

ALEXANDER LANE

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY CARBONDALE'S
FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALE STUDENT



FROM SLAVERY TO FREEDOM: THE LIFE OF ALEXANDER LANE,
EDUCATOR, PHYSICIAN AND ILLINOIS STATE LEGISLATOR, 1860-1911

THE SIMON REVIEW

PAPER #29

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PAUL SIMON

PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE

DEAR READERS,

OF
ILLINOIS

The story in this booklet would make a pretty good movie.

The life of Alexander Lane is an inspiring tale of a man who rose from life as the son of a slave in the post-Civil War South to become a leading Chicago physician and Illinois state legislator.

It is fitting that the two institutions responsible for formally educating him – Southern Illinois University Carbondale and Rush University Medical College – come together for a moment to celebrate his life and renew our commitments to helping others like him on their educational journeys and lives of service to others.

In honor of Dr. Lane, the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute commissioned Dr. Pamela Smoot, clinical assistant professor at SIUC, to research and tell this story. To honor his memory, the Institute is also raising funds to endow an annual internship program for an SIUC student, preferably from a minority group, to work with the Black Caucus in the Illinois General Assembly on issues of concern to the community.

Enjoy the film.



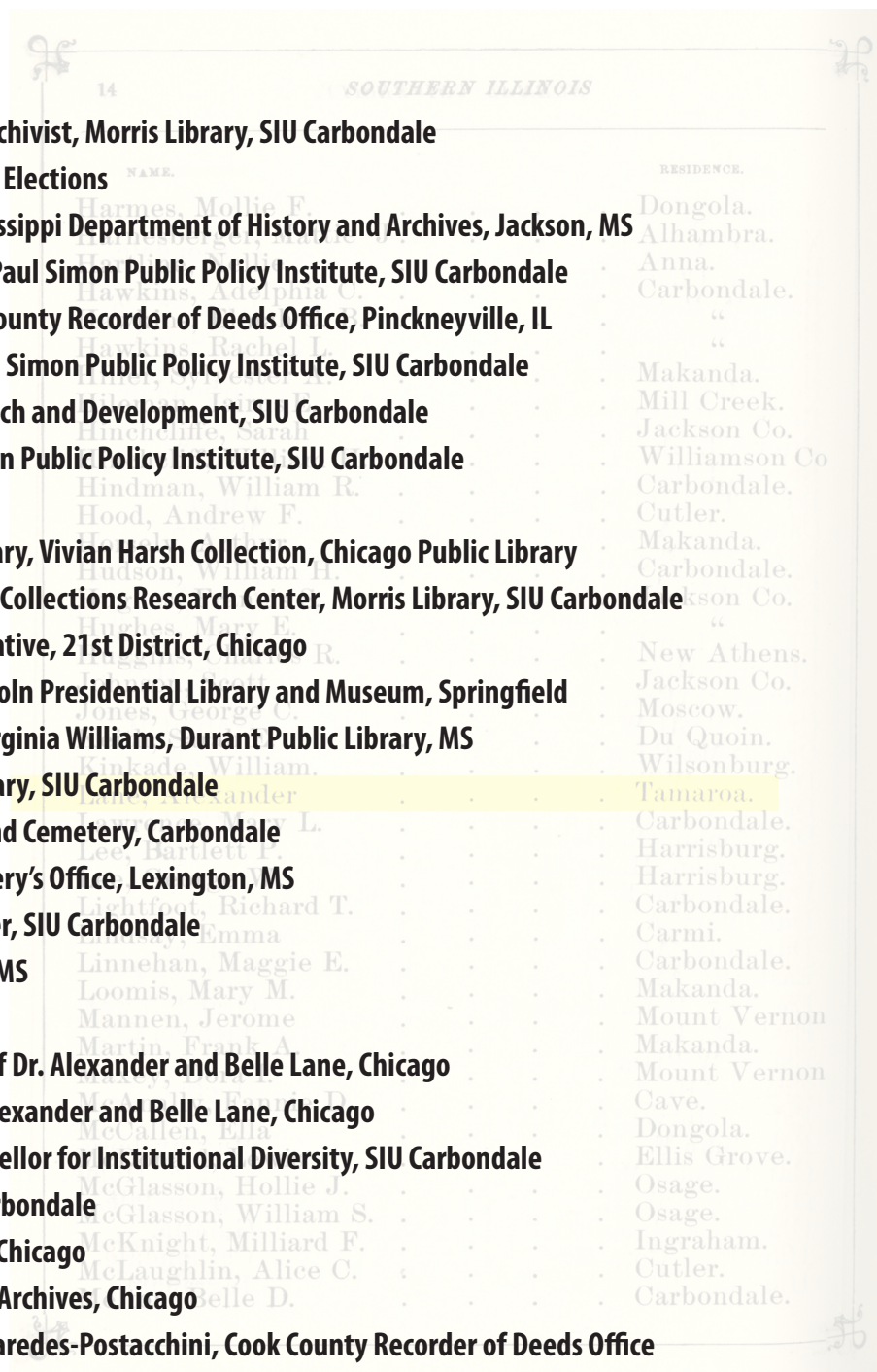
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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

SPECIAL THANKS TO:



- Leah Broadus Agne, former University Archivist, Morris Library, SIU Carbondale**
- James Allen, Cook County Department of Elections**
- Clinton Bagley, Reference Services, Mississippi Department of History and Archives, Jackson, MS**
- Dr. Linda R. Baker, University Professor, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, SIU Carbondale**
- Denise Bathon and Mary Gerrish, Perry County Recorder of Deeds Office, Pinckneyville, IL**
- Matt Baughman, Associate Director, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, SIU Carbondale**
- Linda Benz, Office of Institutional Research and Development, SIU Carbondale**
- Cary Bryant, Graphic Designer, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, SIU Carbondale**
- Chicago Historical Society**
- Beverly Cook, Dr. Carter G. Woodson Library, Vivian Harsh Collection, Chicago Public Library**
- Pam Hackbart-Dean, CA Director, Special Collections Research Center, Morris Library, SIU Carbondale**
- Mary E. Flowers, Illinois State Representative, 21st District, Chicago**
- Katherine Harris and staff, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield**
- Betty Hathcock, Martha Ellington and Virginia Williams, Durant Public Library, MS**
- Phil Howze and Megan Lotts, Morris Library, SIU Carbondale**
- Athadeus Johnson and Jack Yates, Oakland Cemetery, Carbondale**
- Ms. Charlie Joiner, Holmes County Chancery's Office, Lexington, MS**
- Phyllis Khaaliq, Equal Employment Officer, SIU Carbondale**
- Laura Lawson, Lexington Public Library, MS**
- Legislative Research Unit, Springfield**
- Geraldine Lane Mardis, granddaughter of Dr. Alexander and Belle Lane, Chicago**
- Winston Mardis, great-grandson of Dr. Alexander and Belle Lane, Chicago**
- Dr. Linda McCabe-Smith, Associate Chancellor for Institutional Diversity, SIU Carbondale**
- Mr. James and Dr. Sandra T. McKinley, Carbondale**
- Will Rice, Eight One Seven Photography, Chicago**
- Heather Stecklein, Rush Medical College Archives, Chicago**
- Darlena Williams-Burnett and Racquel Paredes-Postacchini, Cook County Recorder of Deeds Office**

INTRODUCTION

The Dr. Alexander Lane Research Project was conceived from “The History of African-American Students at Southern Illinois University Carbondale,” a Black History Month exhibit prepared under the auspices of the Special Collections Department, Morris Library in February 2011.

The exhibit was spearheaded by Leah Broadus Agne, the University Archivist. It included photographs of the first three African-American students to attend Southern Illinois Normal University during the mid-1870s. Of these students, the only one who could be identified was Alexander Mills Lane, who enrolled in 1876.

He became an educator, a physician, and an Illinois state legislator. This display attracted the attention Matt Baughman of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute and a decision was made to conduct further research on Lane to examine his life and its meaning for Southern Illinois University Carbondale. The result of that research is outlined in these pages.

The purposes of this study are to tell the success story of Southern Illinois Normal University’s first African American male student, Alexander Mills Lane. From a school principal, to a physician and later, an Illinois state legislator, Lane’s foundation for accomplishment and a professional education was largely the result of his opportunity to study at Southern Illinois Normal University.

His success is also a testament to this institution’s earliest efforts to create and sustain a diverse student body, a tradition that has continued since 1869. This examination of Lane’s life will add to the history of Southern Illinois University Carbondale in general, its African-American students, and the State of Illinois.

In unveiling the untold story of Dr. Lane, we would be remiss in not mentioning the limitations of this project. After a diligent, but unsuccessful search for the names of his parents, we were unable to unearth additional information about his early life in Durant, Mississippi. However, the story told in these pages will reveal that of a “history maker.”

ALEXANDER LANE: CHILDHOOD

On October, 26, 1860, Alexander Lane was born in Durant, Holmes County, Mississippi, which is known as the dark corner of this county.¹ Founded in 1858 and incorporated in 1867, the town was named in honor of an old Choctaw Indian Chief, Louis Durant, who lived where the city now stands.²

Not much is known about Lane's early life, including the names of his parents, but he was born in this rural town of 375 people, most of whom were white.³ At the time of Lane's birth, there was a railroad, a depot, a drugstore, a hotel; three churches—Baptist, Methodist, and Primitive Baptist; two physicians and a dentist; a newspaper, the Durant News, and at least two grocery stores.⁴ In 1860, Holmes County had a population of 5,806 whites, 10 free blacks and 11,975 slaves.⁵

As a young boy during the U.S. Civil War, Lane and several other African-American boys frequented a nearby Union Army camp where he was befriended by a Colonel Lyons, whose first name is unknown.⁶ Lyons thought highly of young Lane and even gave him a cap to wear. The Colonel's kindness toward Lane would soon provide him an opportunity rarely afforded Lane's childhood friends during Reconstruction.

At the close of the Civil War in 1865, many Union troops remained in the South to protect the newly freed slaves from whites who refused to accept the Confederacy's defeat and to enforce the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which freed the slaves. These troops also had to deal with widespread disorder in the South, a relative consequence of the war. Many former slave owners were furious and became hostile toward former slaves, whose free labor had created a great source of wealth for landowners. Slavery was the catalyst in a once thriving southern economy, and had been a southern tradition more than 250 years.

Now, there would be no more free labor; former slaves were citizens; and the issue of racial equality frightened most southern whites. An end to white superiority resulting from the emancipation of slaves posed an even bigger threat to white southern tradition. In the midst of this turmoil, Colonel Lyons was stationed in Lexington, Mississippi to assist in the federal government's Reconstruction efforts until he received military orders to demobilize.

In 1868, Colonel Lyons had completed his military duties in Mississippi and was making preparation for his return to Illinois, where he would be mustered out of service. Thinking of his young friend's future, he asked a



Fig. 1. Map of Holmes County, Mississippi
Source: Mississippi Free Public Records Directory

question that would change Lane's life: "How would you like to go up North with me? I will educate you and make a man out of you."⁷ Lane replied, "I would love to go." It was arranged by the mother to call on the Colonel, which she did and gave her consent.⁸ Without ever knowing if Lyons would actually keep his promise or if she would ever see or hear from her son again, Lane's mother nonetheless entrusted him—and his future—to Colonel Lyons.

This trust provided Lane an opportunity to escape what could have been a life of submission in Mississippi. He lived in a state where the 13th Amendment was rejected by a vote of 124-25 by the state legislature. In 1865, government officials enacted Black Codes to curtail white and African-American interactions, and to essentially control every aspect of African-American lives.

Further resentment towards African Americans was the establishment of vagrancy laws. By January 2, 1866, every freedman was required to have a lawful home and employment.⁹ These laws stipulated that “all freedmen over the age of eighteen found without lawful employment were subject to a fine or imprisonment. If the fine was not paid, they were to be hired out until the wages wiped out the fine.”¹⁰

Vagrancy laws were created to keep African Americans tied to the land as agricultural laborers and, in many cases, the fines were so excessive that those convicted of vagrancy could never earn enough to pay them.

Surely, the tense racial climate and a lack of opportunities in post-Civil War Mississippi for blacks played a part in her decision to give up her son. In Mississippi and other southern states, the Freedmen’s Bureau schools and other privately owned schools for African American children were often the scenes of violence at the hands of disgruntled southern whites determined to keep former slaves in submission.

Sometimes these ex-slaves were attacked by hostile whites on their way to school which led to high incidences of truancy. Many factors such as ill-prepared African-American teachers, white teachers who had already deemed African Americans unlearned; overcrowded schools; and inadequate educational supplies was enough to discourage any parent, including Lane’s mother, from allowing her son to be uneducated. Hostile whites opposed to Negro education even threatened to hang teachers in Mississippi.

Why should she subject her son to such a negative and racist environment when there were greater opportunities and a more subtle hatred toward African Americans in the North?

Throughout this era in American history, free and enslaved African Americans realized the importance of an education because just like freedom, it threatened southern whites on several fronts.

For liberated African Americans, an education represented previously prohibited means of control, empowerment, and autonomy, as well as a practical means of personal and professional improvement.¹¹

And as W.E.B. DuBois so eloquently wrote, “formerly enslaved African Americans firmly believed that education was a stepping stone to wealth and respect, and that wealth, without education, crippled a person’s prospects of attaining equality, self-reliance, landownership, the vote and citizenship.”¹² Historian Darlene Clark Hine tells us that, “To remain illiterate after emancipation was to remain enslaved.”

For these reasons, Lane’s mother, like other former slaves, valued education. During the Reconstruction era, former slaves used several venues by which to educate their children.

