

John Lester named his youngest son Hulen, and William, son of John's brother Abner, named his oldest son Abner Hulen. The name has been spelled in so many different ways that it is impossible to determine the original spelling but it appears to have been Heulings or Hulings. The name seems to have had a special significance for the Lesters and if we knew the connection we would probably know more about the history of the family.

Other data found by Betsy Owen may furnish a link in the brothers' migration from Pennsylvania to Montgomery County. Records in Loudoun County, Virginia, show that in 1763, and for a few years following, John, Abner and Samuel Lester, as well as William, Thomas and Peter Lester, were residents of the county, taxpayers and slave holders. The coincidence of the names "John, Abner, Samuel" is significant and unusual. John Lester who came to Montgomery County would have been 12 years old in 1763 and not listed as a taxpayer but he could have been living with his brothers. There was another older John Lester in the county who may have been the one listed with Abner and Samuel. He continued to live in Loudoun County. It is also significant that their names disappeared from that county about the same time that they appeared in Botetourt County.

John, Abner and Samuel Lester migrated to Botetourt County, Virginia, about 1770 and settled on the frontier in what is now Wythe County. John Lester's name appears in 1771 in a list of Botetourt County tithables taken by Walter Crockett in the area of present Wythe County (New River Tithables, 1770-1773. Compiled by Mary B. Kegley, 1972). Samuel and Abner Lester are listed "in the Lower District of New River" (Ibid).

On March 13, 1771, John Lester was appointed Constable in place of William Pruett (Botetourt County court minutes).

In February 1774, a survey was made for John Lester for 175 acres of land in Fincastle County at the blue spring, the head of Cripple Creek, a branch of New River, part of the Loyal Company grant (Platt Book A, p. 247, Montgomery County records).

In 1774, John Lester was a soldier of the Fincastle County Militia in Col. Campbell's Company, and was paid 15 shillings for 10 days service (Soldiers of Fincastle County, Virginia, 1774, compiled by Mary B. Kegley, 1974). This part of Virginia, at that time was the Western Frontier and was under heavy attack by the Indians. It was a time of constant threat and stress for the settlers. Militia leaders in every community were called on by Governor Dunmore to enroll and equip their men preparatory to a march toward Point Pleasant. John Lester and his brother Samuel Lester fought in the Battle of Point Pleasant (Report of the Point Pleasant Battle Monument Commission to the West Virginia State Board of Control, 1927), called by historians the first battle of the Revolution. Their names are inscribed on bronze tablets at the base of the Point Pleasant Battle Monument. John Lester's service to his country began at this early date, October 10, 1774, and preceded his Revolutionary service by three years.

He was a soldier in the War of the Revolution, serving as Private in Captain Daniel Trigg's Company of Montgomery County Militia. John, Abner and Samuel Lester were sworn into service between September 5, 1777, and April 1, 1778 (original report of Stephen Trigg, Senior Captain of Montgomery County