

Katherine Elizabeth Peacock Lane

1910-2002

### Memorial Minute - Katherine E. Lane 1/5/03

Katherine Elizabeth Peacock Lane (Kay), 92, died October 1, 2002 at the home of her daughter Karen in Barre, Vermont with both daughters Karen and Mariah in attendance. Kay was born on March 27, 1910 in Oak Park, Illinois, the eldest child of Ernest Peacock and Cora Jean Bredenbeck. Her father Ernest was a noted tenor and attorney. Her mother Cora Jean was a soprano and pianist who had taught music at Talladega Negro College in Alabama.

Before her marriage, Kay worked at the Marshall Field Department Store, at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair and as a traveling saleswoman for Princess Pat Cosmetics. In 1936, Kay Peacock married Ralph Eldon Lane, a statistician with the Flitcraft Insurance Publication Firm of Oak Park. Soon after their wedding, Kay and Ralph joined the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and became co-founders of the Oak Park Friends Meeting.

In 1948, the couple moved to Austin, Texas, where Ralph earned his PhD and taught theoretical mathematics at the University of Texas.

Kay and Ralph joined with Olcutt and Phyllis Sanders and several other Friends to found the Friends Meeting of Austin. Kay, Ralph and their children became involved in the civil rights and peace movements of the 1950's - 60's. They also designed and built a home in the West Austin Hill Country which today is recognized as a model of passive cooling and energy efficiency.

Ralph and Kay were a very close couple, and Ralph's premature death in 1962 was deeply mourned by Kay.

In an effort to heal herself and the family after the loss of Ralph, Kay embarked in 1965 on an 18 month trip to Europe with her three children: Pacho, Karen and Jeanne Mariah. Travelling in a VW camper van, and staying in Youth Hostels, they toured Western and Eastern Europe, the British Isles and Scandinavia. They took a ship home from Europe, stopping in Puerto Rico and Venezuela before disembarking in Mexico. During the trip, her children were impressed by Kay's ability to communicate with people around the world in spite of language barriers. Kay's interest in other people and cultures was passed on to her children and inspired her friends.

Kay joined other women in the Austin Friends Meeting in mending and sending clothing to AFSC for donation to war torn areas of the world. She served as South Central Yearly Meeting's representative to the Friends Committee on Consultation - Section of the Americas. One Friend noted that although quiet and unassuming, Kay always managed to impress SCYM members with her succinct but very perceptive reports on Quaker meetings and conferences. Members of the Friends Meeting of Austin also recall her plain speech during difficult Meeting deliberations.

A life-long learner, she took part at age 60 in a worldwide study tour sponsored by Friends World College. In her early 80's, she sojourned at the Pendle Hill Quaker study center.

Kay appreciated things made by the hands and from the heart. She mastered hand-weaving and jewelry making, but found a true vocation in clay sculpture, sculpting many portrait pieces, including one of her late husband.

Kay read widely (she especially liked mysteries) and was an enthusiastic filmgoer. She paid close attention to world affairs throughout her life and longed for world peace and the eradication of world hunger and poverty. She gave regularly to Quaker and various peace organizations as well as to groups that gave people the tools to help themselves.

Kay is remembered by friends and neighbors for her warmth, her sense of whimsy, her joie de vivre, her love of children, her deep commitment to community, her capacity to see the best in everyone and her simple lifestyle. One friend remarked that she "made everyone feel like family. She fed our hearts, spirits, minds and stomachs." Plainfield, Vermont Friends recall her faithfulness in living a life close to the center.

Katherine remained in her Austin home with her daughter Jeanne Mariah until October 2000, when she came to Barre, Vermont, to reside with her daughter Karen and family. Jeanne Mariah relocated from Austin shortly thereafter to help with Kay's care.

Kay is survived by her children Bruce Elliott "Pacho" Lane of Rochester, NY and Tepoztlan, Mexico, Karen Elizabeth Lane of Barre, VT and Jeanne Emily Mariah Lane of Montpelier, VT. She is also survived by her son-in-law Chet Briggs of Barre, by her grandsons Christopher Pacho Lane and Justin Lane Briggs of East Calais, VT, by her sister Nancy Kurrasch of Tempe, Arizona and by nieces, nephews and their children. Kay was preceded in death by her husband Ralph and by her brothers John Wiley and Robert Scott Peacock.

- Lovingly prepared by Kay's children with assistance from members of the Friends Meeting of Austin.

