

Lester Construction

April 24, 2021, 12:00 noon. We met with L.G. Wilford in Ashtabula, Ohio at a local Outback Steakhouse. We sat in the parking lot off west 42nd Street.

L. G. had been contacted by a representative from the S.G.L.. It was by chance that his family name came up during a cross match check. This led to Wilford being contacted. L.G. agreed to tell his story as best as he could recall.

Nicholas Lesteadakis, was born 1860 somewhere in Greece, area unknown. We know he was 16 years old when he left Greece. In 1876 we know he took work in Germany as a logger. In order to fit into this new life, he changed his name to Linclos Lester. He kept this name until he died in 1959 at 99 years old. Linclos married in 1880 to Clarinda Meyer. She was 15 years old. Linclos raised a son George and made a life for him and his family in the forests of Germany. His son George Lester, born about 1880, had a different path to take. George married Elizabeth Taylor in 1910. Her family worked in the coal mines in Germany. Here George worked until he became too old to keep up the workload. He retired from the mines in 1977 at the age of 89. George died in 2006. He was 118 years old. His wife Elizabeth died in 1992. She was 98 years old. She was the rock the family held onto.

George and Elizabeth had three sons. Lloid Lester, born around 1913 and still lives in Wurzburg, Germany. As of March 2021, he is 108 years old. James Lester, date of birth unknown, with his younger brother George came to America about 1959 to make a new life. James worked in Pikeville, Kentucky as a coal miner. He fell victim to Black Lung in 2010.

The other son George found his vocation in construction. George, born in 1939, came to Ashland, Kentucky. He took his first job as a laborer. He built homes, bridges, roadways and had a career that spanned from Kentucky to Ohio even into Pennsylvania. George had at one time the largest roofing crews in the Ohio valley. Today in 2021 at 82 years old, he still runs a crew of twenty men.

George is well aware of his Stavrosian roots. He and his nephew still work on their Stavrosian family history. It was not a surprise to L.G. when he was approached by the S.G.L. for his story. Wilford has helped George keep the celebration of First Life. It had been held at Ice Creek Lake across the Ohio River south of Ironton, Ohio along Route 52.

The Lester name (bloodline) is found in Pikeville, Kentucky as it is in Ashland. It is also in West Virginia in Huntington and Salt Rock. It's also in Ironton, Ohio. We found the line in and around Portsmouth going up to Columbus. Several were located in Connellsville with a few in Pittsburgh PA. It was evident that the Lester clan had been quite fruitful.

The family name is known for its construction capabilities. Their range of professions cover, law enforcement, politics, education, the ministry along with some long-haul trucking. As the family grows, they reach out into more diverse career fields. George started a Stavrosian chapter of families in Grundy, West Virginia. He has since moved it to Ashtabula, Ohio.

Wilford is the records keeper of George's office near Harbor Ave. and E. 23rd street. He would not give the exact location as it was requested by a local Pastor to keep the area secret. They don't want gawkers or sightseers trespassing at the office.

George will be 83 soon. He said he might get out of the contraction business. He would very much like to become a Pro Bass fisherman. No matter what George gets into next, I'm sure he'll have fun doing it. His health is good. His spirits are high, he has a fantastic outlook for his future.

After our interview L.G. invited us to George's office to see his work. I was humbled by all the work he has compiled on this Stavrosian family. On their next First Life Celebration to be held at Geneva - on - the - Lake in July, I hope to be there with them.

S.G.L. Researcher
C. Smith
G. Stavros

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