

John W. Lester was 18 when his father died. In a few months he also joined the Confederate Army and was away three years. He returned on leave several times to work the crops.

Abner Sr. and Rachel lived with their grandchildren and were supported and cared for by them. Rachel was often away visiting her children and spent much of her time with her daughter Elizabeth Thompson.

In July 1867, Fleming Lester "persuaded" his father to live with him in Jacksonville. Abner Sr. remained with Fleming until his death at the age of 88, in April 1871. Rachel died six months later in October 1871 at the home of her daughter Elizabeth. (Much of this account was given by Barbara, Abner Jr.'s oldest daughter, in a deposition.)

The disposition of the land owned by Abner Sr. became a matter of dispute in the family and had to be settled by a suit in Chancery Court.

- 3a. Fleming W. Lester, b. 1812, d. Nov 1, 1885, m. (1) Oct 20, 1840(F), Permelia Ann O'Bryan, b. 1816(Bedford Co), d. Jan 6, 1859(F), of consumption, dau of William & Rhoda O'Bryan; Fleming m. (2) Nov 28, 1861, Elizabeth Prillaman, b. April 18, 1834(Franklin Co), dau of Samuel & Permelia (Harbour) Prillaman; 4 children, first marriage: Emeline, Lucretia, Caroline, Susannah; 2 children, second marriage: Florence, William.

Fleming Lester was a land owner; he bought property in the town of Jacksonville in 1842 and became a leading figure in the affairs of the town. His house stood on Cross Street (North Locust Street) and the cabinet shop stood in the corner of the yard next to Oxford Street. Many years later this house became the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph E. Proffit. After their tenure it was torn down and the site became a parking lot. He was a skilled carpenter and cabinet maker, he took an important part in working on the second courthouse (1851) and in other construction in the town. He was appointed Deputy Sheriff in 1840 for 2 years; again in 1853 for 3 years; elected Constable for 2 years in 1864. He sold his property in town and bought a large acreage on Beaver Creek; in 1878 he became deranged. After his death his wife Elizabeth and 2 children left Floyd County and moved to Franklin County near her people.

Children of first marriage:

- 4a. Delilah Emeline (Emma) Lester, b. 1844(F), m. Nov 23, 1862(F), Edward C. Hatcher, wid, b. 1826 (Bedford Co), son of Thomas F. & Caroline N. Hatcher; 11 children.

The Hatchers lived somewhere north of town, probably near Beaver Creek. Edward Hatcher was not a landowner. They disappeared from the county after the 1880 census and it is assumed they moved to another county or state.

- 5a. Burgoyne B. Hatcher, b. 1863(F).  
 5b. Mittie E. Hatcher, b. 1864(F), m. Dec 25, 1883(F), Charles T. Simmons, b. 1859, son of Otey T. & Rachel Simmons.  
 5c. Cora Lee Hatcher, b. Feb 8, 1865(F).  
 5d. Edie Hatcher, b. Oct 15, 1866(F).