Heather Andrea Williams, in her book, *Self-Taught: African American Education in Slavery and Freedom* (2005) explained how black parents negotiated labor contracts that included the right to an education.

For example, in April 1876, 12 year-old Carter Holmes, with his mother’s permission, had been bound out by

government officials [associated with the Freedmen’s Bureau] to a Mr. Suit as an apprentice in Maryland.¹³

Under the contract, Suit promised to clothe, feed, and educate Holmes as compensation for his labor. He not only renegeed on all of the promises, but relentlessly whipped Holmes on a regular basis. Holmes complained to Freedmen’s Bureau agents, but was taken to an orphanage instead of being returned to his parents—all without the education he so desperately sought.

Despite Holmes’ misfortune, it was not at all uncommon among southern blacks who understood that meaningful freedom included access to education to take such risks for the sake of their children.¹⁴ Though the circumstances of Holmes and Lane differed slightly in terms of the Freedmen’s Bureau apprenticeship contract, the goal was the same—to obtain an education.

As heart-wrenching as it may have been to allow Colonel Lyons to take young Lane hundreds of miles away from his home, it meant for the first time that his mother had truly taken control of her son’s life.

Desperate for Lane to lead a successful life, she took a great risk by accepting the word of a total stranger to educate her son rather than subject him to what scholar James D. Anderson calls “the second class education” which was “designed to keep African Americans subordinate.”¹⁵

However, nearly all parents were awake to the possibility of their children becoming something and Lane’s move north perhaps increased his chances for success.¹⁶

FROM DURANT, MISSISSIPPI TO TAMAROA, ILLINOIS

In 1868, Lane, now 8 years old, arrived with Colonel Lyons in the small southern Illinois farm town of Tamaroa, in Perry County. Mustered out of service, Lyons became a farm machinery salesman in Tamaroa.¹⁷ While there, he met Joseph B. Curlee, a Civil War veteran with the Union Army, Company D, 136th Illinois Infantry. Curlee enlisted on May 11, 1864 in Tamaroa, was mustered in as a First Lieutenant on June 1, 1864 in Centralia, IL and mustered out on October 22, 1864.¹⁸

A substantial land owner, farmer, and philanthropist, Curlee and his wife Margaret were a young married couple with no children of their own at the time they took Lane into their home. They eventually had two sons, Linder and Clyde. When Curlee saw Lyons with young Alexander Lane, he asked, "Where did you get this boy?" Lyons replied, "Down South." Curlee responded, "I would like to have a boy like that."¹⁹ Lyons said, "You may have this boy."²⁰ At some point after that initial conversation, Lyons left Lane with the Curlees.

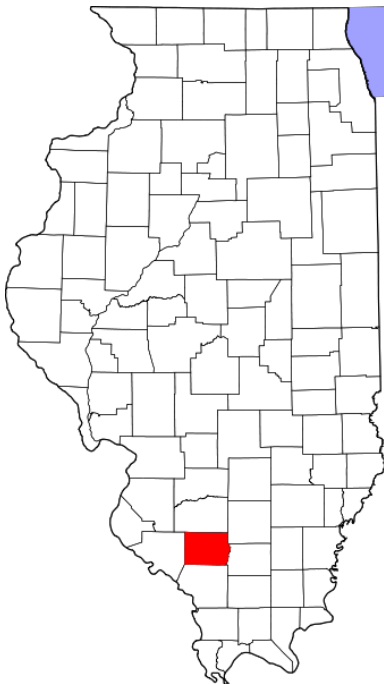


Fig. 2. Map of Illinois Counties, Perry County
It was established April 21, 1870, and located in the eastern part of the county. The boundaries are Tamaroa on the north, Franklin County on the east, and DuQuoin on the south and west.
Source: United States Census Bureau

Lyons's decision to leave Lane with the Curlees creates a reason to pause since he was breaking his promise to educate the boy. Would Lane suffer the same fate as Carter Holmes who watched his dream of obtaining a quality education quickly unravel? Lyons probably realized that the Curlees were much better equipped to provide for Lane, because they had already accomplished a great deal in life.

Joseph B. Curlee received a fair English education in the public schools of his neighborhood and one year at Wesleyan University in Bloomington, IL.²¹ By 1862, he owned a store in Tamaroa and the following year returned to his farm. Curlee also invested in the stock market. He was a Methodist and known throughout Perry County for his stewardship of its Sunday Schools in which he was president.

Curlee was a "pronounced prohibitionist," who believed that licensing saloons was an offense against good morals and the best interest of society.²² Lyons no doubt recognized Curlee's prominence and reputation as an outstanding member of the Tamaroa community and in the region; and that he was a man of excellent moral character. As fate would have it, Lane was left in the able hands of Joseph B. Curlee and wife Margaret.

According to the 1870 population census, Lane was listed as a servant in the Curlee home.²³ But, he would soon benefit from being there. His relationship with the family grew to the point where he and the Curlees' sons, Clyde and Linder, "considered themselves as brothers."²⁴

There was a substantial age difference between Lane and the Curlee boys, but living in the same household could allow for the development of such a strong relationship. Certainly, Joseph and Margaret found a similar fondness for Lane that would eventually alter his status as a servant and farm laborer to that of a college student.

A DREAM COME TRUE

In 1876, Curlee decided to provide Lane with important tools that enabled him to obtain social and economic independence and secure his future by sending him to Southern Illinois Normal University in Carbondale. Prior to Lane's matriculation at Southern Illinois Normal University, there is no evidence of his early education. The Curlee's however, were both college educated and probably provided him with the necessary educational tools to qualify him for SINU. This school was created by an Act of the [Illinois] General Assembly on April 20, 1869, only five years after the Civil War and that mandated the erection and equipment of the institution.²⁵

The establishment of the new university was "because of the need to prepare teachers for the duties of the school room."²⁶ Prior to the decision regarding the university's location, there was much debate among the region's power brokers. Local historians concluded that the decision rested on the influence of General John A. Logan, a Union soldier, who resided in Carbondale and was born in Jackson County, Illinois.²⁷

A \$225,000 building contract for Southern Illinois Normal University was awarded to Carbondale's James N. Campbell and the construction began on May 17, 1870. In 1876, Lane, now 16 years old, traveled to Carbondale from Tamaroa to attend Southern Illinois Normal University and realize his dream.²

Upon his arrival, Dr. Robert Allyn was the university's president and Lane was one of three African-American students, two of whom were females whose names are currently unknown. He was the first and only African American male enrolled at the Normal University during this particular period. Coming from Tamaroa, Lane began to adjust to his new environment. Carbondale was not as rural and had a larger population in general with 2,987 people, including 383 African Americans.²⁹

At the end of the Civil War, there were 175 African Americans in Jackson County and by 1870 there were 995, most of who resided in Murphysboro, Illinois.³⁰ Each of these towns could create a cultural experience and an outlet previously unknown to Lane. For example, he would have an opportunity to experience the black church.



Fig. 3. Southern Illinois State Normal University
Source: J. Oscar Marberry, *The Sphinx*, Southern Illinois State Normal University, 1899



Fig. 4. General John A. Logan
Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division

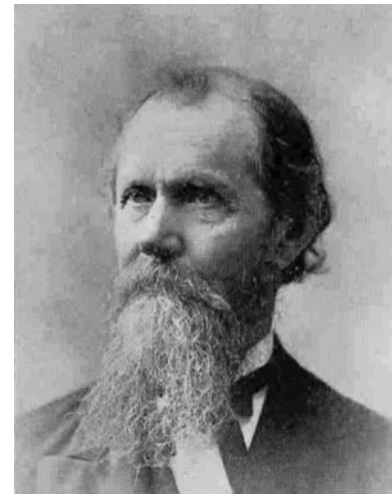


Fig. 5. Dr. Robert Allyn
Source: J. Oscar Marberry, *The Sphinx*

In general, the church had been the backbone of black communities since the antebellum period. They were not only spiritual places, but also social centers allowing for great activity. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church (1864), Olivet Free Will Baptist Church (1866) and Rock Hill Baptist Church (1871) would enable Lane to take advantage of the black cultural experiences and develop relationships with other African Americans in the Carbondale community.³¹

As early as 1870, African Americans owned at least nineteen businesses in Carbondale, including Palm Beauty Shop, Eastside Chicken Shack, Edgar Hillsman's Variety Store and several grocery stores such as Fannie Isom's, Banks, and B.C.'s. There was also a school for 'colored' children.

During Lane's matriculation at Southern Illinois State Normal University, he met Isabelle Holland, a mulatto from Kentucky who was born in 1863. Her mother Georgiana Johnson and grandmother Susan Hawkins were both slaves; Johnson in Virginia and Hawkins in Harrison County, Kentucky. There was no mention of Belle's father with the exception of his birthplace in Kentucky.

After the Civil War, the family migrated to Carbondale. There is no evidence of her early educational background, but she attended Southern Illinois Normal University from 1881-1884. At 17, Belle worked as a servant in the home of Carbondale milliner E.A. Haskell; a merchant, and F.E. Anthony; and her father, W.P. Anthony.³²

Like many domestics, Belle lived-in which meant being on call 24 hours per day, but somehow she found enough time for Lane to continue their courtship. At the same time, he managed to stay focused on his education.



Fig. 6. Susan Hawkins and young Isabelle Holland
Source: Geraldine Lane Mardis

In 1881, Lane completed the requirements at Southern Illinois Normal University, becoming the first African-American male to do so. He became the first principal of and a teacher at Carbondale's Eastside School for Negroes³³

Founded in 1866 by two white Free Will Baptist Church ministers in an old blacksmith's shop, it was Jackson County's first African-American School.³⁴ At its inception, these ministers provided instruction to the students until a qualified African-American teacher could be found. Because of the value African-American parents, like Lane's mother, placed on education, they made it a point to send their children to school and students attended in large numbers.

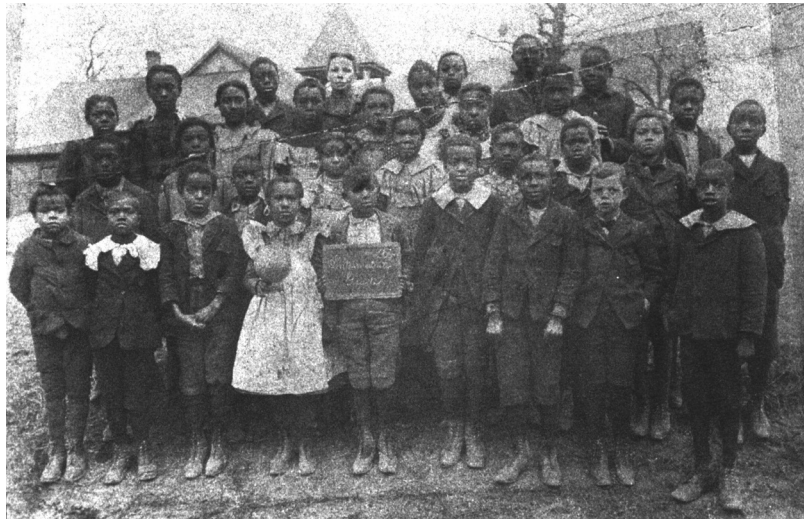


Fig. 7 Students of Eastside School, Carbondale IL.
Alexander Lane was its principal from 1881- 1891

Source: *In Unity There is Strength: A Pictorial History of African Americans in Carbondale*
Little Egypt Genealogical Society, Carbondale, IL

Faced with serious overcrowding, the Colored Methodist Society donated its church to comfortably accommodate the students. With the renovations completed in 1871, it was formally named the Eastside School and later became Carbondale's Attucks School. It operated as a school for African-American children until the Brown v. Board of Education U.S. Supreme Court Decision in 1954 mandated the end of segregation in education. Lane remained there for ten years then resigned to study medicine.³⁵

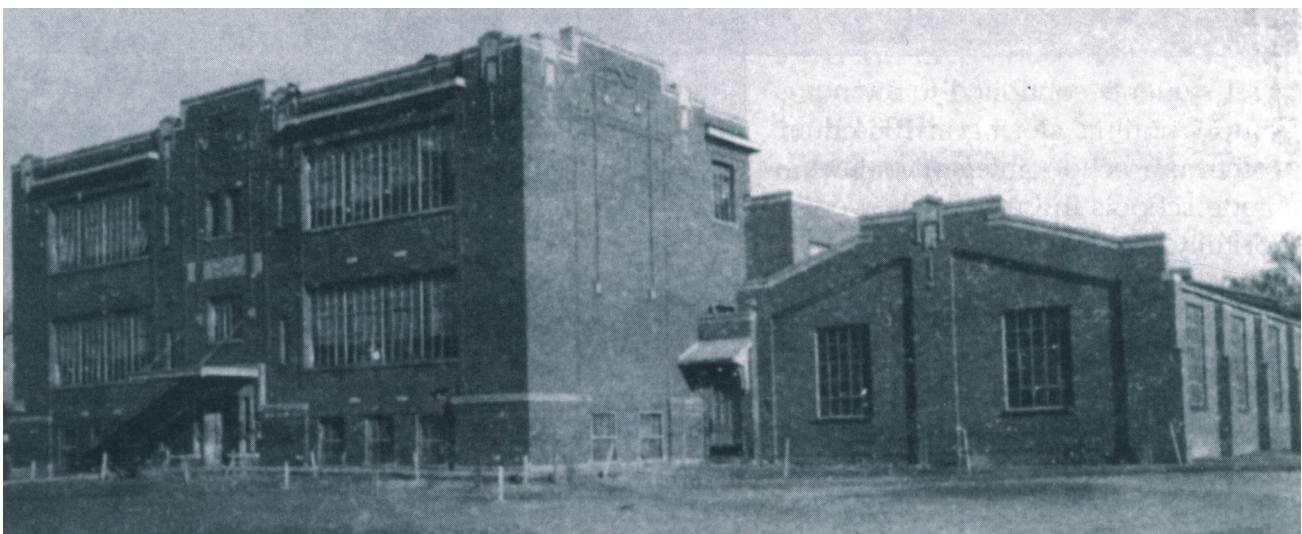


Fig. 8 Attucks Intermediate School 1898

Source: *In Unity There is Strength: A Pictorial History of African Americans in Carbondale*
Little Egypt Genealogical Society, Carbondale, IL

IN THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

Lane's early successes were probably encouraging and motivated him to do more with his life and that included becoming a physician. Lane married his sweetheart, Belle Holland on August 12, 1883. On June 21, 1884, their son Roscoe was born.³⁶ One might beg the question about Dr. Lane's ability to finance a medical school education while simultaneously providing for his young family.

