

# *Rev. James Sterling Lane*

*1818 - 1882*



Article published in the Texas Christian Advocate (A similar article was published in the 1883 Minutes of the Northwest Texas Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, p. 43-44.)

## MEMOIR OF REV. JAS. S. LANE.

Rev. James Sterling Lane was born in Morgan County, Georgia, Feb. 27, 1818. He was converted and entered the Georgia Conference in his nineteenth year. In 1845 he moved to Talladega, Alabama, and was a member of the Alabama Conference for twenty years. He moved to Texas in 1865, and in 1866 was elected President of Pierce and Paine College, Louisiana. In 1870 he became a member of the Northwest Texas Conference and was appointed to the Owensville Circuit, where he traveled in 1871. he was the Principal of the Owensville High School in 1872.

In 1873 he was sent to Georgetown Circuit and was instrumental in awakening the interest of the citizens of Georgetown and vicinity in the proposed location of the Southwestern University to Georgetown. In 1877 he was on the Salado and Davilla Circuit. In 1878--9 he was on the Gatesville Circuit; in 1880 and 81 on the Round Rock Circuit, where his health failed. Reared in the lap of Methodism, Bro. Lane was entirely Methodistic in belief and opinion, experience and habit. His experiences in grace were clear and satisfactory, which caused him to urge constantly from the pulpit the same privilege to all believers.

Though not himself demonstrative in religion, he seemed greatly to enjoy its emotional manifestations in others, and as it often accompanied his preaching he felt he had failed in the pulpit unless he discovered that his congregation felt moved by his preaching.

Bro. Lane was highly entertaining in the social circle, possessing in an unusual degree the art of instructive conversation. Though he talked much, he talked wisely and well, never foolishly, and never talked nor hinted at a topic that was not scrupulously pure or good.

He was an ardent Southerner, and in his manner and habits and conversation bore himself as a polished gentleman of the old school. He scorned all baseness and knew nothing of the basis for sordid gain. Unselfish, devoted, and zealous, he gave himself wholly to his work, and from his pureness and gentleness of character he made many ardent friends.

His health had been precarious for several years, but he was zealous for his master's cause and believed himself stronger than he really was. His looks deceived his friends, his clear dark eyes and raven black hair making him appear younger and stronger than he really was. He was at the session of the last Conference, and, contrary to the judgement of several of his friends, he received an appointment to Granbury. He came home to arrange for the entrance upon his work there but was taken down soon after reaching home. He said at the beginning of the attack that he would never get well. He sank to the surprise of his friends, steadily and rapidly, and fell asleep in Jesus on Dec. 8, 1882.

F. A. Wood

A. A. Allison

From History of Methodism in Texas. 1937. Macum Phelan. Mathis, Van Nort and Company, Dallas. p. 229. "Concerning James S. Lane we have more information. He was a native of Georgia, where he was born in 1818. In his nineteenth year he entered the Georgia Conference; soon transferred to Alabama, and served twenty years in the Alabama Conference. He moved to Texas in 1865, but in 1866 was chosen president of Pierce and Paine College in Louisiana. In 1870 he became a member of the Northwest Texas Conference, serving Owensville circuit, Owensville High School, Georgetown circuit, Salado, Gatesville, and Round Rock. While on the Georgetown circuit he exerted himself to stir up the citizens on the location of the new central university, and he canvassed the county and raised a large share of the subsidy which brought Southwestern to Georgetown. His last appointment was Granbury, but he was not able to enter upon his work, death overtaking him on December 8, 1882. He was a useful man, a good revivalist and a good pastor."

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From "Methodist Preachers in Georgia", p. 304

LANE, JAMES STERLING (2-27-1818 - 12-8-1882) (MEC) (MECS)

b. Morgan Co., Ga.; cvt. age 19; was instrumental in the establishment of South-Western University [<http://www.southwestern.edu>]; m/1844 Ann J. Homes [Jones] (1828 - 10-27-1851) b. Walton Co., Ga., d.

Talladega, Ala.; m2/11/2/1852 Florida H. Audas nv Audes (d. 1-29-1859) d. Talladega, Ala., dau. of T. H. and Henrietta Audas.

[Back to Obituaries page](#)

[Back to Holland-Woodward Genealogy](#)