

The Lane Family

as related by Scarlett Teel

The Milford Heyman Lane family moved to Clanton and Chilton County on Friday, October 13, 1939 from Lane's Chapel Community near Roanoke, Alabama and it was said that they moved "the cat and the broom!" The family consisted of Mr. Milford Heyman Lane and his wife, Mrs. Annie Jim Chewing Lane from Milltown, Chambers County, Alabama and two sons, Mr. Wilford Heyman Lane and Mr. Robert D. (Bobby) Lane. Mr. Milford Lane came to Clanton as the manager of the ASCS office, which was a federal organization that managed the cotton program and other duties. The office was located in Clanton in 1939 on Second Avenue North above Levine's Department Store. Mr. Lane at first managed only the Chilton County cotton program but later due to a shortage of hands during World War II went on the road to work the program for seventeen counties. Later Mr. Milford Lane moved his family to Montgomery, Alabama to become the State Director of Alabama State Soil Bank but returned to Clanton in his retirement.



Mrs. Johnnie Lane

Also coming to Chilton County in the early 1950's to live and work was

a young lady by the name of Johnnie Martin. Miss Martin was a native of Greensboro, Alabama, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John R. Martin. Miss Martin was employed in 1950 by the Chilton County Board of Education to teach school at Thomas Junior High School on U.S. Highway 31 South. In June of 1952, Miss Johnnie Martin began in Chilton County to work with the Alabama Extension Service. Mrs. Annie Lane had been introduced to Miss Johnnie Martin and thought Johnnie would be a proper young lady to introduce to her son, Bobby Lane, recently returned from the military. Mrs. Lane did just that and was right for soon Johnnie Martin and Bobby Lane became engaged and married. This couple went on to make a difference in Chilton County each in their own unique way.

Mr. Bobby Lane mixed and sold paint for Sherwin Williams Paint Company to make a living while he played with wood working tools that he had collected for years. Finally in 1962, Mr. Bobby Lane quit his job of paint mixing to go into a business called Lane's Red Barn on U.S. Highway 31 South to pursue his love of working with wood. For awhile he also sold and installed chain link fencing on the side but decided to stop that and concentrate only on woodworking. Mr. Lane and his working partner of more than 35 years, Mr. Roy Jones, have turned out many beautiful woodworking projects for many people in and around Chilton County as well as many other areas of the country. He has crafted projects using "free" wood to all kinds of beautiful

expensive woods. He has designed and crafted pulpits, alter chairs, collection plates and communion rails for several Chilton County churches. In honor of Mrs. Johnnie Martin Lane, an alumnae of Judson College and the "woman his mother had picked out " to be his wife, Mr. Bobby Lane designed and built a beautiful lectern of cherry wood inlaid with Bolivian cherry to donate to Judson College in 2000. Around Chilton County there are armoires, stair and step railings, chairs, tables, bookshelves, kitchen cabinets, turned vessels, boxes, bowls, carved geese and numerous tiny carved shoes that were crafted by Clanton's craftsman, Mr. Bobby Lane.

While her husband created beautiful woodwork, Mrs. Johnnie Lane worked throughout Chilton County to educate women on the proper methods of food preparation and preservation, sewing, cooking, and learning skills to economically run a household through her home demonstration programs as well as spots on WKLF Radio. She worked with hundreds of 4-H'ers over the years and at one time oversaw thirty-two Extension Homemakers Clubs for Chilton County and tirelessly promoted the fruit and vegetable industries of the county. Mrs. Johnnie Lane retired in January 1983 after being recognized by her co-workers of the service

organization for which she worked for 31 years throughout the county. Even now many places she goes, one of her grown up 4-H'ers readily recognizes her and tells her, "Miss Johnnie, I know you from when I was in 4-H!"

When the Lane family moved to Clanton in 1939, Mr. Wilford Heyman Lane was eighteen and already enrolled as a student at the University of Alabama. He returned to Clanton and worked as a delivery truck driver for Royal Cleaners owned and operated by Mr. Ralph Bryan and his wife, Mrs. Beatrice Bryan. Mr. Wilford Heyman Lane enrolled in Howard College (later known as Sanford University) but World War II came along and he joined a U.S. Navy sponsored program called V-12 where as a part of this program he drove students to and from Howard College for flying lessons at Birmingham Airport. Later he was sent to Millsap College for several months so he could be in college and also in the military. Soon he went to Parris Island and became Second Lieutenant Wilford Heyman Lane before he was sent into combat with a ammunition company and later sent to China. After his service time he re-entered the University of Alabama; worked for the CIA and taught history and his specialty, Spanish American history, at Virginia Tech for thirty years. He died on January 20, 2002.



Bobby Lane and Roy Jones

Clanton's First Lady

Mary Jo McGowin Patterson was the first wife of Alabama Governor John Malcolm Patterson and was his wife while he was in office: 1959 - 1963. Her grave site is in Clanton City Cemetery. She was born October 15, 1928 and died June 12, 1985. They were married in Chilton County, October 19, 1947. They had three children.



The Clanton Rebels: 1945-1946

The Clanton Rebels were established by Mr. John Ed Scott of Clanton in about 1945-46. They played for dances at Clanton City Hall where admittance was 50 or 75 cents. The band went a couple of times to play for dances at Marion Military Institute. Their specialty was the Big Band sound of Glenn Miller and Tommy Dorsey. "Moonlight Serenade" was their theme song. Their first night on stage was at Clanton City Hall. The curtain opened to show each band member dressed in either a tux or a suit sitting by their band stand with their initials. Members of the group were Mr. John Ed Scott playing the clarinet; Mr. Connie Mack Connell and Mr. W. B. McCain on the saxophones; Mr. James Davenport on the guitar; Mr. Joe "Jr." Mullins on the piano; Mr. Lamar Deloach on the trombone; Mr. Lamar Smith and Mr. George McCain playing the trumpets; with Mr. Hubert Thompson playing the drums

Upcoming Dates

Clanton Library, 2:00 PM:

- Sep 27, 2013 – CCGS Quarterly Meeting - BRING OLD PICTURES AND RECIPES!.

**CHILTON COUNTY
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY**
P. O. BOX 703
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