While there is no hard evidence to support such a theory, Joseph B. Curlee may have been his benefactor. The fact that African-American communities often supported the educational endeavors of talented youth should also be given consideration.

Such was the case of Dr. W.E.B. DuBois who was born in Great Barrington, Massachusetts. The community recognized his ambitions and collected money to help him fulfill his educational endeavors. Nonetheless, Lane began preparing his family for the move from Carbondale to Chicago where he would attend Rush Medical College beginning in 1891.



Fig. 9. Isabelle Lane
Source: Geraldine Lane Mardis
Photography by Will Rice

Fig. 10 African American Marriages in Jackson County

*July 7, 1883	William Robinson to Amanda Lewis
July 21, 1883	Henry Franklin to Lucy Reynolds
August 3, 1883	David Smith to Mary Perkins
*August 12, 1883	Alexander Lane to Isabell Holland
Sept 20, 1883	William Redferd to Caroline Bree
*September 23, 1883	Henry Sykes to Elizia Clement
*October 1, 1883	Louis A. Meeks to Mariah Cherry
October 16, 1883	Charles Crutchfield to Rachel Pellv

Established in 1843 by Dr. Daniel Brainard, Rush was Chicago's first medical school and included some of the most prominent physicians, including Nathan S. Davis, founder of the American Medical Association (AMA). During this period, most medical schools in the nation offered two sixteen week terms with four daily lectures each week.³⁷

But the Illinois State legislature required Chicago's medical schools to extend the length of each term, to increase the number of terms required, and to include lectures on a broader array of subjects.³⁸

Rush trained its students in alternative medical practices such as homeopathy, which was the most prevalent course of study. Most of the students who attended Rush were white males from the Midwest, but it did accept and graduate a few African-American medical students.³⁹ Lane would eventually be among them, graduating in 1895.

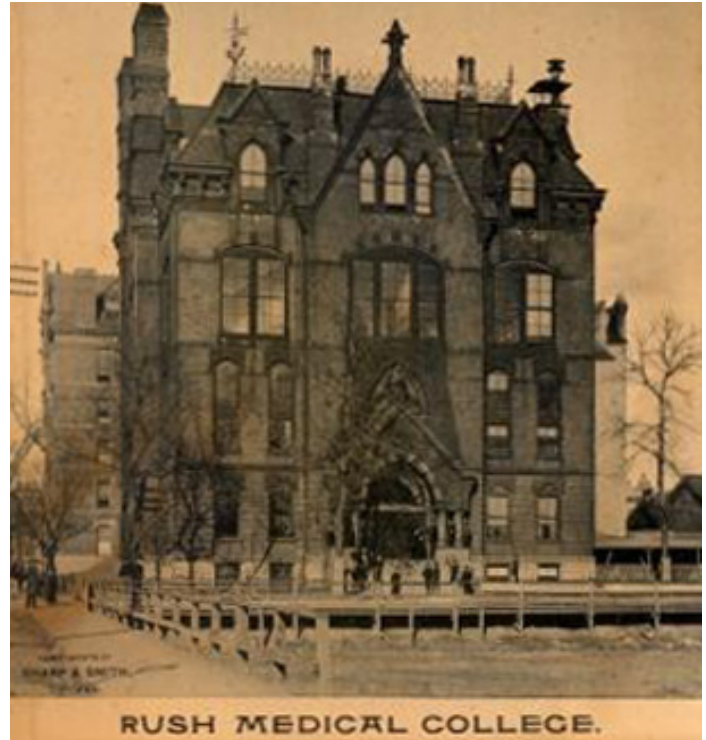


Fig. 11. Rush Medical College,
Source: Rush Medical College Archives



Fig. 12. Dr. Alexander Lane
Source: Geraldine Lane Mardis
Photography by Will Rice

While attending Rush Medical College, each student was assigned a preceptor who generally served as an advisor and most were practicing physicians from the student's own community.⁴⁰ Dr. John Keesee, a white physician whose office was located on North Street in Carbondale, became Lane's preceptor.⁴¹ A physician for seventeen years, Keesee graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons in Keokuk, Iowa in 1878 and was a member of the American Medical Association. Lane successfully completed his course requirements working under Keesee's tutelage and was ready to enter the profession of medicine.

Dr. Lane briefly returned to Southern Illinois to share his joy and to visit family. His wife's grandmother, Susan Hawkins, presented him and Belle with a quilt in honor and recognition of his latest achievement. Her mistress, Micah Thomas, was a milliner and Hawkins was the party who took care of the millinery scraps. She saved all of the small silk pieces and made the quilt which was finished in 1840 or 1841.⁴²

In the midst of accolades and excitement, Lane knew his time in Carbondale had come to an end. He had been appointed by the Cook County Commissioners as the Cook County Assistant Physician in May 1895.⁴³

Lane uprooted his family and moved to Chicago to embark upon his new career. Taking up residence at 1937 S. Archer Avenue, Dr. Lane also opened his private practice there. Of course, he was no stranger to Chicago and his African American cultural experience there would be far greater than that in Carbondale for several reasons.

In 1890 and 1900 respectively, Chicago's African-American population was 14,271 and 30,150, which far exceeded that of Carbondale. By 1910, there were 44,103 African Americans in Chicago.

African-American Chicagoans owned newspapers, real estate businesses, banks, clothing stores, publishing and printing establishments, numerous restaurants, taverns, a hospital and insurance companies, and there were more than 20 African-American churches of all denominations.⁴⁴

Various types of organizations such as literary societies, fraternal orders, and women's clubs existed there. Chicago could provide him a wider range of social and professional outlets.

Dr. Lane had established himself as one of the city's most prominent African-American physicians and with that came prestige, upper-class status, and a circle of friends for him and his family. He affiliated with the prestigious Hutchinson Lodge #1362 of the Grand United Order of the Odd Fellows (GUOOF), a fraternal organization.

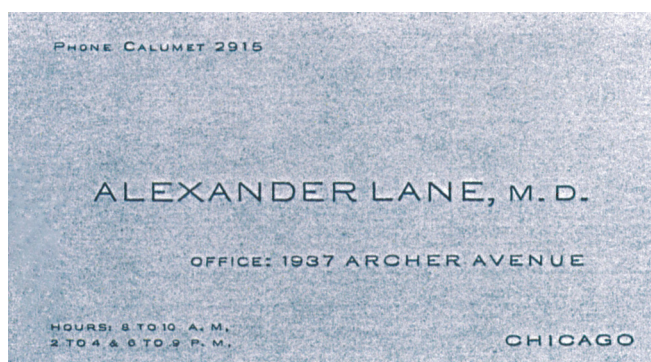


Fig. 14. Lane's Business Card
Source: Geraldine Lane Mardis Collection



Fig. 13 Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church
In 1871, the original church was a casualty in the Great Chicago fire. It was rebuilt in 1892.
Source: Chicago Architecture and Cityscape

In 1902, his Lodge, along with six others, raised \$40,000 to build a three-story assembly hall on Chicago's State Street near Forty-third Street consisting of lodge rooms, a gallery, a stage and seating to accommodate 2,000 people.⁴⁵ In addition, the prestigious Hutchinson Lodge #1362 owned a cemetery plot in Mt. Greenwood Cemetery for its members.

Lane held membership in the National Medical Association (1895), a group of African-American doctors who organized because of the inadequacies of a segregated health care system perpetuated by Jim Crowism in American society.⁴⁷ He was associated with the Cook County Physicians Association (1911), and Quinn Chapel AME Church (1847), the oldest of its denomination in Chicago.

Lane's wife Belle was not as active in the social settings of Chicago, but this does not mean she was idle. Belle was Lane's helpmate and the caretaker of the family. She carefully maintained the home he provided for them and spent her time raising their son, Roscoe. He became an accomplished pianist and later, a prominent Chicago real estate broker.

At her leisure, she frequently traveled between Chicago and Carbondale, because she still had family living there. When Belle's family could no longer care for themselves, she and Alexander moved into the Lane home in Chicago. For example, her grandmother, who had been a slave for more than fifty years, had grown infirm. In the mid-1890s, she was in the care of both Belle and Dr. Lane until her death on April 30, 1899 at age 86.⁴⁸

There was even a point in 1910 when one of Belle's brothers, two of his sons, and Belle's mother, Georgiana, also lived with them. This tells us that the Lanes were deeply compassionate people who understood the privilege and importance of having and caring for family, and they were quite conscientious about the needs of other people to survive.

As Lane became more engaged in Chicago life, he looked toward politics with deep interest. He apparently realized that there were no limits to what he could do in spite of his race. He had made great strides from his early life as a servant and farm laborer, because of his mother's love and trust in Colonel Lyons; and Lyon's subsequent decision to give him to Joseph and Margaret Curlee.



Fig. 15. Roscoe Lane
Source: Geraldine Lane Mardis
Photography by Will Rice

Lane did not waver with the excellent education afforded him and capitalized on the opportunity in ways his mother would have probably dreamed of for her son. While practicing medicine, he began to dabble in local politics. Around 1904, he began attending political meetings and affiliating with local political organizations. In less than two years, Lane's interest in Chicago's politics heightened to the point where he gave serious consideration to running for political office.

19TH CENTURY AFRICAN-AMERICAN POLITICS IN CHICAGO

Political scientist Harold F. Gosnell tells us that the history of African-American politics in Illinois in the late 19th and early 20th centuries was chiefly the history of African-American Republicanism.⁴⁹ This, in part, is the result of their loyalty to the party of Lincoln for its role in ending slavery.

African Americans have been involved in politics since the ratification of the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution on March 30, 1870. This stipulated that "the right of citizens of the U.S. to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the U.S. or by any state on account of race, color or previous condition."⁵⁵ In Illinois, African Americans became eligible to vote on April 5, 1870.⁵¹

During the Reconstruction era, many African Americans in Illinois took advantage of their new found right to vote by running for political office. The first was John G. Jones, a prominent Chicago businessman and community leader, who became the state's first African American elected to a political office as a Cook County Commissioner.⁵²

His influence among early African-American Chicagoans was the result of his business acumen, agitation for African-American suffrage, and highly successful campaign to eradicate the rigid Black Laws of Illinois, a free state. These discriminatory laws prohibited three or more African Americans from assembling and, even worse, if any Negro or mulatto came into the state and stayed more than ten days, he was to be fined

fifty dollars and sold indefinitely to pay the fine.⁵³ The laws were repealed on February 7, 1865.⁵⁴

In 1871, with the political support of both African Americans and whites, Jones took his seat on the Cook County Board of Commissioners. He would remain in this position until 1875 when he was defeated after a second three-year term. The defeat of Jones did not hinder the political aspirations of other African-American Chicagoans.

John W.E. Thomas, an Alabama native and migrant to Chicago, had a deep interest in electoral politics. To reach his goal, he familiarized himself and other African-American Chicagoans with the cumulative voting system used to elect members to the Illinois House of Representatives.

He also taught African-American men the practice of "plumping" or voting for the same candidate several times.⁵⁵ By this process, in Illinois, every voter had a right to cast three votes for different candidates or cast one vote for a single candidate running for the State Legislature.⁵⁶

After mastering this process and being involved in several of Chicago's predominantly white local political organizations, Thomas was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in 1876 and sworn into office in January 1877.⁵⁷ Thomas was the second African American elected to political office in Illinois and the first to the Illinois State Legislature.

Other African Americans elected to the Illinois General Assembly after Thomas were George F. Ecton (1886-1889) in the 3rd Senatorial District and Edward H. Morris who would represent the 1st Senatorial District during his first term (1891-1893).

In addition, James Bish served the 3rd District from 1893-1895; John C. Buckner from 1895-1897 in the 5th District; and William L. Martin served one term for the 5th District (1899-1901).⁵⁸

At the turn of the century, Morris was also elected in the 3rd Senatorial District for the 1903-1905 legislative term, but was ousted by a prominent African-American Chicago businessman, Robert T. Motts, owner of a saloon with a gambling establishment.

Also known as the "Gambling King," Motts provided financial backing and used his influence in support of Morris's previous victory. Morris introduced legislation against gambling which could have crippled Motts's gambling business had it become law. In the 1904 election for the Illinois House of Representatives, Motts supported Edward D. Green to replace a [disloyal] Morris.⁵⁹

By 1905, eight African Americans had already been members of the Illinois General Assembly, and the ninth would be Lane, already known as a prominent Chicago physician.



Fig. 16 Charles Deneen
Source: George Grantham Bain Collection
Library of Congress

With the exception of Harold F. Gosnell, scholars of Chicago's African-American political history have excluded Lane from this part of the historical record. Lane made significant contributions to the state's political history while serving two terms in the Illinois House. He was the only African American Illinois State Representative to serve both terms in the same Cook County district from 1876-1911.

