

## RHODA LESTER

2h. Rhoda Lester, b. 1793(M), d. ca. 1865(F), probably bur Simmons Cem #1, no stone, m. May 5, 1812(M), William Simmons, b. Feb 3, 1788(M), d. Dec 28, 1851(F), bur Simmons Cem #1, son of Charles & Eleanor Simmons; 10 children: James L., Sarah, Mary, Adeline, Calvin L., Harvey D., Erasmus M., Rhoda L., William C., Permelia H.

(see Simmons, p. 209)

William and Rhoda Simmons lived on the north side of Wills Ridge. Their home stood on present Rt. 730, at the site of the present Beaver Creek Church.

William Simmons inherited land from his father, Charles Simmons, and he acquired additional acreage. At his death he owned considerably more than 1200 acres of land.

In his will he left each of his five sons (James, Calvin, Harvey D., Erasmus M., William C.) 226 acres of land or the equivalent, and cash to three daughters then living (Ada, Rhoda, Permelia). He directed that the remainder of his estate be sold and equally divided among his ten heirs. To Rhoda, his "beloved wife," he left one-third of his entire estate for her natural life, to be divided among all the children after her death.

William Simmons left to his youngest son, William C. Simmons, the homeplace and tract of land containing 155 acres. Rhoda Simmons continued to live there after William's death, with son William C. and daughter Permelia (Molly). William C. Simmons died in 1862, eleven years after his father's death, and in his will he left "one-half of my tract of land, including the buildings that my mother, Rhoda Simmons, now lives on," to his sister Permelia H. Simmons. The other half of his land he left to be divided among his brothers and sisters, and out of that tract he directed that one acre should be laid off for a graveyard. Presumably this is the graveyard on a hill opposite the present Beaver Creek Church and in which William Simmons and other members of the Simmons and Lester families were buried (this is designated Simmons Cemetery #1). It was originally called the Pine Tree Cemetery. A house now stands beside that site and the cemetery has grown up in trees and bushes.

After William Simmons' death in December 1861, his property was divided and sold according to his instructions. Four years later, on May 20, 1865, "the remainder of William Simmons' property" was sold by his executor. One must assume this was the third of the estate left to his wife Rhoda which was released by her death.