

The Lanier families found in the pre-arsenal areas of Madison County near Huntsville between 1809 and 1820 were without question headed by brothers Isaac, Thomas, and William Lanier, sons of Burwell Lanier. Isaac was reported to have moved to Madison County before 1819 and died here on December 15, 1827. His brother Thomas bought government land in Section 5 of Township 5, Range 1W, on February 2, 1818, as did a daughter of Isaac, Clarissa, who married first Thomas Hill Boddie. (This land is where the NASA vertical test stands are located, on the east side of Dodd Road.) William, brother of Isaac and Thomas, is known to have arrived in the county soon after January of 1809 – almost 10 years before Isaac and Thomas are known to have arrived. By the time of the 1830 federal census, Thomas is found living in Limestone County, between the families headed by James Allen (who had married a daughter of Thomas' brother, the Rev. William Lanier) and John Allen, who appeared to be of the age to be father of James Allen.

However, there is a marriage record dating from 1815 in Madison County for the marriage of an Isaac Lanier to Patsey Crunk. Connections to this Isaac of the Crunk marriage are not currently proven; however, it could not be the brother of William and Thomas, since their brother Isaac already had a living wife. William Lanier was not included in the January 1809 Madison County census, but he purchased government land here in August of 1809. William is not known to have had a son named Isaac who could have been the man who married Patsey Crunk in this county in 1815. Likewise, there is very little known of the family of Thomas, who could have had a son named Isaac that married Patsey Crunk. Additionally, there was another family of Laniers, headed by Adams Lanier, living in the New Hope area about the same time as the clan assembled in Madison County. It is possible that Adams Lanier had a son or brother named Isaac who married Patsey Crunk in this county.

Isaac was one of the 11 children of the Burwell Lanier who was in turn a son of Sampson Lanier and Elizabeth Chamberlain, according to most published family research results. Isaac was born in North Carolina and married Arabella Clinton there. She was a daughter of Richard Clinton, a Baptist minister – and it may be that this is the line for which Clinton Avenue in Huntsville is named, since it is an old name for the street and was not given in honor of the more recent President of the United States from Arkansas. Isaac and Arabella lived in Sampson County, NC, where they had 3 children before she died. These 3 children were **Burwell Clinton Lanier, Isaac Hill**