Plainfield Friends Meeting  
Box 215  
Plainfield, Vermont 05667

Memorial Minute  
Katherine Peacock Lane

We first came to know Kay Lane in the late seventies when she began spending time in Vermont visiting her daughter Karen, her son-in-law Chet Briggs, and her grandson Justin Briggs. During those visits she regularly worshiped with us. Many came to recognize Kay as a quiet, seasoned, Friend who, while not quick to call attention to herself, was faithful in living a life close to the center. When Kay moved to Barre in 2000 to live with her daughter and family, we rejoiced in her presence in worship.

Last spring Kay shared her spiritual journey with us and we learned the breadth of her involvement with Friends -- her work with her husband Ralph in founding both Oak Park (Illinois) Monthly Meeting and Austin (Texas) Monthly Meeting, her involvement in Friends World Committee for Consultation and Friends General Conference, and her deep, life long activism in civil rights, peace, and ending poverty.

Kay died Tenth Month 1, 2002. We gathered on the 26th, in a powerful memorial meeting to celebrate Kay's life. Friends and friends alike shared her love for learning, her commitment to community, and her unflagging spirit over the past two years in the face of failing health. We will miss her presence. We cherish her example of living a life of sharing and rejoicing.

Please join us for

*A CELEBRATION OF KAY'S LIFE*

*Saturday, November 9, 2002*

*at*

*Hancock Recreation Center, 811 East 41<sup>st</sup> Street  
under the care of the Friends Meeting of Austin*

*3 pm meeting for worship*

*with a potluck meal following*

Margaret  
Mom was so glad to hear from you & all your news. I hope  
we'll see you at the celebration & have a chance to visit.

Love

Marilyn

## *Katherine E Lane*

BARRE, VERMONT – Katherine Elizabeth Peacock Lane, 92, died Tuesday, October 1, 2002, at the home of her daughter Karen, 2 North Street. Kay was born on Easter Sunday, March 27, 1910, in Oak Park, Illinois, and was the eldest child of Cora Jean Bredenbeck and Ernest Peacock. Ernest was a noted tenor and attorney and Cora Jean a soprano and pianist who for a time taught music at Talladega Negro College in Alabama.

Before her marriage, Katherine worked at the Marshall Field Department Store, at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, and as a traveling saleswoman for Princess Pat Cosmetics.

In 1936, Katherine Peacock married Ralph Eldon Lane, a statistician with the Flitcraft Insurance Publication Firm of Oak Park. Soon after their wedding, Kay and Ralph joined the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and were co-founders of the Oak Park Friends Meeting.

In 1948, the couple moved to Austin, Texas, where Ralph earned his PhD and taught theoretical mathematics at the University of Texas until 1962, when he died while on leave at Ames, Iowa.

Ralph and Katherine designed and built a home in the hill country west of Austin. Walking the length and width of the site and calculating the precise angle of orientation, they chose a location for the house high on a hill to take advantage of southern breezes moving up from the valley below. Today the house is recognized as an early example of passive cooling and energy efficiency.

Soon after arriving in Texas, Katherine and Ralph joined with four friends to found the Austin, Texas Friends Meeting, which remained her spiritual home throughout her life. As Quakers, Kay and Ralph and their children became involved in the civil rights and peace movements. Kay represented South Central Yearly Meeting to the Friends Committee on Consultation: Section of the Americas. She took part in a Quaker worldwide study tour, and she sojourned at the Pendle Hill Quaker study center.

Kay enjoyed handweaving and jewelry-making, but found a true vocation in clay sculpture, sculpting many portrait pieces, including one of her late husband. An avid reader, Kay paid close attention to world affairs throughout her life. She longed for world peace and gave regularly to further the work of Quaker peace groups and other organizations.

Katherine remained in her Austin home with her daughter Jeanne Mariah until October 2000, when she came to Barre, Vermont, to reside with her daughter Karen and family. Jeanne Mariah relocated last August to Montpelier, Vermont, to help in Kay's care.

Gatherings of family and friends buoyed Kay's spirits and good food homemade for her brought special pleasure. Kay's life was touched by many in the community and she became a frequent attendee of the Plainfield, Vermont Friends meeting. In August, 2002, she was honored by the establishment of Kay's Tree Fund, the purpose of which is to beautify the community by "planting and maintaining trees in Barre's North End neighborhood."

Katherine is survived by her children Bruce Elliott "Pacho" Lane of Rochester, NY and Tepoztlan, Mexico; Karen Elizabeth Lane of Barre, VT; and Jeanne Emily Mariah Lane of Montpelier, VT. She is also survived by her son-in-law Chet Briggs of Barre, by her grandsons Christopher Pacho Lane and Justin Lane Briggs of East Calais, VT; by her sister Nancy Kurrasch of Tempe, Arizona; and by nieces, nephews and their children. Kay was preceded in death by her husband Ralph Eldon Lane, and by her brothers John Wiley and Robert Scott Peacock.



