

Dr. Granville Lester, Surgeon, F&S, TN Infantry, CSA

- 1821 September 25: Granville Lester was born to James H. Lester and Mary Duke "Polly" McConnico in Tennessee.
- 1830 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Giles County, TN showed James Lester as head of household. The Lester family owned eight slaves which consisted of four men and four women.
- 1840 The U.S. Federal Census enumerated in Giles County, TN. James Lester was listed as head of household. The Lester family owned fifteen slaves, which consisted of six males and nine Females.
- 1850 September 16: The U.S. Federal Census was enumerated in Bedford County TN and showed a thirty-year-old Granville was living with the Gill family, and Granville was listed as a physician.
- 1859 August: Dr. Lester donated money to help build the M.E. Church in Mulberry, Tn.¹
- 1860 June 25: The U.S. Federal Census was enumerated in Lincoln County, TN and showed a thirty-eight-year-old "G.B. Lester" was living with the Wordan Family, Lester was listed as a physician and his personal value was listed as \$1,500.
- 1861 May 18: Lester enlisted in the Confederate Army at Camp Harris, TN for a period of twelve months. He was mustered into the Co. L, 8th TN Volunteer Infantry for a length of twelve months.
- 1862 February 11-16: Dr. Granville was captured at the Battle of Ft. Donelson.

¹ Fayetteville Observer, Fayetteville, TN, Thursday, 25 Aug 1859, pg 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

List of Five (5) Surgeons & Assist
 Surgeons transferred to Fort Delaware on
 November 23rd 1864 in charge of
 Lieut. L. R. Marshall Co. D. 88th S. I.
 Regt. { Order Brig. Genl. W. H. Merrill.

M. Murray	Surgeon	7 mo. C. S. A.
Lester	Brig. M.	1 mo. B. M. S. I.
Lester	Granville B.	33 Len. Supt.
Loudendale	Brig. M.	" " 19 " "
Shaw	Henry D.	" " 10 " "

May 21: Granville Lester was recommended for assistant surgeon and was confirmed June 1, 1862.

October 8: Dr. Granville wrote a letter to the Fayetteville Observer, describing the battle in Perrysville, KY and detailing a casualty list. This task often fell to the surgeons and the chaplains of regiments.

² U.S., Civil War Prisoner of War Records, 1861-1865, Selected Records of the War Dept...image 23505 (accessed ancestry.com)

ARMY LETTER.

HD QTS 8TH TENNESSEE REGT, }
Camp Knoxville, Tenn, Oct. 25. }
N. O. Wallace, Esq.,

Editor of Fayetteville Observer:

SIR—On the 8th inst., at Perryville, Ky., was fought one of the hardest battles we have had since the beginning of the late war. In that fight the 8th Tennessee took a very active part, being led into one of the most important parts of the field. Just as every thing seemed to be giving way on our side, Col. Moore was ordered up, and with a bold dash, leading his men, and with a yell that struck terror in the lines of the enemy, they gave way and we drove them two miles, when night set in and we were masters of the field.

My object is to give you a list of the casualties, for the benefit of our friends at home:—

Co. A—Capt. Buford commanding. Wounded, Sergt J. W. Dillon, severely; Corpl T. W. Madden, severely; Private J. A. Buie, slight.

B—Capt. Chowning. Killed, John C. Watson—Wounded, H.

M. Johnson, severely; T. H. Huffer, do; T. V. Davis, do; N. S. Garret, do.

C—Capt. Blake. J. G. Brewer, slight; N. B. Scott, do; Sergt W. A. Gilbert, severe.

D—Capt. Shook. Killed, J. L. Hudson—Wounded, Sergt H. C. Brown, slight; A. L. Walker, severe; W. J. Bland, do.

F—Capt. Cullum. Killed, Jno. Bell—Wounded, L. Copeland, slight; Wm. O'Neal, do; Wm. Mathews, do.

G—Capt. Sadler. L. B. Law, severe; N. B. Young, do; J. V. Minor, do; W. A. Fox, slight.

H—Capt. Davis. Killed, J. H. Burris—Wounded, Lt. Mayberry, slight; Frank Kendall, severe; T. J. Boone, do; David Delk, slight; G. W. Peterman, do.

I—Capt. McAfee. Wounded, W. H. Mauldin, slight.

K—Capt. Thrash. Wounded, H. L. W. Boone, slight; P. A. Rabey, do; Adjt John Tolly, severe.

I cannot refrain from speaking complimentarily of the officers and men in gallantly discharging their whole duty, thereby placing the 8th Tennessee Regiment in high repute with the commanding officers, who witnessed their bravery on the field.

