**Jane Lee Ball**

Jane Elizabeth Ball was born on June 2, 1929 in Springfield, Ohio to Dr. Henry and Mary Lee. In 1935 the family moved to Wilberforce, Ohio where Jane lived until she graduated from Central State University, in Wilberforce, with a Bachelor of Science in Education with majors in English and Art. She received a Master of Arts degree in English from Howard University. Her career as an educator began at Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA. She also taught at Alcorn Agricultural and mechanical College (now Alcorn State university), North Carolina Central University, and Ohio State University. She married Wilfred Ball and in 1966 returned to Wilberforce to teach. As a Professor of English she guided students through the rigors of freshmen composition and technical writing, helped them navigate the intellectual challenges of world literature, and opened the horizons of mass media and communication.

Her publications include book reviews, scholarly articles and fiction. Her article titled “The Abandoned Culture of America’s Black People” published in The Humanist has been regularly shared with a variety of college students as a stimulating reference work. She has authored articles and reviews on current fiction authors/works such as Jackie Collins and Toni Morrison. Her quiet humor was also showcased in newspaper articles in *The Akron Reporter.*

During her thirty-year tenure at Wilberforce, Jane Lee Ball’s experience reflected the same commitment and involvement as her professional writing. In addition to serving as Professor of English, she served as the chair, Humanities Division, and acting chair, Social Science Division. She designed the commemorative medallions for the University’s 125th and 130th Anniversary celebrations. Additionally, she served as the director, Freshmen Composition Program; chair, Non-Western Studies program Committee; and provided outstanding leadership on numerous University committees.

Jane Lee Ball died on March 28, 2011. She was survived by her husband Wilfred, children Janet, Carol, Wendy, and Cris; grandchildren Blakely, Courtland, Chloe, Justin, Drew, and Jasmine; great-grandson Shan; nephew John P. White, Jr. nieces Denise Wilkins and Dale White, and many great nephews and great-nieces.

Sources: Adapted from Wilberforce University Mirror

Census of 1930, Springfield, Clark County, Ohio