A celebration of Kay's life under the care of the Austin Friends Meeting will be held Saturday, November 9 with meeting for worship at 3 pm at the Hancock Recreation Center, 811 East 41<sup>st</sup> St. in Austin, and a potluck following. Gifts may be made to the Friends Meeting of Austin "in memory of Kay Lane," PO Box 5121, Austin, TX 78763-5121 or to the Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 Second St., NE, Washington, DC 20002-5795.



Katherine E. Lane 11-3  
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In 1936, Katherine Peacock married Ralph Eldon Lane, and in 1948 the couple moved to Austin, where Ralph earned his PhD and taught theoretical mathematics at UT until 1962, when he died while on leave of absence at Iowa State University in Ames.

Working with Austin architect Eugene Wukasch, Ralph and Katherine built their 1956 home, an early example of passive solar design, on Buckeye Trail in Westlake Hills. Katherine remained in her Austin home with her daughter Jeanne Mariah until October 2000, when she came to Barre, Vermont, to reside with her daughter Karen and family.

Katherine is survived by her children Bruce Elliott "Pacho" Lane of Rochester, NY and Tepoztlan, Mexico; Karen Elizabeth Lane of Barre, VT; and Jeanne Emily Mariah Lane of Montpelier, VT; by her grandsons, Christopher Pacho Lane and Justin Lane Briggs of East Calais, VT; and by her sister, Nancy Kurrasch of Tempe, Arizona.

Kay was preceded in death by her husband, Ralph Eldon Lane, and by her brothers, John Wiley and Robert Scott Peacock.

Kay and Ralph were co-founders of the Friends (Quaker) Meeting of Austin. The Meeting will host a celebration of Kay's life on Saturday, November 9 at 3:00 p.m. at the Hancock Recreation Center, 811 East 41st St. Meeting for worship will be followed by a potluck meal.

Gifts may be made to the Friends Meeting of Austin, "in memory of Kay Lane," P.O. Box 5121, Austin, TX 78763-5121 or to the Friends Committee on National Legislation, 245 Second St., NE, Washington, DC 20002-5795.

Lane—*Katherine (Kay) Elizabeth Peacock Lane*, 92, on October 1, 2002, in Barre, Vt. Kay was born on March 27, 1910, in Oak Park, Ill., the eldest child of Ernest Peacock and Cora Jean Bredenbeck. Before her marriage, Kay worked at Marshall Field department store, at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair, and as a traveling saleswoman for Princess Pat Cosmetics. In 1936, Kay married Ralph Eldon Lane. Soon after their wedding, Kay and Ralph joined the Religious Society of Friends and became co-founders of Oak Park Meeting. In 1948, the couple moved to Austin, Tex., where they helped to found Friends Meeting of Austin. Kay, Ralph, and their children became involved in the civil rights and peace movements of the 1950s and '60s. They also designed and built a home in the West Austin hill country that is recognized as a model of passive cooling and energy efficiency. Ralph's premature death in 1962 was very difficult for Kay; in an effort to heal herself and the family, in 1965 she took her children on an 18-month trip, staying in youth hostels, and touring Western and Eastern Europe, the British Isles, and Scandinavia. Her interest in other cultures and ability to communicate in spite of language difficulties was an inspiration to others. Back in Austin, Kay joined other women in the meeting in mending and sending clothing to AFSC for donation to war-torn areas. She served as South Central Yearly Meeting's representative to FWCC—Section of the Americas. A lifelong learner, she took part at age 60 in a worldwide study tour sponsored by Friends World College. In her early 80s, she sojourned at Pendle Hill. Kay mastered hand-weaving and jewelry making, but found a true vocation sculpting in clay. She read widely, enjoyed mysteries, and was an enthusiastic filmgoer. Kay is remembered for her warmth, sense of whimsy, joie de vivre, love of children, deep commitment to community, capacity to see the best in everyone, and for her simple lifestyle. A member of Friends Meeting of Austin, she was attending Plainfield (Vt.) Meeting at the time of her death. She was preceded in death by her husband Ralph and by her brothers John Wiley and Robert Scott Peacock. Kay is survived by her children, Bruce Elliott (Pacho) Lane, Karen Elizabeth Lane, and Jeanne Emily Mariah Lane; son-in-law, Chet Briggs; grandsons, Christopher Pacho Lane and Justin Lane Briggs; sister, Nancy Kurrasch; and by nieces, nephews, and their children.

FJ

May 2003