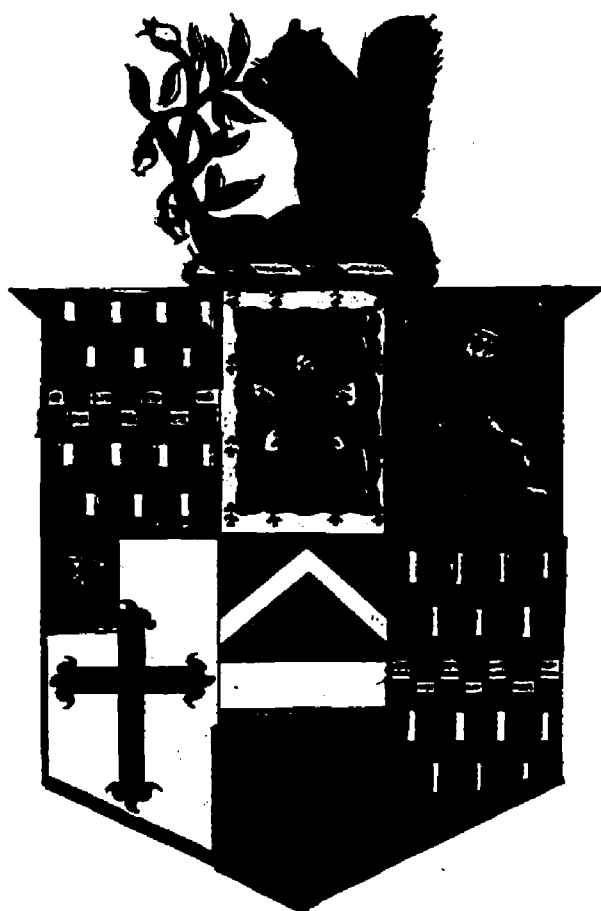


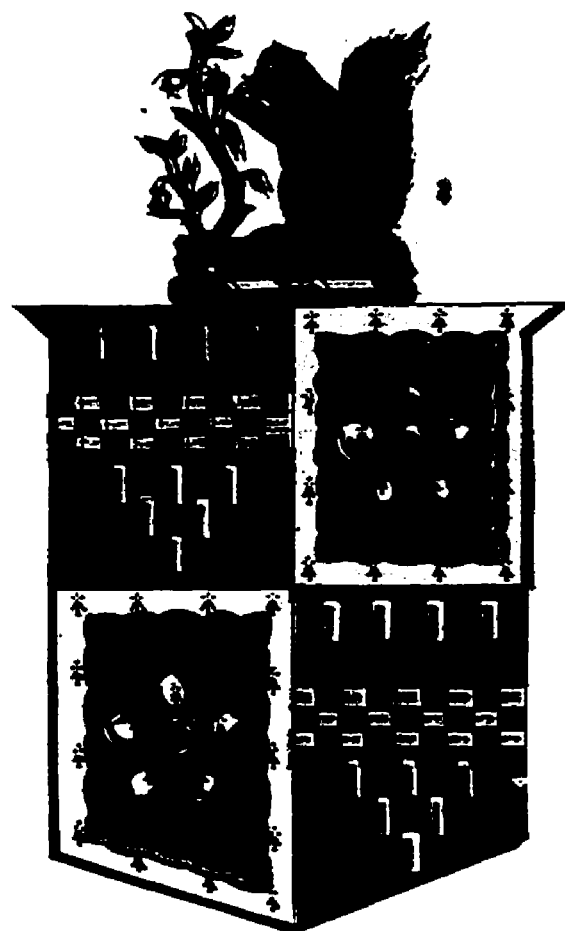
THE LEE FAMILY.





Lee Arms.  
Langley.





Lee Arms.  
Cotton.



**Genealogical History**  
OF THE  
**LEE FAMILY**  
OF  
VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND

FROM A.D. 1300 TO A.D. 1866

WITH NOTES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.

EDITED BY EDWARD C. MEAD



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*RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED*  
*TO THE*  
*SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE LEE FAMILY,*  
*BY THE EDITOR.*



## Preface.

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THIS ancient genealogy, accompanied by an original coat-of-arms, has long slumbered among the old family papers of the compiler of this work. Its authenticity is undoubted. The sad war that for four years darkened our land developed in the North and South instances of personal heroism that make a part of the moral history of the world.

Although the cause of which he was the military leader was a failure, the name of Gen. Robert E. Lee is universally respected at the North and in Europe; while at the South it is almost revered, especially by the soldiers he commanded and the officers who served under him. That he has proved himself a soldier, "without fear, and without reproach," is universally conceded; that he is a Christian gentleman and patriot, all who know him will bear willing testimony. To such a man, the "pomp of heraldry" has but few attractions; but his name, whether linked with success or misfortune, is an unblemished one, and already belongs to history. This record of genealogical notes and incidents, therefore, is offered to the public as material for the historian, and as a tribute of respect to an old and honored revolutionary name.

EDWARD C. MEAD.

"BROAD OAK," NEAR KESWICK,  
ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA., May 31, 1866.



## Introduction.

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**T**HE family of LEE is one of the most ancient in the records of the English Pcerage; and its genealogy can be traced back to the earliest history of our own and our mother country. A. D. 1066  
to 1302.

In the eleventh century, we find the name of Launcelot Lee, Loudon, France, as an honored associate of William the Conqueror, going over to England with that chieftain, and distinguishing himself at the battle of Hastings.