While practicing medicine in Chicago, Lane became interested in local politics. His wife Belle pointed out how "he loved politics."⁶⁰ Getting involved in Chicago's political arena meant familiarizing himself with issues related to reform, such as the disfranchisement of African Americans. This was done by dividing many of them into two political factions: those following Mayor Charles Deneen who controlled the State House and others supporting William H. Lorimer, a prosperous local

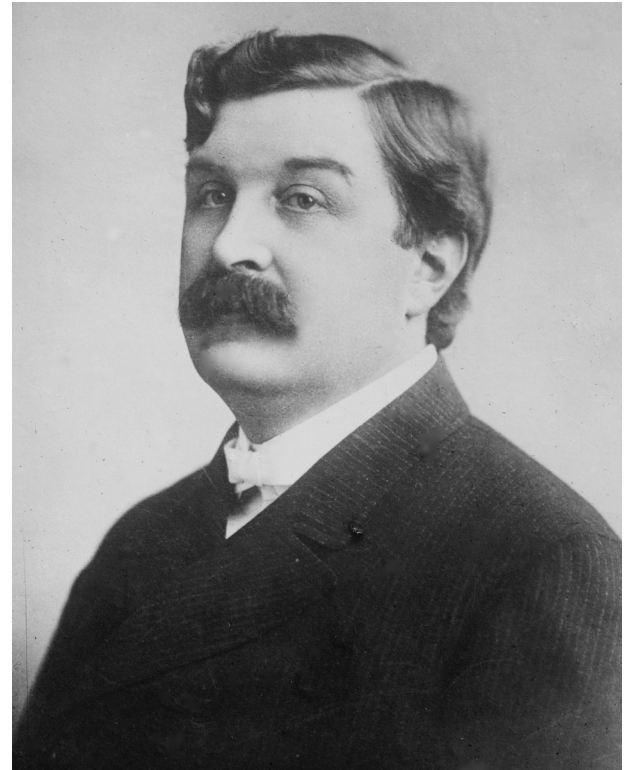


Fig. 17 William H. Lorimer
WSource: United States Library of Congress's
Prints and Photographs

businessman and powerful Republican known as the "Blond Boss." His cohorts ran the party.⁶¹ Lorimer had uncontested control over patronage and his allies, often called "Lorimerites." They ruled Chicago's Second Ward where Lane resided and established his medical practice.

Beginning in 1895, politically ambitious people had to either develop an alliance with Lorimer or form alliances to fight political battles against him.⁶² Moreover, he controlled nominations to state-wide politics with machine boss tactics. Lorimer's unanimous election as chairman of the Cook County Republican Central Committee signified his arrival as the most powerful factor in Cook County Republican politics.⁶³

ALEXANDER LANE: PHYSICIAN AND ILLINOIS STATE LEGISLATOR

In Illinois, the General Assembly consists of two Houses: the Senate or “Upper House” and the House of Representatives or “Lower House.”⁶⁴ Under the 1870 Constitution, one member of the “Upper House” was elected every four years and three members of the “Lower House” were elected simultaneously in every Senatorial District and served a two-year term. On November 6, 1906, Lane was elected to the 45th Illinois General Assembly. Lane, a Republican, represented the First District, Second Ward, Cook County in the Illinois House of Representatives.

In a field of six candidates, he placed third as Table I shows. The success of his campaign for the Illinois House of Representatives can be attributed to several factors. Membership in professional and fraternal organizations such as the National Dental Association, National Bar Association, and National Medical Association could often be assets to African Americans with political ambitions for two reasons: they provided an increasing number of social contacts among these professional men and influenced the views of their colleagues. In each case, membership in such organizations could lead to campaign contributions and other types of support if they decided to run for political office.

African-American politicians were almost invariably members of one or more African-American fraternal organizations including the Masons, Knights of Pythias, and the Grand United Order of the Odd Fellows.⁶⁵ Lane was also a member of the National Medical Association, an organization of African-American physicians founded in 1895.

TABLE I. Illinois General Assembly Election Statistics, First District, 1906

Candidate	Total Number of Votes
Thomas J. McNally (D)	14,334
Francis P. Brady (R)	10,950
Alexander Lane (R)	9,439.5
Thomas P. O’Connor (P)	3,363
Samuel Davis (S)	1,669.5
John A. Courville (I)	311.5

Source: Cook County Department of Elections.

Politically, Republicans dominated politics in Illinois. Lane’s election was largely due to his affiliation with the Republican Party and the ward in which he resided. His constituency was in Chicago’s Second Ward where white political leaders including William H. Lorimer and one of his underlings, Second Ward Alderman George Harding, provided most of the funding for political organizations. The African-American representative came from those districts which loyally supported the Republican Party.⁶⁶

Since 1882, there had always been at least one African American in the Illinois State Legislature.⁶⁷ Because of Chicago’s powerful machine politics, the slated nominees usually prevailed as did Lane. It was not so much that Lorimer favored Lane or that he had a solid working relationship with African-American voters, but that his lieutenants were familiar with the intricacies of race relations in Chicago’s African-American communities.⁶⁸ Under the Illinois voting system, favored nominees were usually assured election.

African-American Republicans comprised one-half of the Republican voters of the second ward.⁶⁹ Lane, newly elected, took his seat in the Illinois General Assembly in January 1907. He defeated Edward Green, an African American, who would serve only one term in the Illinois Legislature after a crushing blow for re-nomination at the primaries by Lane.⁷⁰

REP. LANE: ACTIVITIES IN THE 45TH ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

After the Civil War, African-American politicians on the state and federal levels often met opposition when they crafted and introduced legislation or spoke on the House floor. In some cases, many of their white colleagues believed that African Americans were inferior, incapable of making decisions, and should certainly not initiate policies applicable to whites.

At the turn of the century, African-American politicians held numerous offices, but were sometimes expected to remain idle and their presence ignored. Whatever the case, when Lane took his seat in the Illinois House of Representatives after being sworn in by Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice Guy C. Scott, he began to actively serve not only the First House District, but the people of Illinois.

During his first term as a member of the 45th General Assembly, Lane was particularly active on several important committees, introduced three pieces of legislation, and proposed one amendment. He served on the following standing committees: the Building, Loan and Homestead Association; Executive Department; Federal Relations; Insurance; Primary Elections; Public Buildings and Grounds; Revenue; Sanitary Affairs; and State and Municipal Indebtedness.⁷¹

Often African-American politicians were appointed to committees of the least significance, but Lane appeared to have been associated with those that were important and presented challenges. However, he would soon find that the greatest challenges involved obtaining support for the passage of his proposed legislation.

The purpose of the Illinois General Assembly is to create and enact laws governing the State of Illinois and its citizens. Lane's first effort at formulating a law was House Bill (H.B.) 228 which "proposed to make it unlawful to make or keep any pictures of any prisoners who had not been convicted of a crime, without their consent."⁷²

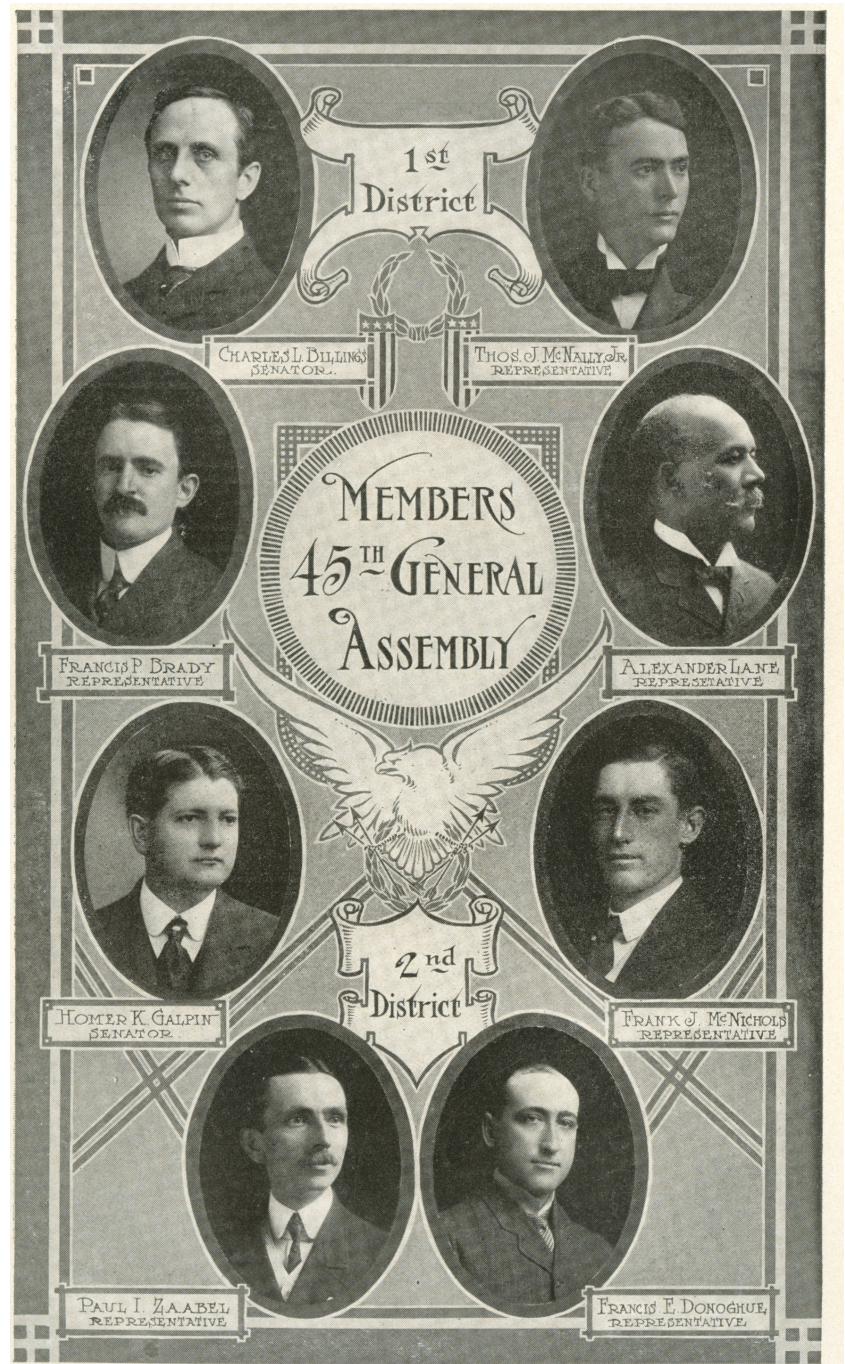


Fig. 18 - Illinois Blue Book 1907

His rationale was perhaps to protect the innocent from further scrutiny. More importantly, this legislation could prevent pictures from being selected to fit the actual description of the criminal because of biased procedures.⁷³ Also, African-American prisoners faced extreme vulnerability for mistaken identity and wrongful conviction.

Although the Senate took no action on Lane's bill, it passed unanimously on the third reading in the House 140-0 on April 19, 1907. Lane proceeded to introduce two other pieces of legislation, one relating to an issue within the criminal justice system and the other that dealt with natural gas and oil wells. He introduced H.B. 697 which called for "changing the method of capital punishment from hanging to electrocution."⁷⁴

The motivation for this legislation is unclear. However, the Prisoner's Aid Society, an organization which provided for the religious instruction of prisoners, visiting, letter writing, clothing and fares for discharged prisoners, advocated electrocution in place of the noose, but members of the medical profession believed that it was no less painful than hanging and certainly no more sure.⁷⁵

Some thought it barbaric while others contended that "it was the surest, quickest and most efficient and least painful method devised" as perhaps did Lane.⁷⁶ Statistics about hanging as the method of execution in Chicago tell another story. In Cook County, fifty-three people had been executed by hanging between July 1840 and October 1909.⁷⁷

During Lane's terms, only two hangings had occurred, one in 1907 and the other in 1909. Of the fifty-three hangings, only ten were African Americans. One might wonder why Lane would introduce such a bill when the number of executions by hanging in Cook County was so few. A series of debates about electrocution as an alternative to hanging had been ongoing among several groups including physicians since the 19th century and had resurfaced during the first decade of the 20th century. This legislation may have had nothing to do with criminals, and everything to do with the lynching of African Americans in this country. Lane's bill was sent to the Judiciary Committee for review despite the minuscule number of hangings in Cook County.

To ensure the health, safety, and welfare of Illinoisans, he also sought to impose "penalties regarding sinking, safety, maintenance, use and the operation of natural gas and oil wells" with H.B. 786.⁷⁸ Apparently, Lane wanted to regulate parts of and initiate preventive measures in the industry by holding it accountable for mishaps and upkeep. H.B. 786 was referred to the Committee on Miscellaneous Subjects.

During Lane's first term in the Illinois Legislature, he also proposed an amendment to H.B. 539 which concerned "corporations with banking powers." Like H.B. 697, it was referred to the Judiciary Committee. These bills did not appear to have particular relevance to the African-American community.



Fig. 19. The Honorable Dr. Alexander Lane
Source: Illinois Blue Book 1907

REP. LANE: ACTIVITIES IN THE 46TH ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Lane’s re-election to the Illinois General Assembly in 1908 gave him another opportunity to serve. He won more votes in 1908 than he did in 1906. Prior to officially taking his seat along with other newly-elected legislators, the Secretary of State directed the Clerk of the House to call the roll of members present.

