

Paul Bowen Cromelin

(1890 – 14 May 1956)

The Evening Star, March 8, 1919, p. 8

Attorney Laskey Names Mr. Cromelin Assistant

Washington Lawyer Army Officer, to Prosecute Handbook and Other Gambling Cases

United States Attorney Laskey today announced the appointment of Paul B. Cromelin, late captain United States air service, as an assistant United States attorney for the District of Columbia. Mr. Cromelin will have charge of the prosecution of handbook cases and other violations of the gambling laws.

Mr. Laskey also announced the promotion of Bolitha J. Laws to be chief prosecutor in the criminal courts in succession to William E. Leahy, who resigned recently to return to the general practice of the law. Mr. Laws has been engaged in the gambling prosecutions as well as in a number of important civil and criminal matters of the office. His former work will now devolve upon Capt. Cromelin.

The new assistant is a native of Washington, was educated in the public schools and was graduated from Business High School in 1905. He served as president of the alumni association. He studied law at Georgetown University, where he took the faculty prize in 1913, and was actively engaged in the practice of law when war was declared. He enlisted as a private at Fort Myer, Va., October 30, 1917, and was sent to Kelly Field for training. After graduation he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the aviation section, Signal Corps, later was made a first lieutenant and received his captaincy last October.

Capt. Cromelin is a member of Sigma Nu fraternity and B.B. French Lodge, F.A.A.M.

The Washington Post, March 9, 1919, p. 24

Laskey Names Cromelin

New Assistant U.S. Attorney Rose to Captaincy in Air Service

Paul B. Cromelin, formerly of the United States air service, was named assistant United States attorney for the District of Columbia by United States Attorney Laskey yesterday, to succeed William A. Leahy, who resigned to engage in private practice. Cromelin's work will embrace the prosecution of violations of the gambling laws, and Assistant Attorney Bolitha J. Laws, who has had charge of these cases, will be assigned to other special duty.

Mr. Cromelin is a native of Washington, and was educated in Business High School and the Georgetown University Law School. He practiced law until the outbreak of the war, when he enlisted as a private at Fort Myer. He was commissioned as second lieutenant in the aviation section of the signal corps, and at the signing of the armistice he held the rank of captain.

The Washington Post, October 8, 1921, p. 2

Paul B. Cromelin Resigns

Assistant U.S. District Attorney to Enter Private Practice

Paul B. Cromelin, assistant United States attorney for the District since February, 1919, yesterday resigned his position to enter the private practice of law.

During his term of office Mr. Cromelin represented the government in the case of John McHenry, alleged slayer of Detective Armstrong and Wallace Mulcare, and figured in the second trial of Jules (Nicky) Arnstein and others in the bond conspiracy case.

Mr. Cromelin graduated from the Georgetown law school in 1912. In 1917 he entered the United States army as a second lieutenant in the air service. He was later made a captain. Upon his discharge in 1919 he entered the office of the United States attorney. He is at present associated with Bolitha Laws and John E. Lasky.

The Washington Post, December 30, 1936, p X7

Cromelin Elected D.C. Masons' Head

Paul B. Cromelin, attorney, has been elected grand master of Masons in the District, following the annual elections of the fraternity at Masonic Temple.

Another lawyer, Aubrey R. Marrs, was named junior grand steward, the lowest ranking elective office in line of succession to the chair of grand master.

Cromelin, prominent at the bar, was assistant United States attorney from 1919 to 1921. He was educated in the schools here, and received his law degree from Georgetown University. He was a captain in the Air Service during the World War.

In addition to his Masonic duties, he is a director of the Acacia Mutual Life Insurance Co., a member of the Washington Board of Trade, the National Press Club, the Sigma Nu fraternity and the American Legion, and is a trustee of Trinity M.E. Church and Sibley Hospital.

Cromelin, Paul B. On Monday, May 14, 1956 at 4201 Massachusetts ave. n.w., Paul B. Cromelin, beloved husband of Ruth B. Cromelin, father of Mrs. Robert A. Meyers, Mrs. John H. Cragoe and Paul B. Cromelin, jr. He also is survived by six grandchildren. Friends may call at the S.H. Hines Co. Funeral Home, 2901 14th st. n.w. (parking facilities). Roise Croix services will be held on Wednesday, May 16 at 8 p.m. at the Scottish Rite Temple, 2800 16th st. n.w. Funeral services at the Metropolitan Methodist Church, Nebraska and New Mexico aves. n.w. on Thursday, May 17 at 2 p.m. Interment Congressional Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Sibley Hospital Building Fund.

