



Guide to the Robert E. Lee papers, 1749-1975

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David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

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Summary

Collection Title:

Robert E. Lee papers, 1749-1975

Creator:

Lee, Robert E. (Robert Edward), 1807-1870

Abstract:

Robert E. Lee was a Virginia-born career military officer, Confederate general in the U.S. Civil War, and president of what is now Washington and Lee University. Family and military correspondence of Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), Confederate general-in-chief; and of his descendants; and a few letters of Francis Lightfoot Lee, Richard Henry Lee, Henry Lee, and Mary Ann Randolph (Custis) Lee. The letters deal with many phases of Robert E. Lee's life from his marriage in 1832 until his death, including family and personal affairs, especially in his letters to a cousin, Mrs. Anna M. Fitzhugh; settlement of the Custis estate; and improvements at the family house in Arlington, Virginia. Included also is one volume of 295 telegram dispatches sent by Robert E. Lee from the field to Jefferson Davis and the Confederate War Department; two scrapbooks memorializing Robert E. Lee; a small notebook in Robert E. Lee's hand, 1857-1860, containing amounts of meat purchased for the Arlington household; and a letterpress book of Robert E. Lee III, a lawyer of Washington, D.C.

Extent:

3 Linear Feet
204 Items

Physical Location:

For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the library's online catalog.

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00801

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1j33d>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Robert E. Lee Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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Background

Scope and Content

Family and military correspondence of Robert E. Lee (1807-1870), Confederate general-in-chief; and of his descendants; and a few letters of Francis Lightfoot Lee, Richard Henry Lee, Henry Lee, and Mary Ann Randolph (Custis) Lee. The letters deal with many phases of Robert E. Lee's life from his marriage in 1832 until his death, including family and personal affairs, especially in his letters to a cousin, Mrs. Anna M. Fitzhugh; settlement of the Custis estate; and improvements at the family house in Arlington, Virginia. During the Civil War the correspondence consists of official and family letters, the former containing much information on military activities. The postwar letters reveal details of domestic arrangements following the family's removal to Lexington, Virginia.

One volume contains 295 telegrams (collected and arranged by C.C. Jones, Jr., and published by D.S. Freeman, *Lee's Dispatches*, New York, 1915) sent by Lee from the field to Jefferson Davis and the Confederate War Department, many having been endorsed by James A. Seddon. These dispatches relate to troop movements, reports of the intelligence service, skirmishes, enemy activities, transportation of prisoners and wounded men, and other details of military operations. Included also are two scrapbooks memorializing Robert E. Lee, chiefly consisting of clippings and engravings; a small notebook in Robert E. Lee's hand, 1857-1860, containing amounts of meat purchased for the Arlington household; and a letterpress book of Robert E. Lee III, a lawyer of Washington, D.C.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Library staff

Encoded by Alvin Pollock and Stephen D. Miller, 1997

Materials received conservation treatment and rehousing in 2013.

Updated by Paula Jeannet, 2014

Updated by Alice Poffinberger, 2019

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Names and Subjects

- Scrapbooks
- Plantations -- Virginia
- Lee, Richard Henry, 1732-1794
- Lee, Mary Ann Randolph Custis
- Lee, Henry, 1756-1818
- Lee, Francis Lightfoot, 1734-1797
- Lee family
- Fitzhugh, Ann M.
- Confederate States of America. War Dept.
- Confederate States of America -- History, Military
- Confederate States of America. Army -- Officers -- Correspondence
- Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial (Va.)

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1769-1923 and undated	Box 1
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Physical Description: 4 folders

Military papers, 1860-1866 and undated	Box 2
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Clippings, 1864-1975	Box 2
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Printed materials, 1928-1955 and undated	Box 2
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Other materials, 1749-1887	Box 2
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Scope and Contents note

Includes a small notebook in Robert E. Lee's hand, 1857-1860; a message from Thomas Lee of Williamsburg, Virginia to the House of Burgesses, 1749; and a copy of Robert E. Lee's last will and testament.

Use copies of correspondence	Box 3
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Scope and Contents note

Includes use copies of all materials in Box 1.

Lee Memorial scrapbook, Vol. 1	Box 4
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Physical Description: 244 pp.

Scope and Contents note

Scrapbook chiefly contains newspaper clippings and has bookplate of Charles C. Jones, Jr., Augusta, Georgia

Lee Memorial scrapbook, Vol. 2	Box 5
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Physical Description: 215 pp.

Scope and Contents note

Scrapbook chiefly contains engravings of Lee and newspaper clippings; has bookplate of Charles C. Jones, Jr., Augusta, Georgia

Volume: "Official Telegrams of General Robert E. Lee," 1862-1865	Box 6
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Scope and Contents note

Consists of 295 telegrams bound into one volume.

Robert E. Lee, III, letterpress book, 1892-1903	Box 7
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Physical Description: 452 pp.

Land grant signed by Henry Lee, 1793	Oversize-folder 1
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Scope and Contents note

Land grant, signed by Gov. Henry Lee of Virginia, for a parcel of land in Montgomery County given to Alexander Stewart near the headwaters of Island Creek and commonly known as "Three Forks."