After having done so, Illinois Supreme Court Chief Justice James H. Cartwright, on March 4, 1909, administered the oath of office to the members of the House as prescribed by the Illinois State Constitution.⁷⁹

During Lane’s second term in the Illinois House of Representatives, he was reappointed to four of the committees from his previous term and assigned to six new ones, including: Chicago Charter; Contingent Expenses; Corporations, Mines and Mining; Municipal Corporations, Primary Elections; and the Committee to Investigate the Tuberculin Test (Joint Committee).⁸⁰

He was undoubtedly chosen for the later committee, because of his professional occupation as a physician. Although Lane served on numerous committees, he was never appointed chairman, but that did not limit his participation.⁸¹ Of the new committees to which he was appointed, the Committee to Investigate the Tuberculin Test seemed to be the most involved.

On March 12, 1907, the governor of Illinois commissioned nine members of the House and Senate to investigate occupational diseases.⁸² Lane was among six people appointed by Edward D. Shurtleff, Speaker of the House, and four by the President of the Senate to “investigate the reliability, the efficiency and the necessity of adopting the tuberculin test in the State of Illinois.”⁸³ In addition, the committee was to “determine if the disease germ passed from an animal afflicted with tuberculosis through the milk to human beings.”⁸⁴

TABLE II. Illinois General Assembly Election Statistics, First District, 1908

Candidate	Total Number of Votes
John Griffin (D)	18,803
Francis P. Brady (R)	14,741.5
Alexander Lane ®	13,743
Robert Kurth (S)	945
Lawrence A. Newby (I)	649

Source: Cook County Department of Elections.

The concern was that if milk being shipped to Chicago was contaminated, its population could be sickened by the spread of this disease and “cause great injury to the dairy interests of the State.”⁸⁵

As members of the committee, Lane and his colleagues had subpoena powers to call witnesses and to obtain other documents such as those related to statutes and opinions of bacteriologists familiar with the success of the tuberculin test. If after the committee’s investigation it was found that the test was reliable, the intention of both the Illinois House and Senate was to adopt it in the state.

Meanwhile, no cheese or butter was to be sold in Chicago after January 1, 1909 unless it was made from milk or cream obtained from cows that tested negatively for tuberculosis. For cows untested, the mandate was effective until January 1, 1914.⁸⁶ This ordinance was enacted by the Chicago’s City Council, but the matter was taken up by the General Assembly. During the next legislative session, Lane and his colleagues were required to submit a report.

Lane’s other committee assignments were not as intense. For example, the House Committee on Contingent Expenses addressed the travel expenses for legislators whose duties often took them to various parts of the state. It was this committee’s responsibility

to compute and determine the amount of compensation for legislators who incurred such expenses.⁸⁷

As members of the Chicago Charter Committee, Lane and several members of both the House and Senate were to participate in the Charter Convention. Those delegates were appointed by Chicago's Mayor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Board of Sanitary Trustees, the County Board, the Chicago Board of Education, the Lincoln Park Board, the Chicago Public Library and other entities.

The committee's charge was to discuss the general framework and fundamental provisions of a charter granting the City of Chicago the largest practicable measure of home rule subject to such statutory safeguards and restrictions necessary to protect the general interests of the state as distinguished from the local interests of the municipality.⁸⁸

Lane and other members of the Joint Committee were mandated to submit its report to the General Assembly. Lane wrote three more bills, re-introduced the earlier one to discard photographs of prisoners acquitted of crimes, and initiated one resolution.

On February 24, 1909, he introduced H.B. 180 calling for the appropriation of \$150,000 to construct an armory building for use by the 8th Infantry Illinois National Guard in Chicago, Cook County. This provided that there shall be deeded to the state suitable ground upon which to erect the armory.⁸⁹

The site upon which the armory was to be built needed the approval of the Governor and the Adjutant General. H.B.180 was referred to the Appropriations Committee.

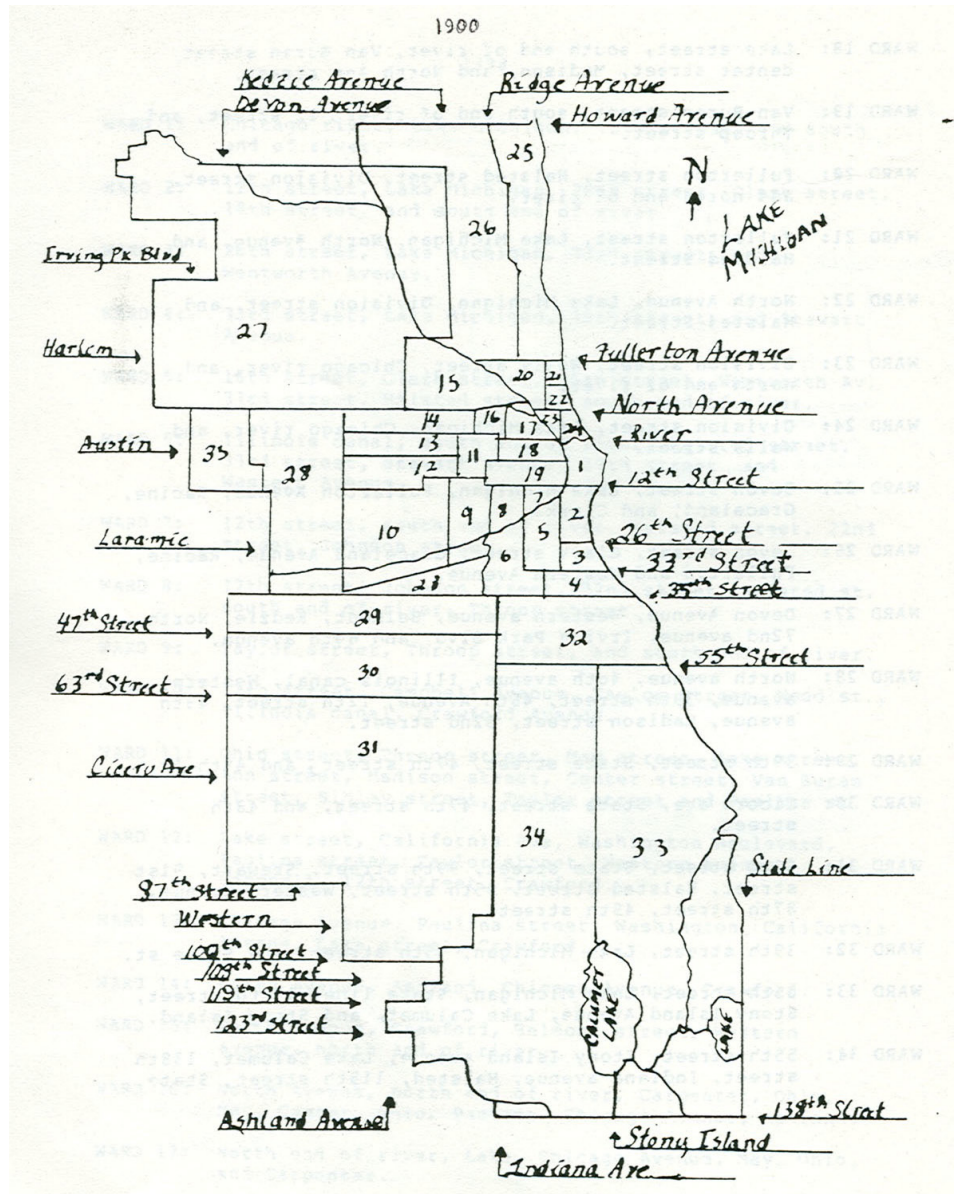


Fig. 20
Map of the 2nd ward of Chicago ca. 1900
Source: Legislature Research Unit

Formed in Illinois about 1873, the 8th Illinois Infantry was comprised primarily of African Americans from Chicago. Several states permitted African Americans to organize such military outfits and enter the service, and among them was Illinois.⁹⁰ As a result, the 8th Illinois Infantry was created and mustered into service to fight in the Spanish-American War in 1898 under the military command of Colonel John R. Marshall, also an African American.⁹¹

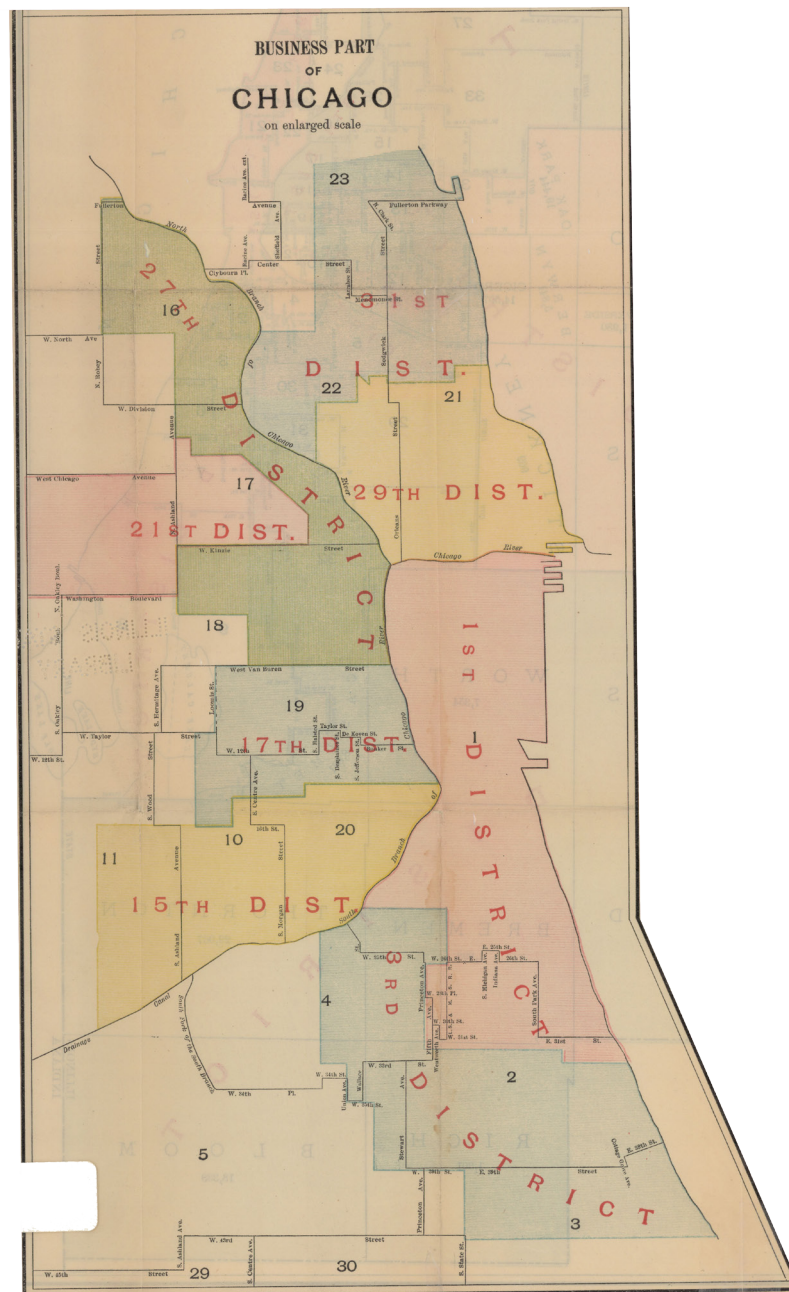


Fig. 21 Map of the 1st Legislative District of Chicago. ca 1908
 Source: Legislative Research Unit

This unit was also sent to Cuba. For these reasons, group of soldiers for their bravery and patriotism to the United States during a time of war by building them an armory. While there is no evidence of H.B.180 passing during Lane’s term, there is an indication that the construction of an armory for Cook County’s 8th Illinois National Guard was underway after he had completed his second term as a member of the 46th General Assembly. There was an act making appropriations of additional sums for the completion of armories currently under construction and that included the 8th Illinois Infantry.⁹² This act was made under Governor Dunne who succeeded Governor Deneen in 1914.

Dunne approved a \$60,000 appropriation for the completion of the armory, a \$15,000 reduction from the initial \$75,000 request. This is evidence that Lane was instrumental in getting the earlier construction of the armory off the ground, but that there were insufficient funds for its completion.

Also, during the Progressive era (1900-1910), thousands of women were employed in the nation's manufacturing jobs. In 1900, there were 46,719 or 11.9% of women engaged in manufacturing, but in 1910, African-American women held only an estimated 929 of more than 20,000 such positions.⁹³

Given the plight of many of Chicago's women who were forced to work outside the home to sustain their families, Lane introduced H.B. 453 to "regulate the hours women could work in manufacturing, mercantile or mechanical establishments, laundries, hotels or restaurants."⁹⁴

It was not uncommon for women to work long hours or to be paid low wages, especially those who were African American, because of so few employment opportunities and limited occupations because of their race. White employers no doubt exploited their labor by paying them less than white women working in the same position.

However, Lane's efforts to regulate the working hours of all women were "to safeguard the health of such employees and to provide for its enforcement and a penalty for its violation."⁹⁵ House Bill 453, written to provide relief for women, was referred to the Labor and Industrial Affairs Committee for further consideration on March 31, 1909.

Lane kept up his crusade to destroy pictures of people who were not committed of crimes. He had proposed this legislation during his first term in the legislature, but it died in committee.

