

- 3c. Ira H. Lester, b. Oct 14, 1823(M), d. March 18, 1878(M), bur Lester Cem #1, m. Sept 28, 1852, Amanda Ann Guy, b. April 29, 1831, d. June 13, 1902(M), bur Lester Cem #1, dau of John & Nancy Guy.

Ira Lester, second son and third child of Hulen & Nellie Lester, married Amanda Guy, who was the oldest of eleven children. Her parents, John & Nancy Guy were then living in the Pilot section of Montgomery County; both parents died within a few years after her marriage. (Guy family information obtained from Elmer E. Guy, Elizabeth, NJ).

Ira Lester was a skilled carpenter and cabinet maker, as well as a farmer. He and his brother Harvey served an apprenticeship and learned the trade from their first cousin, Fleming Lester, in Floyd.

In 1862, Hulen & Nellie gave Ira & Amanda 93 acres of land on present-day Clarence Road, adjoining the farm of Ira's brother Joshua. Ira bought some additional acreage. Their first home was a small frame house (2 or 3 rooms) but with a growing family they soon needed a larger home. Ira built a large white frame house for the family (date unknown) beside the original cottage. They must have been proud of their handsome new home: 8 rooms finished with pine paneling, an oak staircase, a porch all around the house, a large attic. In 1914 when it was advertised for sale by his son Albert, it was described as: "Farm of 127½ acres of land, 3½ miles south of Riner, known as Ira Lester's home place. Eight-room dwelling, barn and all necessary out-buildings, plenty of water, large old and young orchards, also pear, peach and cherry trees, grapes and berries, and lays well." The house is still standing but has not been occupied for a number of years and has been allowed to deteriorate.

Ira died in 1878 at the age of 54, cause of death unknown. The three oldest sons, Monroe, George, Charles, married and left home before their father's death. Albert, fourth son, lived at home and took over the farm, and his mother continued living there until her death in 1902. Albert bought out his brothers and sisters and became sole owner. In 1914 he sold the farm to Moses I. & Elizabeth Dickerson for \$5500.

Ira and Amanda Lester had 13 children. The 7 sons were big men and were known as the "fighting Lesters." The 13 children were born in 20 years, 6 were born in the first 7 years of their marriage, 3 died in infancy, 10 lived to adulthood: Monroe H., John W., George H., Charles M., Albert M., Tazewell H., Martha A., Elizabeth A., Floyd J., Cephas Bunyan, Ira Elmer, Sallie Amanda, Mary B. V.

- 4a. Monroe Harvey Lester, b. May 13, 1853(M), d. July 20, 1919(M), bur Surface Cem, Riner, m. March 1, 1877(F), Susan O. (Biddie) Mitchell, b. Dec 1853(F), d. after 1920, in Idaho, dau of John & Lydia Mitchell; 3 children.

After their marriage, Monroe & Biddie lived on a farm adjoining his father's. In 1885, they bought a farm in the Laurel Ridge section of Floyd County where they lived until 1902, when they sold the farm to Joseph & Mary Nixon Howell and moved to Riner. After Monroe's death, Biddie was living alone in Radford in 1920. She moved to Idaho to be with her children and died there.