We thus learn that the family was of Norman origin, which is confirmed by the Christian names of many of its branches. The following brief notice of Launcelot Lee is extracted from an old manuscript once in the possession of the Rev. William F. Lee of Virginia:—

“The Lee Family of Virginia is the youngest branch of one of the oldest families of England. Launcelot Lee, the founder, came originally from Loudon, France. He went over to England with William the Conqueror. After the battle of Hastings, when the estates of the native English nobility were divided among the followers of William, a fine estate in Essex was bestowed upon him.

A.D. 1192. "Lionel Lee, first Earl of Litchfield, raised a company of 'gentlemen cavaliers,' at the head of which he accompanied Richard Cœur de Lion in the third Crusade, A.D. 1192. For gallant conduct at the siege of Acre, he was made Earl of Litchfield, and another estate was given to the family, which was afterwards called 'Ditchly.' The armor worn by Lionel Lee may be seen in the Horse Armory of the Tower of London.

"Richard Lee accompanied the unfortunate Earl of Surrey in his expedition against the Scotch borders, in 1542. Two of the Lee Family have been Knights of the Garter; and their banners, surmounted by the Lee arms, may be seen in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The Lee arms consist of a shield, bend sinister, battled and embattled; crest—a closed visor, surmounted by a squirrel holding a nut, with the motto, '*Non incautus futuri.*'"

In comparing the above extract with the old genealogy in our hands, and with other English records, we find some slight discrepancies: they are unimportant, but will be hereafter noted. The manuscript evidently refers to another branch of the Lee Family, distinct from the one we are attempting to trace, since we nowhere find in the latter the name of Lionel Lee, nor any reference to the family seat of Ditchly. It will be A.D. 1200. recollected that this family estate of Ditchly is mentioned in Sir Walter Scott's novel of "Woodstock" as the home of Sir Henry Lee; still, as the coat-of-arms which we present closely resembles that described in the above manuscript, it shows that the Lees of Langly and Cotton, in Shropshire, descended from the same ancestry, though diverging in different lateral branches.

The present old genealogy commences about the close of the eleventh century, and continues, in a direct line, to the year 1663, from which date we have endeavored to trace it to the present time. We have tried to do this with perfect accuracy; but, should any link be found rusted or broken, it must be attributed to the wear and tear of time, and not to any want of care on our part. A.D. 1090.

It is observed that the name first appears in the genealogical table as *Lega*, or *DE LE*, but gradually assumes the present form of *Lee*. This change is much less than is usually found in the descent and transmission of Norman names, the originals of which are often nearly lost in the successive transformations. At the time of the Conquest, family names were rarely used. The "Red," "Beau-Clerc," "Cœur de Lion," or some characteristic trait or feature, was adopted by distinguished leaders and their families, until the heraldic crest or shield (on which they were borne) became overloaded by these family escutcheons: titles then were instituted, suggested either by the birth-place of the chief, or by some office held at court.

The nearest approach to a family name was the assumption of the father's Christian name in addition to his own, by which a man who had no other designation announced his Norman descent. The only description of surnames known among the English at this time seems to have been some epithet descriptive of personal character, though the people ordinarily had but one name. When the Normans began to take second names, which usually had the prefix *De*, *Le*, or *Fitz* (*fil*s, son), it was esteemed a mark of plebeian extraction to have but one name.

The word "Lee" is from *Leaz*, plain or untilled land, probably

A.D. 1200. descriptive of the aspect of the country in which the family lived: *Lega*, which seems here to be the original, is doubtless from *Legra*, a small ancient village in Shropshire.

The family was doubtless extensive, even at this early period of history; for we find the names, *Lega*, *De Le*, and even *Lce*, frequently occurring in "THE DOOMSDAY BOOK," which was compiled soon after the Conquest. We also find frequent reference to the Lees in "The Rotuli Curia Regis," or Rolls of the Court of Pleas, as given during the reigns of Richard I. and King John.

We give interesting extracts from some of these suits, which are found in "The Rotuli Curia:—" —

"Ephraim Dulms, against *Gilbertus de la Lega*, for a plea of land, was respited until the 15th, or St. John's Day, because the said Gilbertus was in the king's service: by order of the king, beyond the sea (France). This suit is again respited, *sine die*, while the said Gilbertus remains in the king's service." \*

In another suit, the wife of Gilbertus is mentioned, whose name was Matilda. We also meet with the names of *Germinus de Lega*, *Reginaldus de Lega*, *Robert de la Leg*, or *Lega*, *Adam de Lega*, and *William de Lega*. Of the last (William), it is recorded, "Contributed a half-mark† for the benefit of the Church." We often find the single name of *Lce* and *Lega* used as denoting the same family.

In the Lincolnshire term, Robert de Takhurst (beyond the sea), in the king's service, sustains a suit against Rodolphus de Bradlee, for *Gilbertus de Lce*, for a plea of land. Also

\* See Rotuli Curia, vol. i. p. 180-387.

† The mark was a silver coin of 13s. 4d. sterling.



"*Henrici de Lee* appears on the fourth day of the assizes, A.D. 1200.  
against *Richard de Lee*, on a plea for a 'caricuri' of  
land situated in Leicestershire. Richard not appearing, it was  
decreed that the land should be held under the king; and Rich-  
ard was summoned to appear at Westminster, on St. John's Day,  
to make whatever appeal necessary."

The abbreviations *Le*, *Lec*, *Leg*, and *Legh*, each stood for Lee,  
as we find, —

Henricus de Le,  
Rodolphus de la Lec,  
Ricardus de la Lee,

which are of the same family; their names evidently having  
been written at different periods and places, varied with the  
changes of time and language. As we approach a later period,  
the name assumes its more definite shape.