On Lane's second attempt for passage of his bill, it succeeded in both the House and the Senate with 79 and 38 votes respectively. Lane had high hopes for

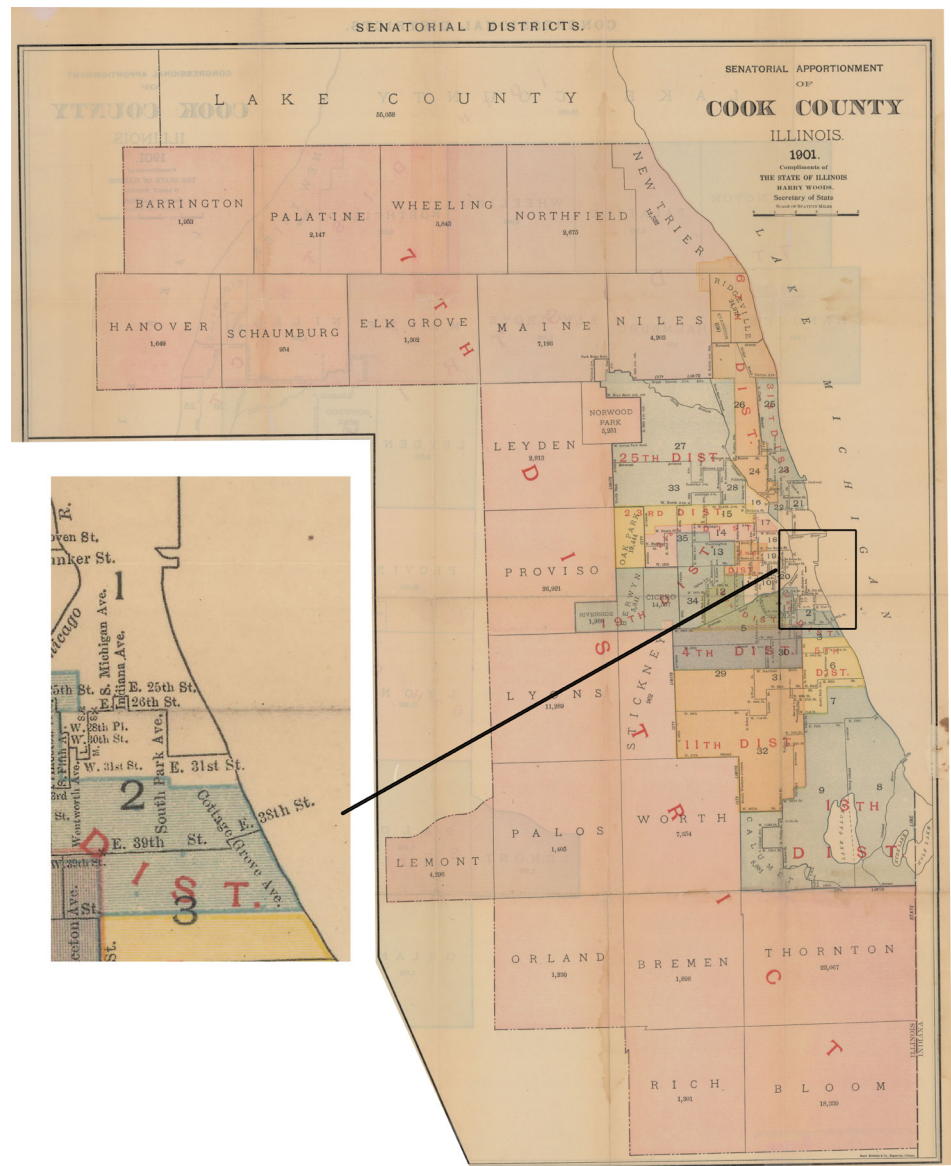


Fig. 22 Map of 1st Senatorial District, 2nd ward, Chicago. ca. 1901
Source: Legislative Research Unit

H.B. 633 when it passed on the third reading, but they were dashed when it was vetoed by then-Governor Deneen and not overridden by the required a two-thirds vote of the General Assembly. In response to Lane's bill, Deneen stated:

"I return herewith without my approval, House Bill No. 633. Undoubtedly from a theoretical standpoint much may be said in favor of the measure, but its provisions are so far-reaching in their practical effect upon the administration of the criminal laws of the State and are, in my opinion, so detrimental to its efficiency that I have been constrained to withhold from my approval. In my judgment, the present law sufficiently guards the photographing of persons by the police departments of our cities to prevent the abuse of power."⁹⁶

Deneen’s decision was also based on the rules of the Chicago Bureau of Identification concerning who could be photographed. They included “persons convicted of felonies by municipal courts; persons with prior felony or misdemeanor convictions who had been sentenced to state or county prisons; and persons placed under arrest who, upon investigation, were found to have a previous criminal record.”⁹⁷ While Deneen justified vetoing Lane’s measure, we can still speculate that Deneen disliked him, because of his association, no matter how remote, with William H. Lorimer.

Though Lane appeared to have limited success with the passage of his legislation, he was not alone. According to the Summary of Bills during the 46th General Assembly, 528 were introduced in the Senate and 740 in the House, totaling 1,268.⁹⁸ Of these bills, only 220 became law and forty were vetoed by the governor. Lane’s proposed legislation, H.B. 633 and 697, were listed among those vetoed.

As a matter of fact, in the regular and special sessions of the 1909-1910 General Assembly which included the first half of Governor Deneen’s second term, 44 of 239 bills were vetoed.

This represents the highest number of bills returned to a General Assembly in Illinois since Governor John M. Palmer disapproved 72 bills during the legislative session of 1869.⁹⁹ This tells us that numerous bills introduced by other Illinois legislators also met a similar fate. Despite Lane’s lack of legislative success and Deneen’s reasoning for vetoing H.B. 633, the doctor was not deterred by the decision.

On May 21, 1909, he sought to improve the landscape, waterfront, and tourism on Chicago’s portion of Lake Michigan. Lane’s newest piece of legislation, H.B. 738 was “An Act granting the right, power and authority to the Chicago Excavation and Recreation Pier Company (incorporated) and its successors to construct, maintain and operate a recreation pier upon the submerged lands and waters of Lake Michigan extending easterly and perpendicular to the general trend of the shore line at 31st in Chicago with proper and necessary approaches.”¹⁰⁰

The bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee, because it was related to civil and commercial law.

This proposed legislation was placed in the order of House Bills on the third reading. While Lane sought to improve the lives of his constituents, he did the same for janitors employed at the State House in Springfield, Illinois. He successfully introduced House Resolution 47 which read as follows:

WHEREAS, the coat room janitors who have in charge the coats, hats and other property of the members of the House from early morn until the adjournment of the committees, frequently extending until late at night, requiring their constant presence; therefore, be it Resolved, That the Speaker of the House be authorized to certify the coat room janitors of the House of Representatives as policemen and pay them at a per diem of \$3.00 per day, dating from January 6th, the first day of the session.¹⁰¹

The resolution which applied to the head janitors of both the Republican and Democratic parties was voted upon immediately, receiving a two-thirds vote. This signified a victory for Lane and positions of greater responsibility, respectability, and better wages for these former janitors. At this juncture, the task of obtaining enough support for the passage of legislation appeared quite difficult. Perhaps numerous individual and partisan agendas among members of both the House and the Senate were partly responsible or Lane’s race may have been a factor with some of his colleagues. This, in part, could have hampered his efforts to secure the passage of his proposed legislation. Early African-American politicians, particularly those during the Reconstruction and Post-Reconstruction periods had little success in this area, because of negative attitudes toward race and the ‘Negro’s’ place in American society. His inability to secure passage of his legislation had nothing to do with his level of intelligence. After all, he was a physician.

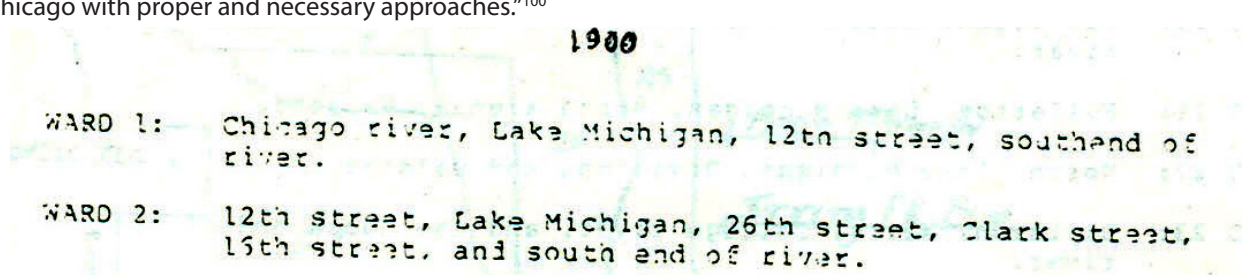


Fig. 24 Description of the boundaries of the 2nd ward of Chicago. ca. 1900
Source: Legislative Research Unit

LANE: FACING TROUBLED WATERS

In late 1909, great controversy began to swirl around Chicago politics in the alleged bribery case surrounding William H. Lorimer's election to the U.S. Senate on May 26th of the same year. This was the era before to the passage of the 17th Amendment, which established the direct election of U.S. Senators.

Prior to that, senators were selected by the state legislature, a practice that often resulted in unethical political behavior such as bribery.

A dominant figure on Chicago's West Side, Lorimer cultivated minority group support through jobs, special favors, and friendship in exchange for monetary political contributions.¹⁰²

That however, is not all he did. Lorimer was notorious for ruthless attacks upon his enemies and flagrant mudslinging against political foes.

A political relationship with the "Blond Boss" would prove to be detrimental and career-ending to numerous local Chicago politicians, white and African American; Republican and Democrat, depending on whether he liked you or not.

Since 1894 when Lorimer was first elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, he had long been suspected of political corruption.

He served two consecutive

terms was not re-elected in 1900, but won again in 1902 under cloud of suspicion. Given his political astuteness, Lorimer was elected to four consecutive terms thereafter. Altogether, he served in the U.S. House from 1895-1901 and four more terms, 1903-1909. It was not until 1909 that he came under serious scrutiny by the Illinois General Assembly after being elected to the U.S. Senate from the State of Illinois in the 61st Congress.

In April 1910, the Chicago Tribune reported that several senators had made statements about receiving substantial sums of money to vote for Lorimer. Several state senators reportedly accepted as much as \$2,500 each while selected business owners were asked to contribute \$10,000 to create a \$100,000 fund for Lorimer's appointment.¹⁰³

Two investigations were launched in the vote-buying scandal in January and June 1911.¹⁰⁴ The Committee on Privileges and Elections, a Congressional Committee appointed to further investigate the matter determined that Lorimer's election to the U.S. Senate in 1909 was invalid. However, he challenged the decision by refusing to resign his seat and was instead expelled on July 13, 1912.¹⁰⁵

Once the "most powerful factor in Cook County Republican politics," William H. Lorimer was disgraced.¹⁰⁶ This scandal helped to propel the movement toward a constitutional Amendment to change the direct election of the U.S. senators thereby "permanently ending the role legislatures played in this political process."¹⁰⁷ This was accomplished with the 17th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which became law in May 1913 and meant that state voters could now elect their senators.

Drastic repercussions from this political scandal and eventual demise created a firestorm in Illinois politics and among local politicians. Those even remotely tied to Lorimer and seeking re-election would be confronted by formidable challenges; not so much from opposing candidates, but in reprisal from Lorimer's enemies. Targeted were nine Republican legislators who voted in

in Springfield May 20, 1909 for Lorimer and who failed to obtain an endorsement in the regular party organization committees in making the legislative slates, and Lane was included.¹⁰⁸

He was also targeted by the regular party and the Legislative Voter's League, a non-partisan organization which made recommendations from a class of candidates who had never been members of the General Assembly.¹⁰⁹

It also condemned eleven Republicans and six Democrats seeking re-election as having "mixed" records.

Based on the data collected and in comparison with some of the legislation introduced by other Illinois legislators, Lane's exclusion probably had more to do with having been labeled as a "Lorimerite" or simply put, guilt by association.

Lane's decision not to seek re-election needs further examination. During the Lorimer scandal and the Senate Hearings, Lane's name was never mentioned as a witness nor having been a contributor to or the recipient of the \$100,000 fund established for Lorimer's alleged vote-buying scheme. The evidence clearly suggests that he was not involved in the vote-buying scandal.

Lane's decision not to seek re-election was a surprise. The Cook County Central Republican Organization of the 1st Senatorial District had made preparations for a big picnic to boost Lane's candidacy for re-election to be held at Peter's Grove.¹¹⁰ But Lane suddenly withdrew from the race while in Springfield. At the time, he was the only African American in the 46th Illinois General Assembly.

If no African American entered and won the upcoming race, it would be the first time since 1882 that the Illinois General Assembly was without minority representation. Perhaps Lane's decision was premature, "particularly when most of the men charged in the Lorimer scandal (in which Lane was not implicated) were re-elected," and considering the fact that his constituents had plans to secure his re-nomination.¹¹²

Whatever his reason, we do know that he left the legislature on his own volition. Although he lacked the endorsement of the Legislative Voter's League, which was only one of many political organizations in Illinois, having been labeled a "Lorimerite" may have taken a toll on him. Before completing his second term, Lane also became ill which may have contributed to a personal rather than a political decision not to seek re-election. He died on November 11, 1911 of exhaustion and diabetes.

Throughout his career in the Illinois State Legislature, he worked diligently for the people of Illinois. Lane retained his medical practice in Chicago and his reputation as one of its most prominent African-American physicians who maintained a "lucrative clientele."

On November 11, 1911, Lane died at age 51 in Chicago.¹¹³ He was eulogized by the Reverend Dr. W.D. Cook, pastor of Chicago's Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church. Lane's body was returned to southern Illinois and to Jackson County for burial in Carbondale's Oakland Cemetery.¹¹⁴ This is perhaps a fitting final resting place for Lane since he received his education at Southern Illinois State University Normal School and obtained his first job as principal of The Eastside School. Certainly taking him back to southern Illinois at the end of his life was a form of taking him home. The foundation for his legacy began there.