Cromelin, Paul B. A special communication of the Grand Lodge, F.A.A.M., of the District of Columbia, is hereby called for 1 p.m., Thursday, May 17, 1956 at the Masonic Temple, for the purpose of conducting Masonic services for our late brother, Past Grand Master Paul B. Cromelin. By order of the Grand Master,

Raymond N. Babcock
Grand Secretary

Cromelin, Paul B. A special communication of Benjamin B. French Lodge, No. 15, F.A.A.M., will be held at the Masonic Temple, 13th st. and New York ave. n.w., on Thursday, May 17, 1956, at 1 p.m. for the purpose of attending Masonic burial services for our late brother Past Grand Master Paul B. Cromelin.

Thomas M. Raysor, W.M.
Glenn L. Johnson, Secy.

Cromelin, Paul B. The officers and members of Lebanon Chapter, No. 25, O.E.S., are hereby advised of the death of Brother Paul B. Cromelin, Past Grand Patron, on Monday, May 14, 1956. Remains resting at the S.H. Hines Co. Funeral Home, 2901 14th st. n.w. Services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday, May 17, at the Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Church, Nebraska and New Mexico aves. n.w.

Maurine H. Coffindaffer
Worthy Matron
Osie B. Ritter, Secretary

The Evening Star, May 14, 1956, p. A-14

Paul B. Cromelin, 66

Lawyer, Churchman, Dies

Paul B. Cromelin, 66, prominent Washington attorney and Mason, died today of a heart condition at his home, the Berkshire Apartments, 4201 Massachusetts avenue N.W.

In 1954, Mr. Cromelin, was cited as lawyer of the year by the District Bar Association. He was president of the association in 1942.

A member of the law firm of Cromelin, Raynor, Fletcher, Walsh & Lauderdale with offices in the National Press Building. Mr. Cromelin had been a practicing attorney since 1920, when he was graduated from Georgetown Law School. From 1921 to 1938 he was in partnership with Bolitha J. Laws, who is now chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. Afterwards he was in partnerships with James R. Kirkland until he, too, became a judge of the same court.

Won Arnstein Case

Earlier in his career, Mr. Cromelin was an assistant United States district attorney for the District. During the 19 months he served in that capacity, beginning in 1920, he prosecuted a number of important cases.. In one, he obtained the conviction of Nicky Arnstein and his associates for conspiracy to dispose of \$5 million worth of bonds stolen from Wall Street.

Mr. Cromelin was formerly a member of the Committee on Admissions and Grievances of the United States District Court for the District. The committee passes upon admissions of lawyers to practice here. It also handles disbarment proceedings.

Mr. Cromelin was formerly president of the Board of Directors of Sibley Hospital. He was director and member of the Executive Committee of Acacia Mutual Life Insurance Co. and a former director of the Washington Savings bank and the Morris Plan Bank.

When he died he was general counsel and member of the board of the D.C. Society for Crippled Children; secretary and director of the Kelly Lumber Co., a member of the board of the Law Reporter Printing Co., and a member of the Board of Trustees of American University.

Mr. Cromelin was active in Methodist Church affairs for many years. He was on the Executive Committee of the Methodist Union of the District of Columbia; trustee and general counsel of the Methodist Home of the District of Columbia, a member of the Board of Stewards of Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Church and a former trustee of Trinity Methodist Church.

A 33d-degree Mason, Mr. Cromelin had filled many offices in that fraternal order. In 1937 he served as grand master in the District.

Mr. Cromelin was president of the Association of Worshipful Masters in 1920 and grand patron of the Eastern Star of the District in 1932. He was past master and past secretary of Benjamin B. French Masonic Lodge, member of Mount Vernon Chapter No. 3; Washington Commandery of the Knights Templar; member of the Jurisprudence Committee of Almas Temple; member of Albert Pike Consistory, the Royal Order of Scotland, and past patron of Lebanon Chapter of the Eastern Star.

He was director and general counsel of the Masonic and Eastern Star Home of the District of Columbia.

He was a trustee of the grand lodge of the District.

As for his judicial affiliation, Mr. Cromelin was president of the Barristers Club in 1924 and a member of the American District and Federal Bar Association.

A native of Washington, Mr. Cromelin enlisted in the Signal Corps in 1917 and was discharged two years later as a captain in the Air Service. During World War II he was chairman of a draft board and was a member of the Board of Appeals of Selective Service.

He was past president of the Business High School Alumni Association and a member of George Washington American Legion Post, the National Press Club, Washington Board of Trade, Congressional Country Club, Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, the Washington Rotary, the Society of Natives Sojourners and Les Amis d'Escoffier.