From "The Fine Rolls," or "Rotuli Finem," as preserved in  
the Tower of London, which give a succinct history A.D. 1268.  
of each individual case, from the sixth year of King  
John to Edward IV., we are able to deduce much interesting  
matter connected with the *Lees*, as well as with the families with  
which they intermarried.

"William de la Le (or Lee) and Alicia gave a half-mark for  
a writ from the king's bench for a hundred of land in the county  
of Wiltshire."

"The king also took homage of Henrici de Le, son and heir  
of Johannes de Lee, deceased (who held lands under the king's  
head), for all tenants which his father, the said Johannes, held  
under the king; and that the said lands and tenants be returned  
to him. It was ordered that the Escheator of Lancashire take

A.D. 1268. security of the aforesaid Henry, on account of the king, for the return of the said lands and tenants," upon which conditions, it seems, they were released to him.

We next find "*Henrici de Lega*, who, with his wife Eugenia, gave one mark for a hearing before the assizes of Eborasci;" and again, we find that "the king respited *Roger de Leye*, or *Lee*, until the Easter term following, for a debt or fine of £70 for a hundred of land." He is respited until the Easter term following; and the barons are ordered to "conform to this decree, which is given at Windsor, Nov. 10, 1268."

The names of Johannes, Ricardus, and Phillipus Lee, continue to be repeatedly mentioned on these rolls, which agree so nearly in time and circumstances with those of the old genealogy now presented, as to show the identity not only of the family, but even of the persons.

A.D. 1269. The family seat of the Lees, at this date, we are unable definitely to locate, though Burke, in his "Landed Gentry" of England, says, "Cotton Hall, the ancient family seat of the Lees, descended from father to son from the reign of Edward I. to the eighteenth century," which, we may suppose, was the family seat of the Lees at the time this genealogy commences. Essex was the county first settled by Launcelot Lee; and Ditchly, the home of that branch of the Lees. It was the manor of Sir Henry Lee, Esq., of Quarendon, Buckinghamshire, who was created Earl of Litchfield, on the 22d May, 1611, which is the first earldom of that place we find recorded. He was succeeded by his son, Sir Edward Henry Lee, Baronet, who was created Baron of Spelsbury, Viscount Quarendon, and Earl of Litchfield, 5th January, 1674. With him the title became extinct.

The Lees of England were zealous supporters of the Stuarts. We find many of the names recorded in our present genealogy among those holding office and important positions under the crown during the reign of that unfortunate family. There is a record of two distinguished persons in connection with the formation of this genealogy, — of Sir William Dugdale, *Clarencieux-at-arms*, who made a “visitation” to Shropshire in 1663,\* and of *Richard Lee*, who was also *Clarencieux-at-arms* in the year 1594. This latter was unquestionably one of the Lee Family, and possibly originated the record.

With this introductory notice, we now present this ancient genealogical record. We have endeavored to increase its interest by adding such links and facts as we have been able to collect by correspondence with those connected with the family, and by diligent search through such volumes of ancient English history and heraldry as the principal libraries of our country afford.

The numbers in brackets refer the reader to remarks which are to be found in the Appendix.

\* See Harleian Manuscripts.



## Arms of the Dece Family.

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**I**N Europe, during the primeval ages, as early as A.D. 800, heraldry was the only conventional method of distinguishing families, and even nations, and their representatives. So necessary was it in the absence of a more enlightened mode of distinction, that it was reduced, at an early period, to a science, for the designation of both private and public dignity. A simple device, characteristic of the person or family, was usually worn. The heraldic crest, shield, and supporters were not merely confined to the heads of governments, but were also adopted by each family of hereditary eminence who aspired to distinction; and thus, in time, the escutcheon held a more potent sway than the cross of the middle ages.

Amid the many and various-colored devices which were adopted and added to the shield by intermarriage or promotion, there would always be *one* distinguishing feature to show the origin of the family, which was usually denoted by the crest. This would be handed down to their posterity as a sacred object, never to be lost sight of; and thus the parent stock would always be retained amid the complicity of symbolic forms of successive ages, and could readily be traced to its original source.

From the many works on heraldry, we find several forms and descriptions of the Lee arms, each of which vary in minor particulars, though retaining one distinguishing feature; viz., the crest, representing a squirrel eating a nut. This single hereditary mark is still borne upon the family plate of the Lees of Virginia, and can be traced as far back as we have a record of the family.

The old genealogical document has given us two sets of colored arms, one for each branch of the family, exact copies of which are given in the frontispiece to this work.

The arms here given are those of ALLIANCE, as indicating intermarriage of families, and, when adopted, were called an ESCUTCHEON OF PRETENCE when the bride was an heiress.

In our introductory remarks, a description of the Lee arms, of the House of Litchfield, is given; which consist of "a shield, bend sinister, battled and embattled; crest—a closed visor, surmounted by a squirrel holding a nut, with the motto,—

*'Non incautus futuri.'*"

The only resemblance here is the squirrel. In Mr. William Berry's "Heraldic Encyclopædia," the Lee arms of Langly are thus given:—

"*Gules* (red) fesse; compony *or* (gold), and azure (blue), between eight billets *argent* (white). Crest—on a staff raguly, a squirrel cracking a nut; from dexter end of staff, an oak-branch fructed, all *ppr.*"

Another is given also of the same family, though a different branch:—

"*Gules* fesse counter compony *or*, and *argent*, between thirteen billets, seven in chief and six in base of last."

