

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF GOVERNOR HERBERT H. LEHMAN

Herbert H. Lehman, Governor of New York State, was born in New York City on March 28, 1878. His father came to this country from Germany in 1848, settling in Montgomery, Alabama, where he engaged in business. He moved to New York City following the close of the Civil War.

Governor Lehman attended Dr. Sach's Collegiate Institute in New York City, and after being graduated in 1895 attended Williams College, where he graduated with the degree of B.A. in 1899.

After leaving college, Governor Lehman engaged in the textile manufacturing business, eventually becoming vice-president and treasurer of the J. Spencer Turner Company of Brooklyn. In 1908 he became a partner in the investment banking firm of Lehman Brothers of New York City, one of the largest and best known financial houses in the country. He has withdrawn entirely from business since entering public service in the fall of 1928.

Governor Lehman has long been an active figure in the philanthropic circles of the Metropolis. He has been particularly interested in child care institutions, hospitals and trade schools and is a director of more than twenty-five communal, philanthropic or educational organizations.

At the outbreak of the World War he volunteered for service in the Navy Department at Washington and served for three months in a civilian capacity under Franklin D. Roosevelt, then the Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Through the years that have followed, the two men have enjoyed a close friendship.

Governor Lehman was commissioned a captain in the United States Army in 1917, and won rapid promotion, attaining the rank of Colonel on the General Staff and serving as an assistant to General George Goethals. In 1919 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

On April 28, 1910, Governor Lehman married Edith Altschul of San Francisco. They have three children, Peter, John and Hilda Jane. He resides at 820 Park Avenue, New York City.

Governor Lehman was elected Lieutenant-Governor in 1928 and reelected in 1930. He was elected Governor on November 8, 1932, defeating William J. Donovan, Rep., by a vote of 2,659,519 to 1,812,080; reelected November 6, 1934, by a vote of 2,201,729 as against 1,393,638 for Robert Moses, Rep.; reelected November 3, 1936 by a vote of 2,970,595 as against 2,450,104 for William F. Bleakley, Rep.; and reelected November 8, 1938, by a vote of 2,391,286 as against 2,326,892 for Thomas E. Dewey, Rep., becoming the first Governor to be elected for a four-year term. He is the only Governor of the State to be elected for four successive terms.

In 1924, Williams College conferred the honorary degree of M.A. upon him and in 1929 the honorary degree of LL.D. The Governor also received the honorary degree of LL.D. from New York University, Oglethorpe University, Hamilton College, St. Bonaventure's College, Alfred University, Niagara University, Syracuse University, Fordham University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, and the honorary degree of L.H.D. from Yeshiva College.