Survivors are his widow, Ruth S., whom he married in 1918, two daughters, Mrs. Robert A. Meyers, Akron, Ohio; Mrs. John H. Cragoe, 5814 Osceola road, Sumner, Md. And Paul, jr., 4420 Brandywine street N.W.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Church, Nebraska and New Mexico avenues N.W. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

The Washington Post, May 15, 1956, p. 18

Paul B. Cromelin Dies, Distinguished in Law

Paul B. Cromelin, 66, widely known Washington attorney, Mason and Methodist, died of a heart condition yesterday at his home, the Berkshire Apts., 4201 Massachusetts ave. n.w.

Two years ago he was named lawyer of the year by the District Bar Association for his long legal service.

When he headed the District Bar Association in 1942, it was given the Award of Merit of the American Bar Association for the first time "for outstanding constructive work in its field."

The native Washingtonian and 1912 graduate of Georgetown University Law School gained prominence here in 1919-21 as Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia.

He prosecuted and convicted three notorious murderers, a rapist and two swindlers -- one of whom stole \$5 million in bonds.

Then he entered private practice with Bolitha J. Laws, now chief judge of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia, and continued practice with various partners. At the time of Mr. Cromelin's death, the firm was known as Cromelin, Fletcher, Raysor, Walsh and Lauderdale, with offices in the National Press Building.

Mr. Cromelin handled general litigation, a partner said, including the widely-publicized Sibley Hospital-American University zoning case, in which he was counsel for Sibley, the winning side.

He was a member for two years of the Committee on Admissions and Grievances of the United States District Court for the District. The group admits and disbars lawyers.

His Masonic activities were highlighted in 1937 when he was Grand Master of District Masons. In 1951 he received the 33d degree. He held many offices and was honorary member of dozens of Masonic units.

Mr. Cromelin was on the Board of Stewards of the Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Church; a trustee of the Methodist Home of the District; Sibley Hospital; American University, and the Methodist Union and Church Extension Society of D.C.

He is survived by his wife, the former Ruth Rice Sniffin of Washington, three children: Jean Meyers, of Akron, Ohio; Carol Cragoe, Sumner, Md., and Paul Jr., 4420 Brandywine st. nw. and six grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday at Metropolitan Memorial Methodist church, Nebraska and New Mexico aves. Nw. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, May 15, 1956, p. A-20

Paul B. Cromelin Praised in Court

The death yesterday of attorney Paul B. Cromelin formally was announced today in District Court by Thomas M. Raysor of the Memorial Committee of the District Bar Association.

Mr. Raysor appeared before Chief Judge Bolitha J. Laws, a former law partner of Mr. Cromelin. The speaker recited events in the life of Mr. Cromelin and praised him for the "integrity of all his work."

Judge Laws responded by describing his sense of "deep personal loss" and remarking that Mr. Cromelin was "one of the finest lawyers I have ever known."

The Washington Post, May 16, 1956, p. 18

Cromelin Funeral

Notification to the District Court yesterday of the death of lawyer Paul B. Cromelin came as the "most painful of all" reports of this type to be received by Chief Judge Bolitha J. Laws.

The noted lawyer and past president of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia died Monday at his residence, 4201 Massachusetts ave. nw.

Following the notification by a law partner, Thomas M. Raysor, Judge Laws said that he was unable to escape a feeling of "deep personal loss." He described Mr. Cromelin as "one of the finest lawyers I have ever known."

The funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. today at the Westmoreland Congregational Church, Westmoreland Circle. Burial will be in Arlington Cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers will be: Hurst R. Anderson, Walter M. Bastian, Edwin S. Bettelheim Jr., Raymond C. Briggs, James J. Brown, Renah F. Camalier, Edmund O. Carl, Carl H. Claudy. James E. Colliflower, Chester Gray, Alexander Holtzoff, C.E. Jacobsen, Parke P. Jones, Richmond B. Keech, Milton D. Korman, William E. Leahy, Clarence H. Lutz, Godfrey L. Munter, Frank H. Myers, Leigh L. Nettleton, John M. Orem, David A. Pine, William H. Press, E. Barrett Prettyman, William E. Schooley, Leverett C. Stone, Richard L. Walsh, Earl Warren, Vernon E. West and Harry Zehner.

The Washington Post, May 17, 1956, p. 36

Cromelin Rites Today

Funeral services for Paul B. Cromelin, Washington lawyer, will be held at 2 p.m. Today at the Metropolitan Memorial Methodist Church, Nebraska and New Mexico aves. nw. Burial will be in Congressional Cemetery.

Mr. Cromelin, who died Monday at his home at 4201 Massachusetts ave. nw., was a past president of the Bar Association of the District of Columbia, an active Methodist and a Mason.

The funeral arrangements and place of burial were incorrectly reported in Wednesday editions of this paper. The Washington Post and Times Herald regret the error.