Another is given,—

“*Argent*, a chevron between three leopards’ heads, *sable* (black).”

The Lee arms of Sussex are thus given:—

“*Azure* (blue), a lion rampant guardant. *Argent*; crest—a stag’s head erased *or* (gold).”

We observe the similarity in each of these to that we are discussing; the only difference being, that our original contains *fourteen* billets, seven above and below the fesse.

Of the Lees of Cotton, Burke, in his “British Commoners,” gives almost an exact drawing of the arms as shown in our old document, and which he thus describes:—

“The arms of Lee of Cotton are quarterly. 1st and 4th, *Gules* (red) a fesse, checkée *or* and *azure*, between six billets *argent*. 2d, Party-per-bend indented *gules* and *or*, two fleurs-de-lis. 3d, *Vert* (green)—a cross *engrailed*; *argent*. Crest—a squirrel pp<sup>r</sup>., between two hazel-branches. Motto,—

“*Non nobis tantum nati.*”

This answers more closely to our arms than any that has heretofore been given; the only exception being in the number of billets, which, in our original set for the House of Cotton, is ten, four above and six below the fesse. The other portions here described somewhat resemble the Langley combination. The arms of Langley are thus described in the original manuscript:—

- “1. *Lce.*
2. *Astly.*
3. *Kirton (most like it).*
4. *Pessal.*
5. *John de Orton (most like it).*
6. *Lee.*”

The first and sixth are alike, and, together with the crest, from the original Lee coat-of-arms. Of the families represented as connected by marriage, we have, first, that of Astly, described as a "cinquefoil, on an *azure* field, surrounded by an engrailed border *argent*."

We have already seen that Robert de la Lee married a daughter of Thomas Astly, A.D. 1385; hence their arms of connection are added.

The cinquefoil is also found in the *Lambert* arms of Surrey, with whom a member of the Lee Family was connected.

The third division is given as nearly resembling the Kirton arms, which are found in Mr. Berry's "County Genealogy" as "Quarterly—first, *argent*, a fesse; and chevron in chief, *gules*," from which we gain the white fesse and chevron on a red field.

The Kirtons were of Westmoreland County, and a family of distinction.

The fourth, or Pessal Family, is thus spoken of in Burke's "Dormant Peerage:"—

"Richard de Pershall, or Peshall, son of Richard Peshall, and Alice Somerton, his wife, was a knight, and a person of great power in Staffordshire, having been high sheriff, an office  
A.D. 1334 to 1342. in those days of great authority, from seventh year of Edward III. to eleventh and fifteenth. From him descended Hugh Peshall or Pessal (as it afterwards became), the first of the family who resided at Horsely, in County of Stafford.

A.D. 1489. "He was sheriff, time fourth year of Henry VII., and married Juliana, daughter of Sir Robert Corbet of Morton Corbet."



Thus we gain their arms through the Corbets, in which family Sir Humphry Lee married. Their arms are thus described:—

A.D. 1489.

"Cross forme flourette sable; on a Canton *gules*, a wolf's head of the first.

"Created 1612, dormant since 1712."

The "cross, patée *or*," is also found a prominent feature in the *Bathurst* arms, in which one of Launcelot Lee's daughters married. The "*Deerhead*" is given as forming the crest of the *Smith* arms, a member of which married a daughter of Sir Richard Lee of Langley.

The fifth, the Orton or Horton arms, are described by the same author as bearing the "lion rampant:" it is also to be found in the *Carter* arms of Kent; Dr. William Carter marrying Mary, daughter of Launcelot Lee, Esq. The lion is found also a marked feature of the *Goodwin* arms of Buckinghamshire, to a member of which Ann Lee, daughter of Sir Henry Lee, was married.

From this coat-of-arms, therefore, we should judge that the Langley branch of the Lees were intimately connected with noble blood, which their arms represent, through the "lion rampant," as savoring of royalty.

The Cotton arms, as shown in the original, are quarterly, and represent only the family of Lee and Astly. They resemble the Langley arms, but embrace only *ten* billets and *three* bars checkée in the fesse.

To the student of heraldry, the billets, embattled bars, cinquefoil, and other devices in varied colors, will each be found to have an especial meaning.

A.D. 1489. The checkée fesse and billets on an ensanguined field denote WAR.

The cross, RELIGION.

The lion, ROYALTY.

The cinquefoil, on blue field, GRANDEUR, &c.

We thus learn the history of families from the various bearings of the escutcheon; and those now presented will doubtless be cherished as representing an old Revolutionary family, whose coat-of-arms is quartered with those of Gen. Washington.

## Genealogical History of the Dee Family.

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THE testimony here given, showing the validity A.D. 1750.  
of the old genealogy, is found at the *end* of the  
original; but we have placed it first, that we may enter into the  
examination of the old document with the greater satisfaction  
upon establishing its authenticity.

Charles Townly was one of the six heralds commonly called  
York, Lancaster, Chester, Windsor, Richmond, and Somerset,  
each of whom had his "pursuivant," or attendant, who was styled  
Bleu-Mantel, Rouge-Croix, Rouge-Dragon, or Portcullis; hence  
we see, that John Pomfret (Rouge-Croix) was the attendant of  
Charles Townly, York Herald, by whose authority the pedigree  
and coat-of-arms were extracted from the herald's office.

