

WILLIAM S. LESTER

2e. William S. (Tugg) Lester, b. Oct 7, 1785(M), d. 1865(F), bur Simmons Cem #1, m. Jan 10, 1809(M), Rebecca Simmons, b. March 5, 1790(M), d. 186-, bur Simmons Cem #1, dau of Charles & Eleanor Simmons; 12 children: Champ, Charles, Byer, Susannah, John, Preston, Delilah, Boston, Gordon, Ballard, Rebecca, William S. Jr.

William & Rebecca Lester lived on Gap Branch, a branch of Beaver Creek. At that time there was a road connecting present Rt. 730 (Beaver Creek Church Road) with present Rt. 705 (Beaver Creek Road). It intersected Rt. 730 at William Simmons' house near the present Beaver Creek Church which did not then stand at its present location. William Lester's big log house was on that connecting road, within a few miles of William Simmons' home. William Lester married Rebecca Simmons and William Simmons married Rhoda Lester, brother and sister married brother and sister.

There is a tradition in the family that William Lester performed an outstanding act of valor during the War of 1812 by swimming across a body of water to deliver a message. I have not been able to confirm this - perhaps someone can contribute the story.

William Lester had the largest family of any of the children of John & Catharine Lester: 12 children and 88 (known) grandchildren. The two oldest sons, Champ and Charles, each had 16 children. Four sons (Champ, Charles, John, Preston) moved to West Virginia, one (William Jr.) moved to Oklahoma, three sons (Boston, Gordon, Ballard) died without issue, one daughter (Susannah) moved to Indiana, one daughter (Byer) to Patrick County, two daughters (Delilah, Rebecca), lived in Floyd County. As far as can be ascertained, there are no descendants of William Lester now (1995) living in Floyd County.

William Lester died "possessed of considerable property." He left no will. The property was divided among his children but the settlement of the estate was mismanaged and there was dissension among the heirs. The estate eventually had to be settled by a suit in Chancery Court.

William Lester died in 1865 at the age of 80. Rebecca died a few years later, exact date not known. They were buried in Simmons Cem. #1, according to their great-granddaughter, Irene McCormick; no stones.

Only the main outline of William Lester's family is given here. Members of his family have done extensive research and possess more detailed information than I have been able to collect. Everett McGrew supplied the family of Byer Lester McAlexander, Margaret Blatz contributed the family of Preston Lester, and Irene Wilson McCormick (now deceased) furnished the family of William Lester Jr.