

Marjorie Bigwood Lester

Marjorie Triplett Bigwood was born 29 May 1882 in Eddyville, Lyon County, Kentucky. Her parents were Martin T. Bigwood (26 Mar 1839 – 11 Apr 1887) and Fatinia Sills Tharp (30 Nov 1842 – 21 Jan 1926). Martin Bigwood was murdered on April 11, 1887 by Hy Skinner and Jim Gatewood when Marjorie was not quite five years old.

Marjorie married John David Lester (24 Jul 1848 – 5 Feb 1929) on September 8, 1897 when John was almost fifty years old. John Lester was the son of James Lester (4 Sep 1810 – 10 Feb 1896) and Mary Jane Applegate (9 Feb 1816 – 2 Mar 1901). John had been married before and had several children from that marriage. He and Marjorie had three children of their own; Marguerite (25 Apr 1898 – 13 Mar 1994), Thomas Martin (23 Dec 1899 – 5 Mar 1980), and John David (4 Mar 1905 – 22 Jan 1995). In the 1900 U.S. Census, the Lester's were living in Lyon County, Kentucky and his occupation is listed as "Farmer." By 1910, the family was living in Hardeman County, Texas and both John and Marjorie are listed as lawyers. So, sometime between their marriage in 1897 and their move to Texas, both studied law and were admitted to the bar. In fact, Marjorie had the distinction of being the second woman admitted to the bar in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

In 1910, the Lester family was living in Hardeman County, Texas and by 1920, John and Marjorie and their sons and daughter had relocated to Corpus Christi, Texas. John died February 5, 1929 in the Masonic Home in Arlington, Texas. He is buried in the Keystone Cemetery, also maintained by the Freemasons, in Arlington.

In 1930, Marjorie and son John were living in Houston, Texas where she was employed by an oil company. She had told me that following the death of her husband she moved to Houston to take a position in charge of corporate records for United Gas Pipeline, which position she held until her retirement in 1947.

In 1957, Marjorie was appointed to the Governor's Committee on Aging and in 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower appointed her to the White House Conference on Aging. She was involved in ministry with seniors in The Texas Conference of The United Methodist Church and in her home parish, Bering Memorial Church throughout the last years of her life. Marjorie B. Lester died May 26, 1983 at the age of 101.