In early times, heralds were employed to demand redress of  
injuries from foreign powers, carry messages of amity or defiance,  
and proclaim peace or war. At a later period, they recorded or  
emblazoned armorial bearings, and arranged public ceremonies;  
hence the establishment of the herald's office. The herald or  
pursuivant had authority to erase any coat-of-arms illegally borne,  
or to grant it to those families entitled thereto.

We have the authenticity of the paper established, not only by  
the following evidence, but also by the crown-stamp upon the

A.D. 1750. paper of that date (1750), and which is clearly discerned on the original with the motto, "*Pro Patria ejusque Libertate*," encircling the lion *rampant*, bearing in one hand the "faces," the other the mace of office; the whole surmounted by the crown, underneath which are the letters "V. R. G. H. E. Y. T.," which doubtless denote the seal and motto of the herald's office.

Charles Townly, York Herald, evidently copied the pedigree from the original in the herald's office, as the hand-writing is the same throughout, with a marked difference from that of his colleague, John Pomfret, whose signature comes last, accompanied with the date.

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A.D. 1200. "Hugo de Lega or de La, as in the old chart without date."

This is the first record upon the old genealogy, and indicates the origin of the name. In our researches, we find but one mention of a *Hugo Lee*, which occurs in "The Testa de Neville," or Feodorum Book, embracing the reigns of King Henry III. and Edward I. The original entry is as follows:—

"Hugo de Lega Tenet hydam terre p. svic<sup>d</sup> xxx<sup>m</sup> ptis unius millet<sup>d</sup> deo honore."

This was given in Bedfordshire. We may safely infer that Hugo Lee is in direct descent from Lionel Lee, from what has already been given; but, that he came over with the Conqueror, we have every reason to doubt, since his name is not to be found in the record of that event which, estimating from the first

genealogical date given, would leave a period of more than two hundred years unrecorded. A.D. 1200.

We have previously spoken of the origin of the name, which we here find is *Lega*; and, save the mention of an "old chart," we have nothing to indicate the time and place referred to.

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"Reginaldus Lee, to whom William, son of William son of Alani, conceded the lands by petition of Fulco, A.D. 1250  
to 1300. son of Warini."

Reginaldus Lee was a direct descendant, though probably not a son, of Hugo Lee. We find him mentioned in the parliamentary writs of this period as a burgess returned for Bridgworth in 1307, and also again in 1315; parliament being then held at Westminster.

From the same records of the time of Edward I., we find a Reginaldus Lee made chief assessor and collector for the counties of Shropshire and Stafford; his commission being granted 1275. Willus, abbreviated for "Willielmus," we find, by reference to the old Feodorum Book, was the son of Warren Lee, who was Baron of Wahull: the genealogical table, however, leads us to suppose him to be the grandson of Alan Lee, who appears to have been a baron of Shropshire at this time.

We find it added, in the work referred to above, that "Fulco, son of Warini," held one knight's fee in Alderfer, Shropshire,

A.D. 1300. under Baron T. Corbet,\* by whose intercession Reginaldus Lee succeeds to the possession of the Lee Estate.

The word "terras," here given, signifies large tracts of arable land, or "Terra arabilis," which were granted by the Conqueror to his followers, and which were afterwards ceded by the county barons to their attendants.

There being no accompanying date or locality given, we can only infer that this estate was situated in Shropshire.

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A.D. 1298  
to 1302. "Johis de Lee, knight or soldier, to whom Hugo de Hinton gave lands, as per chart, without date. Lived twenty-sixth year of Edward I. The father of Thomas Lee, thirtieth year of Edward I."

This is the first entry upon the genealogy *with date*. We find among the parliamentary writs, that a John de Lee, knight of Essex, was sent to parliament, A.D. 1307; and also that "Johannes, son of William de Lee, or Leye, certified, as per writ at Clipston, A.D. 1316, as one of the lords of the township of Leigh, and was made Esquire, or man-at-arms, for the county of Bedford."

We have here another grant of lands to the family for gallant services; as it states that this member of the family was a "knight," or attendant, of Hugo de Hinton, who was probably one of the Conqueror's favorites; and is mentioned in the "Testa de Neville" as from Northamptonshire, and holding lands under Buchamstad.

\* See Feodorum Book, p. 45.

The term "miles," as here applied, sometimes signified a soldier, but more frequently a person of higher distinction; since Kelham says, — A.D. 1302.

"Men that held great estates of the earls and barons of England, as five, six, seven, eight or ten knights' fees, were called by them their *barons*; but were not 'barones-regis,' or parliamentary barons: and as the king had, so these earls and barons, their dapifers, chamberlains, and other officers in their households." \*

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Thomas Lee, whose father, Johis Lee, was given in the previous entry, here bequeaths to his eldest son, as was the English custom, the patrimonial estate near Pebenhull, a small ancient village of Shropshire, now extinct.

From a portion of the mutilated deeds accompanying the pedigree, as well as by reference to the parliamentary writs, A.D. 1316, Thomas de Leye, or Lee, is given (as one of the lords of Staunton) a church, or glebe, in the county of Shropshire. It seems he received a grant of lands to be held in his own right, from John Le Fitz William of Tetterton.

The wife of Thomas Lee is also here given, who was a daughter of Thomas Corbet, of the great Shropshire Family of Corbet, or Corbett, of Morton-Corbet.

The first mention of this ancient family is made under the "Tenants in Capite," from William the Conqueror.

Lyson also says, "The manor of Lyton, or Leyton Garge, one of those included in this county (Essex), in the estate of

\* See Domesday Book, p. 273.

