

I, Nina H. Champion, am descended from William Lester and his wife Isabella (Lapsley) Lester, both of whom were born in Virginia, through George Washington Lester, one of their sons and my grandfather, who was born in Adair Co. Ky. April 8, 1807.

George W. Lester went to Pike Co., Illinois when he was 21. In Illinois Feb. 4, 1836 he married Rhoda Johnson, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth (Star) Johnson, who was born May 1, 1818 in Lawrence Co., Illinois, but whose home was then in Schuyler Co., Ill.? (Four children were born in Pike Co.)

In the spring of 1844 they moved to Davis Co., Iowa, to land they homesteaded. There my mother, Mary Caroline Lester, seventh of their eleven children, was born Nov. 10, 1855.

Mary Lester married Cyrus Harbour, born June 25, 1851, in Davis County, Iowa. His parents were Jesse Harbour and his wife Elizabeth (Berry) Harbour, who had been married March 15, 1840 in Champaign Co., Ohio.

Cyrus Harbour and Mary Lester were married in Bloomfield, Iowa, April 3, 1881.

Three of their children, Nina, Beulah, and Mabel, lived to grow up.

I was born December 15, 1890, in Davis Co., Iowa, near Belknap. On Sept. 13, 1921 I was married to George J. Champion in Los Angeles, California. He was born in Paris, France, June 23, 1891.

Beulah Harbour married Leavitt B. Cadwell in Santa Barbara, Calif. And Mael Harbour married Carl R. Hartwell in Orange, Calif.

Our parents had moved to California in March 1901, when I was ten years old..

I here state that in July, 1921 I visited relatives in Davis County, Iowa, and while there collected some genealogical information.

I stayed several days in Bloomfield with a cousin, Emma Reeves, and her mother, my Aunt Belle (Lester) Owens, who was with her at the time.

Aunt Belle had been named Isabella Lester for her grandmother in Kentucky. Aunt Belle was then eighty-two years of age with eye-sight dimmed by cataracts but with her mind clear and alert. (She lived to be 86 yrs., 8 mo., 20 days)

For two evenings after supper Aunt Belle and I sat alone together on the porch and she told me about family history of the Lester's and Johnson's. As she talked I wrote down the information she gave, and she suited her pace to mine.. Sometimes I used her exact

words. At all times I was recording the information itself accurately, because I was a graduate of Stanford Univ., 1915, with my major in History and trained for years in historical accuracy.

And, as she was my oldest maternal relative then living and I would never see her again, we both took pains.

Isabella Lester, my Aunt Belle Owens, was the second oldest of the children of Geo. W.. Lester; she had taught school before she married; she was born in Pike Co., Ill. and she had later spent one winter in Ill (1864—1865) near the family of her Uncle John Johnson attending Normal School at Eureka, Ill. In Illinois or in Iowa she had known many of her uncles and aunts

Two sons of William and Isabella Lester, the brothers John and George W. Lester, raised their families in Davis Co., Iowa. So Aunt Belle was well- informed on family history.

Much information I put down in chart form as she spoke because, for me, it was a natural way and the clearest way. I used the symbol “ = “ for marriage. Aunt Belle gave names of children in order of age and I put them down that way in chart form, beginning with the oldest. I scribbled because I was writing on my lap.

One chart which I made in July, 1921, as Aunt Belle talked was this:

William Lester = Isabella Lapsley

Etc.,

Later I inserted a notation of two additional names given by the wife of Cam Lester. Cam Lester was Alexander Campbell Lester, of Bloomfield Iowa, son of John Lester and grandson of Wm. And Isabella Lester.

This statement explains the Photostat of my original notes made in July, 1921. The date of the chart---1921---appears in the 2nd line above the chart.

STATEMENT PREPARED AND NOTARIZED FOR ERMA DROZ'S
GENEALOGIST RELATIVE IN KENTUCKY. This woman then gave Erma all her
information on the Lapsley—Wood family.

NOTARIZED AUGUST 15, 1963 IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

The foregoing information from my Mother, Nina Harbour Champion, was handwritten out on paper in draft form, showing corrections & changes in wording, I found in box with other family papers.

My firm belief is that she copied it in completed form as she intended, and then it was notarized, as she wrote on the draft form. Notarized form was then sent to Erma Droz in Iowa...

Ninarose Mayer, daughter (75 yrs.old)
Altadena, California
May 16, 2009