

FOREWORD

My original intention, when I became interested in the Lester family, was to research and publish the family of Hulen Lester, youngest son of John and Catharine Lester and my great-great-grandfather. In the course of my searching, many, many new Lester names, previously unknown to me, came to light. As they were identified and put in their proper places, other branches of the family began to take shape and as I endeavored to fill in the missing names, eventually my project expanded to include the entire Lester family originating in Montgomery and Floyd counties.

John Lester I had eleven children. His descendants were likewise prolific and had large families. The size of the family took on major proportions and became almost unmanageable. This collection has over 3000 names and later generations have had to be limited, for which I am sorry. It could be broken up into several books but has been kept together in its entirety as I believe that the overall picture of the whole family is of value and interest.

The Lester family history is not yet complete and the search could go on and on but this is as far as I can go at the present time. I will be glad to hear from anyone and will be appreciative of additions and corrections.

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The numeral in front of each name represents the generation in the family to which the individual belongs, beginning with John Lester I as the first generation. The letter after the numeral indicates the order of birth of the individual in his immediate family. For example: "2i. Hulen Lester," the figure 2 shows that he is of the second generation, and the letter i (ninth in the alphabet) shows that he is the 9th child of his parents. "4c. George Lester," shows that he is the 4th generation, and the letter c shows that he is the third child in his family, etc.

Abbreviations:

Floyd County (F)	Patrick County (Pat Co)	m. - married
Montgomery County (M)	Radford (Rad)	n.m. - never married
Roanoke County (Roa Co)	b. - born	bur. - buried
Pulaski County (Pul Co)	d. - died	ca. - about

In many instances the usual punctuation has been omitted to save space.