A.D. 1302 Robert de Corbutis (Corbet), was given by Walter Corpechum to the Abbot and Convent of Stratford-Langthorne, and confirmed by Ralph de Arderm about the year 1200."

A Robert-Fitz-Corbet is also mentioned as under-tenant to Earl Roger de Montgomery, in Shropshire, at the time of the survey. There are several *Thomas Corbets* mentioned in the Feodorum Book, one of whom is spoken of as holding a knight's fee in Tasseleg, Shropshire, who is probably the one here referred to. There was also a Baron T. Corbet of Shropshire.

The term "villa" is used for a manor, or lordship, though frequently applied to a collection of houses as *vil*, or *village*.

A.D. 1321 "Reginaldus Lee, to whom his father gives the Lee Villa. Lived fourteenth year of Edward II."

This entry simply confirms the previous one, by adding the year in which the transfer is supposed to have been made.

A.D. 1322  
to 1328 "Johis Lee, soldier, son of Reginaldus Lee of the House of Roden, fifteenth year of Edward II., and first year Edward III. Married, first, Alicia, thirteenth Edward II.; second, Matilda, daughter of Henry Erdington."

This was the eldest son of Reginaldus Lee, who necessarily inherited the Roden Estate. He married twice. His first wife,



Alicia, who was of the House of Haberly, seems, by the old deeds, to have been a widow at the time of her marriage with Johis Lee; as a marriage-contract was made in which Alicia settled most of her property upon her three children,—Thomas, Oliver, and Isabella: she died soon after, leaving no further issue. Johis Lee married again, A.D. 1328. His second wife was Matilda Erdington, by whom he had two children.

A.D. 1322  
to 1328.

Johis, or Johannes, Lee, as it was frequently written, is mentioned quite often among the parliamentary writs of Edward II. We find him the 5th March, 1316, certifying, as per writ, as one of the lords of the township of Birrington (or Biriton), Shropshire. He was also one of the commissioners of array for the same county, 1322; and was made knight of the county, and summoned to parliament, 14th November, 1322.

From the same records, we also find Henry Erdington quite prominent as a public man, from 1309 to 1324. He was a knight of Lancaster; enlisted in 1300 against the Scots, at the head of a company; was one of the assizers and collectors of Warwick, and conservator of the peace for the same county, &c.

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“Robert Lee, son of Johis Lee, of the House of Roden, eighth year of Richard II. Marries Margaret, daughter and heiress of Thomas Astley of Nordley.”

A.D. 1385

Under the parliamentary writs, we find that a Robert de la Lee was one of the followers of the Earl of Hereford, and was

A.D. 1385. pardoned of all offences committed in the "persuit of the *dispensers*," in company with that earl; but it seems this was afterwards revoked, as certain commissioners were appointed to pursue and arrest him and others. This occurred Aug. 20, 1321, which would render it probable that he died in 1385, the date above given.

In the same record, we also find that Thomas de Astley was in the same expedition, under Earl Roger de Mortimer of Wigorn, and was also pardoned.

From Burke's "Extinct Baronage of England," we derive the following concerning this family:—

"The Astleys derive their name from the Manor of Astley, or, as originally written, *Eastley*, in the County of Warwick, of which they were lords as early as Henry I. Sir Thomas Astley, knight, was constituted, in the twenty-sixth of Henry III., one of the king's justices for the gaol delivery at Warwick. Sir Thomas was one of the leaders amongst the barons who fell in 1264, with Montford, Earl of Leicester, and other rebellious lords.

"The Astleys intermarried with the Corbets, Wrotesleys, and Lees. Their seats were afterwards Hill, Morton, and Patshull."

From Guillian's "Heraldry," we find it stated that "there have been of this family (Astley), successively, barons of parliament from Edward I. to Henry V., and one Knight of the Garter in Henry VI."

The Astley arms, it will be observed, are blended with those of Lee; and the Nordley Estate descended to the posterity of Robert Lee.

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Johannes Lee, the youngest son of Robert Lee, inherits Nordley. He, too, evidently marries into a distinguished family, as his issue forms another branch of the family, in which the large estate of Nordley descended many generations. The Packingtons, though not previously mentioned, are a well-established family, many of the name being still found throughout England.

A.D. 1400.

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“Rogerus Lee, son and heir, first lord of Langley. Marries Johanna, daughter and heiress of Edward Burnell.”

Being the eldest son of Robert Lee, he succeeds to most of the property on the paternal side, and his issue forms the direct line, or first branch, of the family. He also marries an heiress, by whom he obtains the Langley Estate, situated in Shropshire.

Edward Burnell is mentioned in the parliamentary writs of Edward II. as the son and heir of Philip Burnell, who was summoned to parliament as a baron in 1316, and held lands in fourteen counties.

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“Robert Lee of Langley, in the county of Shropshire. Marries Petronilla —, as appears per chart dated eleventh year of Henry IV., and another seventeenth of Henry VI., and also another dated twentieth of Henry VI.

A.D. 1410  
to 1442.

Continuing with the main stem through the issue of Roger

A.D. 1442. Lee, his eldest son here marries a lady of much fortune, if we judge from the number of charts or grants referred to.

The omission of the family name, as in this case, is frequently met with in such records and it was not considered entirely necessary.

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A.D. 1447  
to 1491. "Radolphus Lee, living twenty-fifth year of Henry VI., and eighteenth of Edward IV., died nineteenth of Edward IV. Married Isabella, who was a widow, and daughter of Jacob Ridley, twentieth year of Edward IV."