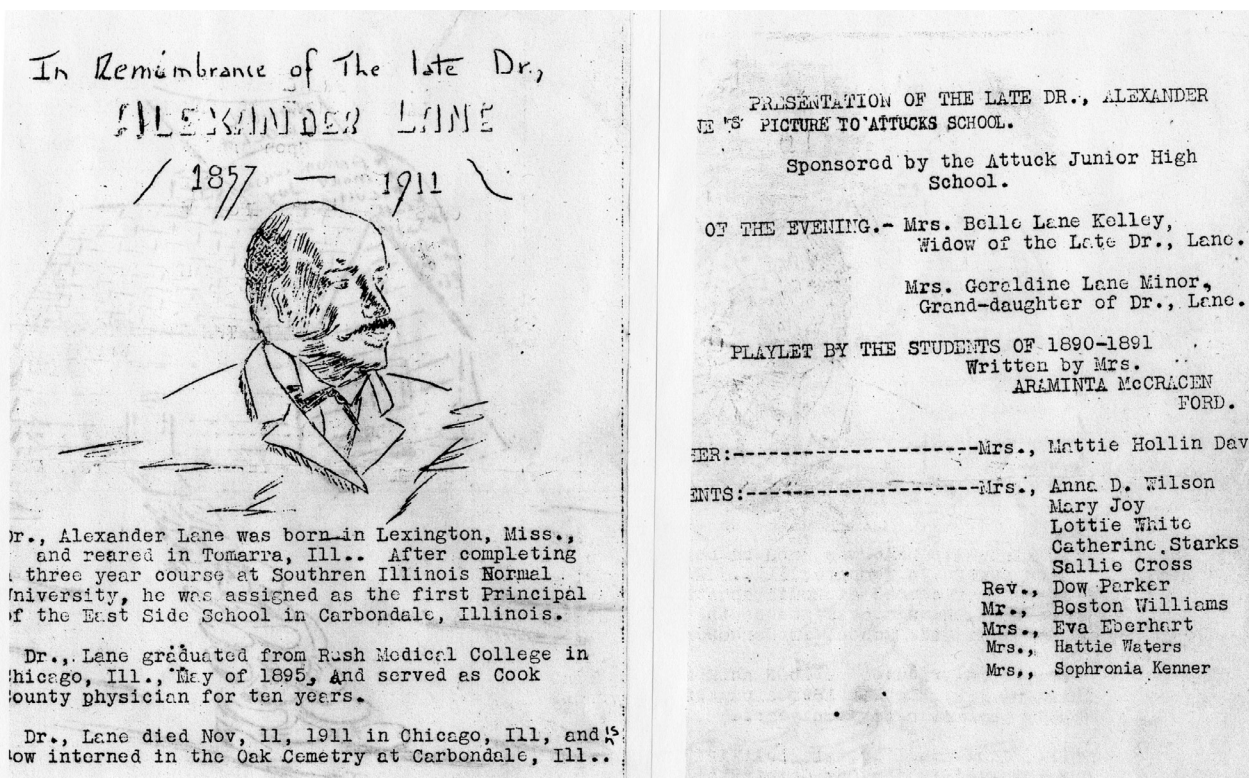


Fig. 25 Tribute Playlet
Source: Geraldine Lane Mardis Collection

In Lane's honor, several of his former students from the East-side School (later Attucks Junior High School) where he was the principal and teacher, organized a tribute to him in 1946. Invited guests were Belle and their granddaughter, Geraldine Lane, a graduate of the University of Chicago and a noted social worker.¹¹⁵ During the program, Geraldine presented the school with a portrait of Dr. Lane, in recognition of his role as its first principal. A 'playlet,' written by Arminata Ford, was performed by students from the Class of 1890-1891, and there were several tributes from his other students.¹¹⁶ Lane obviously left an indelible impression upon those students in his charge for them to acknowledge him with such dignity.

Following Lane's death, his wife of twenty-eight years made periodic trips to Carbondale "to erect a monument over her husband's grave" and to visit the grave site.¹¹⁷ An article published in The Chicago Defender read:

Mrs. Alexander Lane, wife of the late Dr. Alex Lane, and late member of the Illinois legislature has broken up housekeeping. She left Monday morning for Southern Illinois to visit the grave of her husband and to see to the erection of a granite monument. Mrs. Lane will return to Chicago by way of St. Louis and Springfield with a short stop-over at each place.¹¹⁸

We are unsure about her visit to Springfield after leaving Carbondale, but perhaps she visited friends from her husband's days in the legislature or maybe there was a legislative tribute. One thing is for sure—Belle wanted her husband to be remembered. Lane's headstone was installed and followed by an unveiling ceremony at his grave site.



Fig. 26 Geraldine Lane Mardis
Source: Carter G. Woodson Regional Library,
Vivian Harsh Collection
Chicago Public Library



Fig. 27 Arminata McCracken Ford
Source: *In Unity There is Strength: A Pictorial History of
African Americans in Carbondale*
Little Egypt Genealogical Society

CONCLUSION

The life of the Honorable Dr. Alexander Mills Lane has much to tell us about family, slavery, freedom, history, education, medicine and politics. It also demonstrates how personal perseverance, the courage to dream and realizing your full potential can result in unimaginable rewards. More importantly, there are lessons to be learned from a life that perhaps ended too soon.

In our recognition of Lane, emphasis must be placed upon Southern Illinois Normal University which played a major role in his ultimate success, because he was given an opportunity of a lifetime—one that likely would have been unavailable to him in Mississippi as a result of racial hostility and Jim Crowism.

We can attest to the fact that SIU Carbondale has been engaged in attracting African American students since the late 19th century and has continued this practice into the 21st century. It has conferred degrees upon more undergraduate African-American students than any other four-year institution in the United States with the exception of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

During the Fall Semester 2011, Southern Illinois University had an undergraduate African American male population of 1,786, and a total African American student population of 3,244, or 21.63 percent of the total undergraduate population.¹¹⁹

We must also acknowledge that SIU Carbondale has increased its efforts for creating diversity to include international, Hispanics, and Native American students. Lane is an example of how far SIU Carbondale has come in providing opportunities for minority and underrepresented groups.

Lane has other significance as well. He is the epitome African American history, because his life was indicative of its three themes: struggle, resistance, and survival. Within these themes, Lane is certainly a role model for young African American males given the fact that they have been deemed an endangered species by many professionals and the huge number of initiatives being created to place them on the right path, particularly through education.

Although the circumstances and historical periods are different in each case, with help, proper mentoring, opportunity, and determination the outcome can be the same—success. Lane was proof that there are unlimited opportunities despite the issue of race.

For the record, Lane, an educator, physician, and politician, deserves his rightful place in the history of Southern Illinois University Carbondale as an outstanding alumnus; in Illinois political history as a man who sought to become a change agent for his constituents; and in African American history by adding to the literature on African Americans in the professions.

Lane has left a legacy of achievement as one who made a difference in the lives of other people, and a reason for Southern Illinois University Carbondale to celebrate its proud legacy of more than 135 years of diversity.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexander Lane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

THE ALEXANDER LANE INTERNSHIP

The Alexander Lane Internship Program will send at least one student each spring to work with a member of the Illinois General Assembly Black Caucus who will provide the student with challenging and rewarding assignments such as:

- Reviewing and analyzing legislation;
- Researching issues related to policy areas of interest to the member and /or the student that could ideally be used in the creation of proposed legislation;
- Attending policy briefings, press conferences and committee hearings;
- Interacting with and responding to constituents and the public;
- Establishing contacts with state agencies and offices to develop an understanding of how state government works to meet the needs of the public.

Lane Interns will be selected by a committee chaired by the Simon Institute director and comprised of university faculty and staff, alumni and internship donors. The committee will recommend finalists to the Joint Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus for final selection and placement. Students will receive a stipend for living expenses, transportation costs and other necessities. There is a preference the intern be a minority.

At the conclusion of the internship experience, the student will write a paper detailing what they learned in Springfield and how they will apply their knowledge to their future career path and personal life.

Contributions of any amount to the Alexander Lane Internship Endowment are encouraged.

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ENDNOTES

- ¹ Certificate of Death—Physician's Form, Undertaker's Certificate and Record of Death, Registered No. 28167. Several different years have appeared in the U.S. Census records regarding Lane's birth including 1856, 1857, and 1859. The year 1860 will be used, because it coincides with Lane's age upon his arrival in Perry County and it appears on his death certificate.
- ² Durant Mississippi Rotary Club, Facts About Durant, MS, 1945, 1. This document was obtained from the Durant Public Library in Durant, MS
- ³ Ninth Census of the United States, Statistics of Population (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1871), 184.
- ⁴ J.H. Lockhart, History of Durant, 1926, 1-2, 8.
- ⁵ Tom Blake, "Holmes County Mississippi, Slaveholders From 1860 Slave Census Schedules," April 2003.
- ⁶ Belle Lane, Brief Biography of Dr. Alexander Lane, 1. Geraldine Lane Mardis Papers, Box 1 FF Mardis, Dr. Carter G. Woodson Regional Library, Vivian Harsh Collection, Chicago Public Library, Chicago, IL.
- ⁷ Belle Lane, 2. GLM Papers.
- ⁸ Ibid., 2
- ⁹ Dunbar Rowland, History of Mississippi, Heart of the South (Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1925), Volume 2, 123.
- ¹⁰ Ibid., 125.
- ¹¹ Christopher Span, From Cotton Field to Schoolhouse: African American Education in Mississippi, 1862-1875, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press 2009), 45.
- ¹² W.E.B. DuBois, Black Reconstruction in America: An Essay Toward a History of the Part Which Black Folk Played in the Attempt to Reconstruct Democracy in America, 1860-1880, (Cleveland: World Publishing, 1964), 641.
- ¹³ Heather Andrea Williams, Self-Taught: African Americans in Slavery and Freedom, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005), 71.
- ¹⁴ Ibid., 71.
- ¹⁵ James D. Anderson, The Education of Blacks in the South, 1860-1935, (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1988), 3.
- ¹⁶ Williams, 139.
- ¹⁷ Belle Lane, 4.
- ¹⁸ Ibid 72
- ¹⁹ Belle Lane, 4.
- ²⁰ Ibid., 2,3.
- ²¹ History of Randolph, Monroe and Perry Counties Illinois, 367.
- ²² Ibid., 367.
- ²³ See U.S. Population Census, Perry County, Illinois, June 7, 1870, 17.
- ²⁴ Belle Lane, 3.
- ²⁵ J. Oscar Marberry, ed., The Sphinx, Southern Illinois Normal University, Volume I, 1899, 40.
- ²⁶ Ibid., 40.
- ²⁷ Ibid., 40.
- ²⁸ Belle Lane, 3.
- ²⁹ Compendium of the Ninth Census, June 1, 1870, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1872), 156. According to this census, there were no African Americans living in Tamaroa. For more information, see page 161.
- ³⁰ Johnetta Jones, Negroes in Jackson County, Illinois, 1850-1910, M.A. Thesis, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Carbondale, Illinois, 1971
- ³¹ Little Egypt African American Genealogical Society, In Unity There Is Strength, (Paducah Kentucky: Turner Publishing Company, 1999), 4. Bethel A.M.E. Church, "The Church is Moving On, 1864-2011" 147th Church Anniversary Souvenir Booklet, August 21, 2011, 1, Carbondale, Illinois. This source was provided by Sandra T. McKinley, Ph.D., a member of Bethel for more than 26 years.
- ³² U.S. Population Census, 1880, (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1882), 179. Susan Hawkins was born in 1813 and her slave owners were John and Maria[h] Thomas who were engaged in the real estate business. After the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, she worked for herself as a laundress. The Jackson County School superintendent's Office was contacted in an effort to learn more about Belle Lane's educational background, but such records were not maintained until 1921. In other words, her education cannot be verified.
- ³³ "In Remembrance of the Late Dr. Alexander Lane, 1857-1911," GLM Papers, Box 1, FF Mardis, 1.
- ³⁴ The Little Egypt African American Historical and Genealogical Society, Paducah, KY: 1999, 34.
- ³⁵ Belle Lane, "Brief Biography of Dr. Alexander Lane," 3.
- ³⁶ Melvin Leroy Green Macklin, Traces In The Dust: Carbondale's Black Heritage, 1852-1964, (Magnolia, Texas: Ingenuity Press, 2001), 44.
- ³⁷ Medical Education, "Rush Medical College," Encyclopedia of Chicago, Chicago Historical Society, 805. Some of the courses included surgery, clinical surgery, pathology, obstetrics, pharmacy, morbid anatomy, and gynecology. Rush Medical College was named in honor of Dr. Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence.
- ³⁸ Ibid., 805.
- ³⁹ Ibid., 805. Most of the students attending Rush Medical College were from Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Michigan, and Ohio. However, the majority of them were from Illinois. See the "Graduating Class of 1895," Rush Medical College, 50-54.
- ⁴⁰ Heather J. Stecklein to Pamela Smoot from Heather J. Stecklein, 2 June 2011. Stecklein is the librarian and archivist at Rush University Medical Center Archives in Chicago.
- ⁴¹ Ibid. In addition, Dr. Keesee received his license to practice medicine in 1868. Also see, Carbondale City Directory, 1905.
- ⁴² Belle Lane Kelley, Brief Biography of Susan Hawkins, 1812-1899, 1. This document was written on May 6, 1947. For more information, see G.L.M. Papers.
- ⁴³ Belle Lane, Brief Biography of Dr. Alexander Lane, 5.
- ⁴⁴ See Allan H. Spear, Chapter 6: Business and Politics-The Quest for Self-Sufficiency in Black Chicago: the Making of a Negro Ghetto, 1890-1920, 111-126.

