

Margaret Lane (1907 – 1994)

In 1998 a plaque in memory of the 15th Earl of Huntingdon and his wife, Margaret Lane, a well-known writer, was put in the Hastings Chapel.

The daughter of a journalist, Margaret Lane studied at St. Hugh's College of Oxford University, worked as a reporter for some years and went on to become a critic as well as an author.



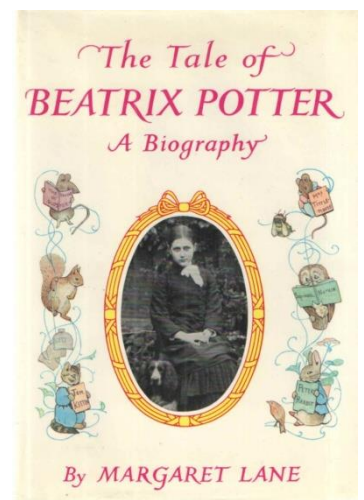
Her 1934 marriage to Bryan Wallace, son of the writer Edgar Wallace, was dissolved in 1939. In 1944 she was married to the 15th Earl of Huntingdon, a mural painter. He died in 1990. They had two daughters.



Margaret Lane's two books, "The Tale of Beatrix Potter: a Biography" (1946) and "The Magic Years of Beatrix Potter" (1978), were widely praised. When "The Tale of Beatrix Potter" was published in the United States, it was lauded for its deep understanding of Beatrix Potter, who helped Margaret with the book, and for its vivid depiction of Miss Potter walking the hills and moors, gathering material for stories and pictures.

Her 1975 book "Samuel Johnson and his World" has been called one of the very best modern works on Johnson. Her 1953 book about the writer Charlotte Bronte and members of her family, "The Bronte Story," won praise as an outstanding literary biography. And her 1965 novel "A Night at Sea" was lauded for its poignancy and narrative suspense. She wrote more than two dozen books in all and also wrote books for children.

In 1994, Margaret, by then Dowager Countess of Huntingdon, died in Southampton, England. She was 86.



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