This record appears more explicit than any heretofore given. Supposing Radolphus was born twenty-fifth Henry VI. (1447), he was about forty-three years of age at his decease.

From the old deeds, we find that his wife inherited property situated in the villages of Haxalls, Acton, Burnell, and Buryton, in Shropshire

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"Richard Lee of Langley, in the county of Shropshire, A.D. 1491, twentieth year of Edward IV. Married Margaret, daughter and co-heir of Fulco Sprenchose, knight."

Here we observe the first omission of DE. or LE. Richard Lee, the only child of Radolphus, succeeds to the whole estate, and married, as it is further stated in the deeds, the widow of Johis

Wimsbly, through whom Richard acquired a large estate in Dotinton. A.D. 1491.

This Richard Lee is doubtless the "Richard" referred to in our introductory article as enlisting against the Scots.

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From Richard Lee we have seven children,—five sons and two daughters. A.D. 1486  
to 1540.

The issue of three of the sons, Thomas, Rodolphus, and Johannes, is not given. The second son, Richard, married a daughter of Macocks, and lived during the reign of Henry VII.: he left one child, a daughter, who succeeded to his property, and married Thomas Kinaston, of Cotton, in the county of Shropshire.

This Richard Lee, as appears from ancient record, was the king's surveyor, since we find a letter written to "Richard Lee, Esq., surveyor of the king's workes at Guisnes, declaring the kings Highness' pleasure touching the conveyance of water through the town of St. Peter's, and the opening of a drain," &c.; also "at Windsor, 1540, an order was sent to Richard Lee, surveyor of Calais, to answer charges against him, and to use himself towards the king's officers as his duty doth appertain."\*

Fulco Lee, the eldest son and heir of Langley, married twice; first, Alicia, daughter of Henry Cornwall of Birington, in the county of Hereford, of which family, Burke, in his "Landed Gentry of England," says, "The Cornwalls are descended from Richard de Cornwall, who had the manor of Thunneck, in Lin

\* See Privy Council, vol. vii.

colnshire, from Edward, Earl of Cornwall, eighth of  
 A.D. 1540. Edward I., 1280. He was ancestor of the Cornwalls,  
 barons of Burford, the senior line of which family is now repre-  
 sented by the heir, Gen. George Cornwall Leigh, Esq., of High-  
 Leigh, Cheshire." By his second wife, Richard Lee had one  
 daughter, who married. He is mentioned among the records of  
 the privy council of Henry VIII. as one of the witnesses in a suit  
 of Chandler against Wrotesley for possession of the Lee Manor.  
 Chandler, it seems, made a false accusation, and was made to  
 apologize to Sir Thomas Wrotesley.

Margeria, the eldest daughter of Richard Lee, married Thomas  
 Vernon, second son of Sir Henry Vernon of Hodnet, Shropshire,  
 second Earl of Shrewsbury, and who was a descendant of Richard  
 Vernon, a follower of William the Conqueror. By this marriage,  
 there was but one child, a daughter; and the line became extinct  
 in 1600. Lord George Venable Vernon was made a peer in  
 1762, and married his second wife, Mary, daughter of Sir Thomas  
 Lee of Hartwell, Buckingham, who died Sept. 22, 1742.

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Thomas Lee, Esq., of Langley, is the only son of  
 A.D. 1574 Fulco Lee by his first wife. Falling heir to an im-  
 to 1600. mense estate, he married into the distinguished family  
 of Corbet, forming the second alliance between the two families.  
 This Robert Corbet, the father of Jana, of Morton-Corbet, Shrop-  
 shire, married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir John Vernon. Robert  
 Corbet also had another daughter Elizabeth, who married Sir  
 Henry Wallop, Earl of Portsmouth.\*

\* See Peerage of England.

By the union of Thomas Lee and Jane, there were ten children,—three sons and seven daughters. A.D. 1574  
to 1600.

All the daughters married, one of whom was united to another of the Corbet Family, of whom Burke mentions,—

“Sir Edward Corbet of Longnor and of Leighton, knight, was created a baronet in 1642. The senior branch of the family expired in 1774, with Sir Richard Corbet, baronet, whereupon the title descended upon Charles Corbet of London, great grandson of Thomas, the second son of the first baronet. Edward Corbet of Longnor Hall, Shropshire, J. P. and D. L., lieutenant-colonel of Shropshire Militia, 1817, is a descendant of this branch.”\*

The eldest daughter, Jocola, marries Robert Morton of Houghton, who was a widower at the time, as a daughter of his marries Thomas Lee of Nordley. Maria, the fourth daughter, marries Edward Plowden, of which family Burke speaks:—

“The Family Plowden have been seated at Plowden, in Shropshire, from a period anterior the earliest records extant in the vicinity. Roger Plowden, of Plowden, who was a Crusader under Richard Cœur de Lion, is stated to have been present at the siege of Acre, in 1194, and to have received for his gallant services the augmentation of the ‘*Fleurs-de-Lys*,’ borne ever since by his descendants. From him descended Edward Plowden, who married Mary, daughter of Thomas Lee of Langley, in Shropshire, and had a son Humphry.”†

Richard Lee, eldest son and heir, married a daughter of Walter Wrotesley, of Wrotesley, of which family we gather an interesting account:—

“About the period of the Norman Conquest, the manor of Wrotesley, in Stafford, from which this family derives its name,

\* See Burke's Landed Gentry of England.

† Burke's Commoners.