- ⁴⁵ "New Building for Colored Odd Fellows," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, 18 March 1900, 7. The article further describes the building as containing two stores in the front of the building, one on each side of the main entry way. The other fraternal organizations involved in the project were Golden Fleece, Western Star, Ezekiel, West Chicago, and Lincoln. Dr. Daniel Hale Williams was one of the Building Committee members.
- ⁴⁶ See The Chicago Defender, "Obituary: William Bradley Dies," 28 July 1917, 7; John Owens, "The Last Stop South Suburban Cemeteries the Final Resting Place for Many Celebrities, Final Equality for African Americans," *The Chicago Tribune*, 13 July 1997, 1. According to Owens, this was the first cemetery in the United States that did not discriminate against African Americans in death. In other words, the cemetery was not segregated.
- ⁴⁷ History of the National Medical Association, <http://www.nmanet.org>, 1. Accessed 07/24/2011.
- ⁴⁸ Dr. Lane and Belle took the remains of Susan Hawkins to Carbondale, Illinois for burial on May 2, 1899. She is buried in Oakland Cemetery.
- ⁴⁹ Alan Spear, *Black Chicago: The Making of A Negro Ghetto, 1890-1920*, (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1935), 125.
- ⁵⁰ [Http://Findlaw.com/data/constitution/amendment,15](http://Findlaw.com/data/constitution/amendment,15).
- ⁵¹ Travis J. Dempsey, *An Autobiography of Black Politics*. (Chicago: Urban Research Press, Inc., 1987), 2.
- ⁵² In 1817, John Jones was born free in Green County, North Carolina. At an early age, his mother apprenticed him to a successful tailor who migrated to Tennessee taking Jones with him. In 1841, he moved to Alton, Illinois and shortly thereafter, married Mary Jane Richardson. Four years later, John Jones moved his family to Chicago where he struggled to establish what later became a prosperous tailoring business.
- ⁵³ "The Black Laws," *Harper's Ferry Weekly*, 11 February 1865, col. 4, 82. Other Black Laws stipulated that any Negro who migrated into the State had to prove that they were free: no Negro or mulatto having one-eighth Negro blood shall marry a white person; and any person encouraging them to come to [Illinois], giving them employment will be fined from \$10-\$500. For more information on Illinois Black Laws, see Arthur Cole's Centennial History of Illinois: The Era of the Civil War, 1848-1878. Earlier in Illinois history, the State Legislature had passed anti-immigration laws in 1819, 1829, and 1853 to keep Negroes out of the State.
- ⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, 82; Dempsey, 20.
- ⁵⁵ Dempsey, 25.
- ⁵⁶ Oliver R. Trowbridge and Gilbert Randle, *Illinois and the Nation: A Practical Treatise on State and National Civics*, (Chicago: A. Flanagan Company, 1920), 15.
- ⁵⁷ John W.E. Thomas survived one legislative term before a vote of no confidence from his Republican colleagues. A contributing factor was the progress made by African Americans in general brought on by Reconstruction. Democrats began a serious campaign to have all African Americans removed from political offices across the country to relegate blacks to second-class citizenship. During the 30th Illinois General Assembly, Thomas was dumped by the Republicans for failing to initiate an African American agenda. He was re-elected to the Illinois House of Representatives, but representing the 3rd District in 1882.
- ⁵⁸ Legislative Research Unit, First Reading, Special Edition for Black History Month, "African American Legislators in Illinois, 1876-2005," Illinois General Assembly Legislative Research Unit, Volume 19 (February 2006), 8,7; Dempsey, 33.
- ⁵⁹ Dempsey, 40.
- ⁶⁰ "Brief Biography of Dr. Alexander Lane," GLM Papers, Box 1 FF Mardis, Vivian Harsh Collection.
- ⁶¹ The two factions emerged when many African Americans in Chicago particularly those who were middle-class believed that reformers sought to disfranchise them. African Americans such as Ferdinand Barnett, newspaper owner and attorney aligned himself with Deneen, a Democrat.
- ⁶² David W. Scott, "Lincoln and Lorimer: How Illinois Politics Helped Change the Way of Choosing Senators." [Http://www.lib.niu/2003/ih050314.html](http://www.lib.niu/2003/ih050314.html), 3. Accessed 09/10/2011.
- ⁶³ *Ibid.*, 3.
- ⁶⁴ Oliver R. Trowbridge and Gilbert P. Randle, *Illinois and the Nation: A Practical Treatise on State and National Civics*, (Chicago: A. Flanagan Company, 1920), 13.
- ⁶⁵ Gosnell, 111. Historian Benjamin Quarles explains that the Grand United Order of the Odd Fellows came into existence under dispensation from the English Lodge after it refused admission to African American men to the American Odd Fellows. See Quarles, *The Negro in the Making of America*, (1987).
- ⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 368.
- ⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, vii.
- ⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, 39.
- ⁶⁹ Spear, 119.
- ⁷⁰ "Green Beaten By Dr. Lane For Illinois Legislature," *The New York Age*, 30 August 1906, 1.
- ⁷¹ *Journal of the House of Representatives, 45th General Assembly, State of Illinois*, (Springfield: Illinois General Assembly, 1907), 1879.
- ⁷² *Ibid.*, 632.
- ⁷³ R.C. Lindsay, G.J. Nosworthy, and Martin Martynuck, "Using mugshots to find suspects," *Journal of Applied Psychology*, 79 (February 1994), 121-30.
- ⁷⁴ *Journal of the House of Representatives, 45th General Assembly, 1907*, 322.
- ⁷⁵ Chicago Illinois Clinical School, "Hanging, Electrocutation, or Morphine," *The Chicago Clinic and Pan-Therapeutic Journal* 19 (1906), 245; "Story: Prisoner Support and Advocacy: The Prisoner's Aid and Rehabilitation Societies," <http://www.terea.govt.nz/en/prisoner-support-and-advocacy/2>. Accessed 09/30/2011.
- ⁷⁶ John Miskell, *Better Than Hanging*, 1990, www.correctinhistory.org 8. Accessed 09/24/2011.
- ⁷⁷ *The Chicago Daily News Almanac and Yearbook for 1918*, 735.
- ⁷⁸ *Journal of the House of Representatives*, May 1907, 356.
- ⁷⁹ *Journal of the House of Representatives, 46th General Assembly of the State of Illinois (Springfield: General Assembly) 1909*, 4. A resolution by Mr. Louis J. Pierson was adopted mandating that a committee of three members be appointed by the presiding officer requesting the Chief Justice to administer the oath.
- ⁸⁰ *Journal of the House of Representatives, 1909*, 1387, 1426.
- ⁸¹ *Ibid.*, 247-249.
- ⁸² Illinois State Board of Health, *Monthly Bulletin*, Volume 5, 71. Also, see the Chicago Medical Society's, *The Chicago Medical Recorder*, (Volume 31), 589.
- ⁸³ *Ibid.*, 72. The members of the Senate appointed to the Committee to Investigate the Tuberculin Test were: S.C. Pemberton, Albert J. Olson, Campbell S. Hearn and John McKenzie; and Frank W. Guy, L. Bush, Thomas Tippet, Alexander Lane and J.W. Allison representing the House. The Senate appointees included John C. McKenzie, Albert J. Olson, S.C. Pemberton, and C.S. Hearn.
- ⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, 71.
- ⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 72.
- ⁸⁶ *Monthly Bulletin*, Volume 5, 493.
- ⁸⁷ *Illinois Blue Book, Laws of the State of Illinois, Illinois General Assembly, 1909*, 219-220.
- ⁸⁸ Messages to the General Assembly, "Chicago Charter," Illinois General Assembly, 1907, 34.
- ⁸⁹ *Journal of Illinois House of Representatives, 1909*, 211.
- ⁹⁰ John Hope Franklin, *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of African Americans*, 7th Edition, (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1994), 299; "Victory WWI: Black Soldiers Memorial Marker," <http://www.hmdb.org/marker>.

⁹¹ Gosnell, 112. Bish, an Illinois legislator 1892, was also a member of the Eighth Illinois National Guard. Aside from his military obligations, Colonel John Marshall also dabbled in local politics and was the recipient of at least five political appointments on the county level. In Cook County, Marshall, a Republican served as a deputy sheriff, tax collector, state parole officer, deputy state game warden, and a deputy in the county clerk's office.

⁹² Niels Henrikson Debel, *University of Illinois Studies in the Social Sciences*, (Urbana: University of Illinois) 1917, 124.

⁹³ Spear, 29.

⁹⁴ *Journal of the Illinois House*, 1909, 396.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, 396.

⁹⁶ "Criminal Code—Photographing Persons Under Arrest—House Bill No. 633," *Veto Messages, Senate and House Bills, 46th General Assembly*, (Springfield, IL: Illinois State Journal Company State Printers, 1909), 31.

⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, 31.

⁹⁸ *Journal of the House of Representatives*, 6 January 1909, and adjourned sine die June 4, 1909, n.p. Only 91 of the Senate's 528 bills and 129 of the 740 introduced in the House passed. Among the bills enacted into law, eight managed to pass without the governor's approval.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, 128.

¹⁰⁰ *Journal of the House of Representatives*, 1909, 981.

¹⁰¹ *Journal of the Illinois House of Representatives*, 7 April 1909, 450.

¹⁰² Gosnell, 39, 121. David W. Scott, "Lincoln and Lorimer: How Illinois Politics Helped Change the Way of Choosing Senators," 18.

¹⁰³ One of the business owners tapped for a contribution to the Lorimer fund was Clarence Funk, manager of the International Harvester Company. Edward Hines, a Lorimerite and wealthy lumberman approached Funk with the request for \$10,000. Funk went to the newspaper with his story.

¹⁰⁴ See *Proceedings*, 7. In addition to Charles A. White, other members of the Illinois State legislature directly involved in the Lorimer scandal were: H.J.C. Beckmeyer, Michael Link, Joseph S. Clark, W.C. Blair, Henry A. Shepherd, Charles Luke, D.W. Holstlaw, Lee O'Neil Browne, Thomas Tippitt, Robert E. Wilson, John Broderick, Henry L. Wheelan, John H. De Wolf, and Cyril Jandus. For more information, see the *New York Times*, "Reject Evidence Against Lorimer: Majority of Senate Committee Find No Bribery in Senator's Election, Blame Illinois Politics," 21 May 1912, 7.

¹⁰⁵ David G. Savage, Laura Olson, and Cynthia Dizikes, "Early 1900s Illinois Scandals," *The Chicago Tribune*, 11 December 2008, 1. Also see, www.bioguide.congress.gov for more on William H. Lorimer.

¹⁰⁶ Scott, 3.

¹⁰⁷ U.S. Senate, "The Case of William Lorimer of Illinois (1910;1912)," http://www.senate.gov/artandhistory/history/commons/contested_elect, 2. Accessed 09/10/2011.

¹⁰⁸ "Deny O.K. To Nine Lorimer Voters: Republican Legislative Slate Makers Ignore Followers of the 'Blond Boss,'" *Chicago Daily Tribune* 12 July 1910, 2. The other Republican legislators excluded from the slate were: Francis P. Brady, District 1; F.J. McNichols, District 2; P.J. Zaabel, District 2; Emil Kowalaski, District 4; B.F. Kleeman, District 13; Thomas Curran, District 15; F.E. Erickson, District 21; Christopher Beck, District 23; Charles H. Fieldstack, District 25; and Charles E. Erby, District 31. Four Democrats were also excluded from the slate: John P. Walsh, Third District; Walter Lantz, District 7; John J. Poulton, District 13; John J. McLaughlin, District 19; and P.J. Sullivan; and J.H. Farrell, District 29.

¹⁰⁹ "Minority Party Men Indorsed: Recommendations Submitted by Legislative Voter's League," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, 30 October 1908, 3; See the *Chicago Daily News Almanac and Yearbook*, Volume 34, 735.

¹¹⁰ "Local Politics Begin To Froth: Various Organizations Busy Working on Endorsements of Candidates," *Chicago Daily Tribune*, 24 August 1910, 3.

¹¹¹ *Ibid.*, 3.

¹¹² See the *Hepburn Reports Numbers 17 and 15*, 778.

¹¹³ See Lane's Death Certificate.

¹¹⁴ For Lane's obituary, see the *Chicago Defender*, 18 November 1911, 7.

¹¹⁵ Geraldine Lane was the daughter of Roscoe and Margaret Lane. At one time, Geraldine lived with her grandmother Belle Lane with whom she spent a great deal of time. Belle even announced Geraldine's engagement. Early records show Geraldine living with Belle when she was eleven years-old.

¹¹⁶ "In Remembrance of the Late Dr. Alexander Lane, 1857-1911," 2. The play was written by Arminata McCracken Ford. Other students who were under Dr. Lane's tutelage were Mattie Hollin Davis, Mary Joy, Lottie White, Catherine Starks, Sallie Cross, Reverend Dow Parker, Boston Williams, Eva Eberhart, Hattie Waters, and Sophronia Kenner. See "Illinois State," *The Chicago Defender*, 15 June 1946, 19.

¹¹⁷ "In Chicago and Its Suburbs," *The Chicago Defender*, 18 May 1912, 3

¹¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 25 May 1912, 4.

¹¹⁹ *Institutional Research & Studies*, "Enrollments by Ethnicity and Race within Educational Level, Fall Semesters 2002-2011," *Quick Facts, 2002-2011*, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 1. For additional information, see http://www.irs.siu.edu/quickfacts/race_eth.aspx

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Dr. Pamela A. Smoot visits Oakland Cemetery and poses with Jack Yates (left) and Athadeus Johnson (right), cemetery staff members who helped her locate the gravesites of Alexander and Belle Lane. Photo: Matt Baughman, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute



Headstones of Belle Lane Kelley and Alexander Lane as they appeared on February 22, 2012. Photo: Matt Baughman, Paul Simon Public Policy Institute