described personal property as its appraised value as my dowry the widow of said Robert M Lusk decsd, in the personal estate of the said Robert M Lusk, to wit one mare at eighty-two dollars and fifty cents, one small waggon at fifty dollars, a young black and white cow and calf at fifteen dollars, one red cow and calf at twelve dollars and fifty cents, one large heifer at twelve dollars, one yoke of oxen at fifty dollars, one plough at four dollars, one hull tongue plough at one dollar and fifty cents, scythe and cradle at two dollars and fifty cents, one ass at one dollar, one red and white cow at fifteen dollars, twenty bushels of wheat at fifteen dollars, and fifteen head ofhogs at seventy-two and fifty-eight cents making in all the sum of three hundred and thirtythree dollars and fifty-eight cents which articles amounting to said three hundred and thirty-three dollars and fifty-eight cents I have this day selected as my dowry and do accept the same as my dowry in full in the personal estate of said Robert M Lusk decsd. Attested James E. Grisham Catherine Lusk, widow of Robert M Lusk •.(24)

1860 Arkansas Census

On the 1860 Arkansas Census, Independence County, Green Briar Township, Catherine was listed as head of the household, age 39, a widow and born in Tennessee. Ozina was 14 years old, James, 12 years old and was born in Tennessee. Jeremiah was 10 years old; Elizabeth, 9 yrs.; Noah, 8 yrs.; Mary E, 6 yrs; Robert, 5 yrs.; Sarah F, 4 yrs.; and Margaret, age 2 yrs., and all were born in Arkansas. (25)

The child, Margaret, was born after the death of Robert Monroe. She did not live beyond 11 years of age, as she is not listed on the guardianship papers of 1869. (26)

The older boys of Robert Monroe's and Elizabeth were married and living near Catherine.

Missing Tax Lists

There were missing tax lists between 1860 and 1865. In November 1865 Catherine now paid one Poll tax, had 1/4 section, number of section, township, and range remained the same. Total value

was \$2.00 per acre. She still had 160 acres and the value was \$320. In 1866 her total value was back to \$480. The Civil War may have had something to do with the \$2 an acre and no taxes between 1860 and 1865. (27)

Inheritance and Guardianship Request

On March 6, 1869, Catherine Lusk made the following request for guardianship for six minor aged children:

"To the honorable the probate court of Independence County State of Arkansas Your petitioners show unto the Court that they, Jeremiah D. Lusk, Elizabeth Jane Lusk, Noah Monroe Lusk, Mary Catherine Lusk, Robert Henry Neil Lusk, and Sarah Finah Lusk, are heirs of Law, Robert M Lusk, deceased each of whom are minors over the age of 14 years that they have a small amount of money coming to them from their Grand Father's estate in the State of Missouri not exceeding \$200 each and to obtain the same it is necessary for us tohave a Guardian appointed and we respectfully ask that Wesley J Clark be appointed guardian for each of us:

March 6, 1869 Catherine Lusk, Mother of the above named children. "(28)

The above request by Catherine shows that Margaret had died as she is not listed as one of the children.

The Court did appoint guardians for these minor children:

"STATE OF ARKANSAS, COUNTY OF INDEPENDENCE, KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENT that we, Wesley J Clark as principal and Horace Dunlap, and JacksonS. Trimble as Securities of the County of Independence, STATE OF ARKANSAS, acknowledge ourselves to owe and be indebted to the STATE OF ARKANSAS for the use of Jeremiah D, Elizabeth J, Noah M, Mary C., Robt. HN. & Sarah F. Lusk in the sum Twelve hundred (\$1200) Dollars, for the payment which, well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, as executors, administrators and assignees, firmly, jointly, and severally by these present.

Witness our hand seals this sixth day of March A.D. 1869. The condition of the above Obligation is such: That whereas, the said Wesley J Clark was on this the sixth day of March 1869 appointed by the Court of Probate of the County of Independence State of Arkansas, Guardian of Jeremiah D., Elizabeth J, Noah M, Mary C., Robt. HN., and Sarah F. Lusk Minor under the age of twenty-one years.. Now If the said Wesley J Clark shall duly render, according to law, just and true accounts of his Guardianship, and If the said Wesley J Clark, his heirs, executors or administrators, upon the determination or ceasing of such Guardianship, shall deliver and pay the Minors aforesaid their executors or administrators or any Guardian that may be appointed...

Signed: Wesley J Clark (Seal)

Horace Dunlap (Seal) .

Jackson S. Trimble (Seal)." (29)

Older Brother Appointed Guardian

In 1881, James J. Lusk, older brother to Catherine's minor children was appointed principal with Wesley J. Clark. He requested \$250 for the use of the heirs. Evidently this was all that remained of the \$1200. (30)

1870 Arkansas Census

On the 1870 Arkansas Census, Independence County, Green Briar Township, Catherine, age 49, lived in Dwelling number 25 and were family number 35. Catherine kept house. Ozina, James, and Jeremiah were not listed with Catherine, as they were married. Children still living with

Catherine were Noah, age 18; Mary, age 16 who attended school; Robert H., age 15; and Sarah F., age 14, also attended school. The boys probably worked the farm.

