

WILLIAM PRESTON LANE, JR.

Governor of Maryland

William Preston Lane, Jr. was born May 12, 1892 at Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland. He is the son of the late Colonel William P. Lane and Virginia Lee (Cartwright) Lane and the direct descendant of early settlers of Washington County and of several of the pioneer families of Southern Maryland, including the Maddoxes and Claggetts. Governor Lane is married to the former Dorothy Byron of Hagerstown, and he is the father of two daughters, Dorothy Byron and Jean Cartwright Lane.

Governor Lane graduated from the University of Virginia with the degree of Bachelor of Laws in 1915. He was admitted to the Maryland Bar the next year, and has been admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court. He is a former member of the law firm of Lane, Bushong and Byron of Hagerstown. In addition to the practice of law, Governor Lane has been active in business. One of his interests is the Herald-Mail Company, publishers of two Hagerstown newspapers, of which he has been president since 1922.

Civic and political affairs have engaged the interest of Governor Lane from his earliest manhood. He is a member of the Vestry of St. John's Parish (Protestant Episcopal) and a trustee of St. James' School. He is also a former member of the Board of Education of Washington County, and he is at present a member of the Elks, Moose, and Eagles. A leading Democrat of Maryland, Governor Lane has been a delegate to five National Conventions (1928, 1932, 1940, 1944, and 1948), a Presidential Elector at Large (1936), State Treasurer (1940), and Chairman of the Campaign Committee (1944). He has been Democratic National Committeeman since 1940. He was Attorney General of Maryland from 1930 to 1935 and a member of the Maryland Tax Revision Commission in 1938. He is serving his first term as Governor, having been elected in 1946. He was elected Chairman of the Southern Governors' Conference (1947-1948), Chairman of the National Governors' Conference and President of the Council of State Governments (1948-1949). In December of 1949 he was elected a member at large of the governing board of the Council of State Governments for a term of five years.

As a Captain in the National Guard, Governor Lane served on the Mexican Border in 1916. During World War I he served as Captain in the 115th Infantry where he saw service in France, especially in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He was decorated with the Silver Star. After the Armistice he was promoted to a Majority and appointed Assistant Division Adjutant to the 29th Division. During World War II he assisted in the organization of the Maryland State Guard and the Maryland Minute Men and was commissioned Lieutenant Colonel.

Governor Lane's present address is Government House, Annapolis; his home address is 943 Terrace, Hagerstown.