I am, sir, very respy,

Your obt srvt,

G. B. LESTER,

Acting Surgeon, 8th Tenn. Regt.

³ Fayetteville Observer, Fayetteville, TN, Thursday, 13 Nov 1862, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

November: When he returned to the army after being captured and released, Dr. Granville brought his slave Robert "Bob" to serve him.

November 14: Granville is appointed as an assistant surgeon by the Confederate Secretary Of War.

1863 March 10: Shelbyville, Granville appears as Capt. Assistant Surgeon on a report of staff officers in Polk's Corps, Army of Tennessee, with the remarks "8th Tennessee."

April 14: A letter was written from a camp near Tullahoma, TN to a Mr. N.O. Wallace by another 8th TN surgeon, Dr. S.E.H. Dance. He described the issues the medical staff was having distributing medications.

Much good might be accomplished in this way. We have not the glass-works in the Confederacy and can not get the bottles and vials except from our homes, and unless we obtain them our soldiers in the field will suffer for the needed medical supplies. We have the medical supplies at the Purveyor's office, but can not have them distributed to the different commands without bottles.

Nearly all families have bottles and vials throwing around and being broken up—save them by all means, for I fear we shall have to call on the people of Lincoln county again before the war is over, and I am sure I have ever found them ready and willing to do all in their power to aid the soldiers who are battling for the rights of the South. Lincoln county has almost fed the Army of Tennessee for four or five months, and if she only has half a chance will be ready to winter the army again next winter.

Go it, my Lincoln—bad name, but a good county, true and loyal to the South.

⁴ Fayetteville Observer, Fayetteville, TN, Thursday, 23 Apr 1863, pg. 2 (accessed newspapers.com)

1864 June 1: Lester was delivered to Richmond, VA and appears on a register of appointments of The Confederate States Army.

August 26: Atlanta GA, Lester appears on a report of staff officers and acting staff officers in Cheatham's Corps, Army of Tennessee.

November 7: Tuscumbia AL, Lester appears on a report of staff officers and acting staff officers in Cheatham's Corps, Army of Tennessee.

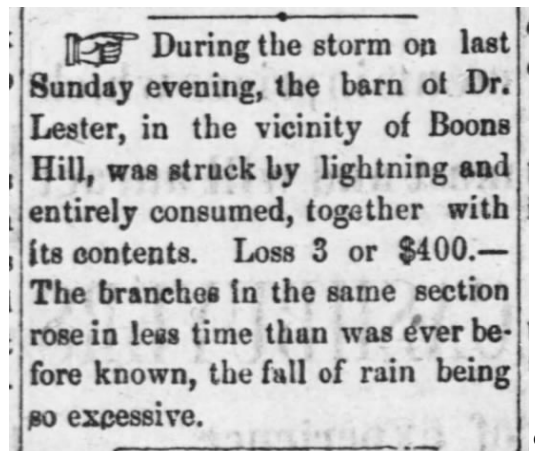
November 30: The 8th TN Infantry fought at the Battle of Franklin in Carter's brigade, Brown's division. Dr. Lester stayed with the wounded at Franklin and was captured by the U.S. Army. A nephew, C.M. Buchanan later remembered "Bob Lester brought home Dr. Lester's horse and pony after he was captured at Franklin, Tenn, and sent north."⁵

1865 Granville Lester is paroled in Greensboro, N.C. with remarks "not assigned to duty since the resignation of the army."

1867 December 19: Granville Lester married his wife, Rebecca S.C. White in Lincoln County, Tennessee.

1870 June 18: The U.S. Federal census was enumerated in Lincoln County, Tennessee and showed a forty-eight-year-old "G.B Lester" was the head of his household living with his wife, Rebecca, and their three children, two daughters and a son. Granville was listed as a physician.

1871 April 30: Dr. Lester's barn was struck by lightning and destroyed.



During the storm on last Sunday evening, the barn of Dr. Lester, in the vicinity of Boons Hill, was struck by lightning and entirely consumed, together with its contents. Loss 3 or \$400.— The branches in the same section rose in less time than was ever before known, the fall of rain being so excessive.

⁵ Tennessee Confederate Pension Applications, Lester, Robert (accessed familysearch.org)

⁶ Fayetteville Observer, Fayetteville, TN, Thursday, 4 may 1871, pg. 3 (accessed newspapers.com)

1880 June 2: The U.S. Federal Census was enumerated in Lincoln County, Tennessee and showed a forty-eight-year-old "G.B. Lester" was living with his wife, daughter, and step-daughter, Granville was listed as a medical doctor.

1894 November 13: Granville died and was buried in Lincoln County, Tennessee.