Family number 36 and living with Catherine in the same house was her son, James, age 22 who worked the farm; and his wife Ellen V, age 21, who kept house. Ellen's son, William Emerson, was 2 years old

Living next door to Catherine and James were Jeremiah and Sallie Ann York Lusk in Dwelling number 26, Family number 37. Jeremiah, age 20, worked the farm, and Sarah A., 19 yrs., kept house. (31)

1870-71 Tax List

In 1870 the Tax List changed. Now added were the horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, and a value for each. Catherine had the following:

No. of Horses Value No. of Cattle Value No. of Sheep Value No. of Hogs Value 2 \$100 7 \$50 111 \$211 18 \$25

And in this tax, there was listed a total value of personal property (\$40), and a total value of \$801. At this time, a state tax, a county tax, a school district tax, and a fund tax was initiated. (32)

By 1871 Catherine was down to one horse valued at \$75, 3 cattle valued at \$359, 9 sheep at \$18, and 7 hogs at \$12. (33)

Children Sell Their Portion of Robert Monroe's Land

The Grantee Index 1821-1880 did not indicate a deed recorded to Robert Monroe Lusk. However, in the Grantor Index, Catherine was granted power of attorney to sell Mary C. (Lusk) and D.A. McGhee's 1/8 share of the Robert M. Lusk farm located in the Green Briar area. The McGhees were located in the Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma. Other grantors were found, namely Jeremiah D. and Sally Lusk, in March 1875, selling their 1/8 share, as did Thomas and Ozinna (Lusk) Massey to Noah M. Lusk, who then sold their 118 along with his 118 to the same grantees, Issac Reed and Charles P. Burr. Robert Henry Neil and Clarissa Lusk sold their 118 interest to Isaac Reed and Charles P. Burr. (34)

The 160-acre farm was determined to be located in the SW part of Section 33, township 13N and Range 7W. The farm had 160 acres. (35)

- 1. Dewey L. Lusk, descendant of James J. Lusk; *Inhabitants of Monroe Co., TN, before* 1830
- 2. George Boyd Lusk
- 3. 1830 Tennessee Census Monroe Co., p. 133, AIS 3 Search 3: US 1830-1839, #47 of 84
- 4. 1836 Tax List, Monroe Co., TN
- 5. Arkansas Land Records CD253, 1st ed., Screen 1801 of 3282, GRS 3.04, c1995, Banner Blue Software, National Archives
- 6. 1840 Tennessee Census Monroe Co., p.21
- 7. Barbara Wagner
- 8. East Tennessee Roots, V. 5, No. 2, Salt Lake City Family History Library, April 2003
- 9. Tom Lusk in a letter to Cal Lusk, about 1940
- 10. Barbara Wagner
- 11. Lynn McSpadden, in conversation with Barbara Wagner, Mountain View, AR, 1990
- 12. Lizzie Lusk Letter
- 13. Guardianship papers, Independence Co., AR, Documents, Will Box 35, Probate, Old Independence Regional Museum, Probate Court, Independence County, Batesville, AR; Lou Westfall, and Dewey L. Lusk
- 14. George Boyd Lusk
- 15. Arkansas Land Records
- 16. 1850 Arkansas Census, Independence Co. Green Briar Township; Latona Elms, Kevil, KY
- 17. Barbara Wagner
- 18. Barbara Wagner
- 19. Tax Lists, Independence Co., AR, Salt Lake City Family History Library, April 2003
- 20. Lou Westfall, information sent to Barbara Wagner, in 1986, a descendant of Mary Catherine, daughter of Robert Monroe.
- 21. Administrator's Affidavit, Box 35 Probate Court, Independence Co., AR, signed by Henry Neil in Sept. 1857.
- 22. Photos and letters from Sarah Lusk Matthew, June 1994
- 23. Dewey L. Lusk
- 24. Catherine Lusk's dowry
- 25. 1860 Arkansas Census Independence Co., Green Briar Township
- 26. Barbara Wagner; 1865, Independence Co., AR, Salt Lake City Family History Library, April2003
- 27. Tax Lists 1860-1865, Independence County, AR, Salt Lake City Family History Library, 2003
- 28. Guardianship papers, Independence Co, AR, County Clerk, 1981; Dewey L. Lusk; Lou Westfall
- 29. James J. Lusk, guardian, Guardianship papers,
- 30. James J. Lusk, appointed Guardian, Probate Court
- 31. 1870 Arkansas Census, Independence County, Green Briar Township
- 32. 1870 Tax List, Independence Co., AR, SLCFH Lib, April2003.
- 33. 1871 Tax List, Independence Co., AR, SLCFH Lib, April 2003
- 34. Independence Co., AR, Deed Book, H-2, p.633 and p. 622.
- 35. County Clerk's response to George Boyd Lusk, Independence Co., AR, 1995