

HULEN LESTER

- 2i. Hulen Lester, b. May 6, 1795(M), d. June 27, 1888(M), bur Lester Cem #1, m. June 3, 1819(M), Eleanor (Nellie) Simmons, b. Feb 12, 1801(M), d. Sept 28, 1881(M), bur Lester Cem #1, dau of Charles & Eleanor (Boothe?) Simmons; 10 children.

Hulen Lester was the youngest son and ninth child of John & Catharine Lester.

He had an unusual first name and if we could know the background of this name, we would know more about the history of the family. So many different spellings of the name can be found in the records of Montgomery and Floyd counties that it is difficult to determine the original spelling but it is believed to have been Heulings or Hulings. As previously stated, records show that the Lesters and Heulings lived in the same community in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and adjoining New Jersey in the 1700s. Some of them intermarried. This was a name which appears to have had a special meaning to John Lester as he gave it to his youngest son. Could it have been his mother's maiden name? The name was carried on in the family by Hulen's older brother John and his sister Catherine who each gave it to their first sons, and by later generations. As for Hulen himself, the name appears most often as it is written here. This is the spelling in the census records, in the signature to his will, and on his tombstone, though it must be borne in mind that Hulen did not read or write and only made his mark.

Hulen Lester and Eleanor (Nellie) Simmons were married June 3, 1819. Nellie was 18 and Hulen was 24. Nellie was the daughter of Charles & Eleanor Simmons (see SIMMONS, p. 209). This was the third marriage between the Lester and Simmons families.

Hulen was the only one of the eleven children of John & Catharine Lester to establish his home in Montgomery County. He built a two-story, white frame house (date unknown) on Little River, about a mile below his parents' log home and below the first Lester Cemetery. The house stood between the road (present Rt. 602) and the river and was not far from the confluence of Brush Creek & Little River. His youngest son, Charles D. Lester, inherited this property and lived there. After Charles D.'s death his son Letcher Lester lived there until 1913 when the house burned up and all its contents - no trace of its location can now be found.

Hulen Lester was a man of property and large land holdings. At one time he owned more than 1000 acres of land. He gave each of his children a farm or the equivalent. Son James died at the age of 15 and was too young to receive any property; daughters Catharine and Ellen were given money and personal property. All his children lived near him - Harvey later went West.