A.D. 1600. was in possession of the monks of Evesham; and it so continued until the reign of Henry II., when the holy fathers exchanged it for Moreton and other lands.

"Sir Hugh de Wrotesley attended Edward III. at the siege of Calais, and had a license from that monarch in the same year (twenty-third) to make a park at Wrotesley. Sir Hugh was subsequently very famous, and was amongst the first Knights of the Garter upon the institution of that order. From him descended Sir Walter Wrotesley, of Wrotesley, who was created a baronet in 1642. This gentleman distinguished himself by zealous attachment to the royal cause during the civil wars, and converted his mansion into a garrison for the king. Sir Walter married a daughter of John Grey, Esq., of Enville, Stafford, by whom he had three sons and four daughters."\*

The second daughter of Sir Walter married Sir John Talbot, son of Sir Gilbert Talbot, and grandson of John, second Earl of Shrewsbury. From this marriage is descended the Hon. William Talbot, Earl of Talbot, 1761.

This Richard Lee is frequently mentioned among the records of Queen Elizabeth's reign as *Clarencieux-at-arms*, or heraldic officer to the crown. From the Lansdowne collection of manuscripts, we find him writing to Lord Burleigh, under date of June 24, 1594, stating his reasons "why he used a hearse at the funeral of a knight bachelor." We gather also from the "Cottonian" collection of the same period, that Richard Lee was sent to the Emperor of Russia about the year 1600; and we further find among the Harleian collection a "Visitation" of Oxford, as made by "Richard Lee of Portcullis, pursuivant, and afterwards Windsor herald, and lastly Clarencieux-at-arms, A.D. 1574."

\* Burke's Peerage and Baronage.



The arms of the city of Oxford, consisting of the helm, crest, and supporters, were granted at this time by Mr. Lee. The "visitations" of Mr. Lee, as published by himself in 1584, were reprinted in 1661, and are now to be found in the British Museum. In this work may be found the "Atchevient" of Vernon of Hadnot (these Vernons having "supporters" by ancient usage); also the arms of the Shropshire nobility and gentry. Richard Lee, it seems, was also created Richmond herald and marshal to Robert Cook, who was *Clarencieux* A.D. 1564.

Among the chancery proceedings of the reign of Queen Elizabeth, we find an interesting suit between this Richard Lee and his brother Jerome, for an annuity bequeathed the latter by Thomas Lee, their father, issuing out of the Manor of Dotinton, Shropshire, as claimed under the will; from which fact we may infer that Thomas Lee died some time during the reign of that queen.

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We have from Richard and Eleanor Lee another large family, four sons and six daughters. All the daughters were married; but the marriage of only one son is given,—that of Humfry Lee, the eldest, who was created a baron 3 May, 1620. A.D. 1620.

From Burke's "Extinct and Dormant Baronetcies of England" we gather much concerning Sir Humfry and his family:—

"Humfry Lee, Esq., of Langley, and Acton Burnel in Shropshire, son of Richard Lee, Esq., of Langley, by Eleanor his wife,

daughter of Walter Wrotesley, Esq., of Wrotesley, was  
A.D. 1620. fourth in descent from Richard Lee, Esq., sheriff of the county in 1479, and representative of one of the oldest families in England. In 1620 he was created a baronet, being the first Shropshire gentleman who received that honor. He married Margaret, daughter of Richard Corbet, Esq., of Stoke, one of the judges of the Court of King's Bench, and had issue.

"Sir Humfry was succeeded by his son, Sir Richard Lee of Langley, and Acton Burnel, M. P. for Shropshire, who suffered much in the royal cause, and had to compound his estate in the sum of £3,719.

A.D. 1660. "He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Edward Allen, knight and alderman of London; and left at his decease, in April, 1660, issue to survive him,—two daughters, his co-heirs; viz., Rachel, married to Richard Cleaton, Esq., second son of Ralph Cleaton, of Otely, in Shropshire. She obtained for her inheritance Lea Hall, and the other estates of her ancestors in that neighborhood, and transmitted them to her descendants in the third generation. Richard Cleaton had two daughters:  
1. Alathea, married to Watkins Williams Wynne, Esq., of Voclas, in Denbighshire, whose daughters married—the one, the Hon. Charles Finch; the other, Thomas Asheton Smythe, or Smith, Esq., of Tedworth, Hants. Lea Hall and other estates were sold to Sir Thomas Tywhitt Jones, baronet. 2. Mary, married Edward Smythe, Esq., who was created a baronet, and ancestor of the present Sir Edward Smythe, baronet, of Acton Burnell and Langley.

"At the death of Sir Richard Lee, the baronetcy became extinct.

"A branch of this ancient family, that of Cotton Hall, in Shrop-

shire, which separated at a very early period from the parent stock, still preserves a male succession." \* A.D. 1660.

Of the Corbet Family, in which Sir Humfry married (being the fourth connection between the two families), we have already given a sketch.

Reginald Corbet is probably son of Robert Corbet of Moreton, in which case Margareta is cousin to Sir Humfry. A.D. 1620.

Among the chancery proceedings of Queen Elizabeth's reign, we find many suits in which Sir Humfry is a party, a few of which we give as being interesting, and enabling us to establish more fully our genealogical statements.

In a suit of Edward Bacon for possession of "the Brompton Mannor, the late estate of Alicia, widdow of Reginald Corbet, Esq., deceased," the names of Alicia Corbet, Richard Corbet, Humfry Lee and wife, Roger Lee, Jerome Corbet, and many others, are given as parties interested.

We find Sir Humphry Lee as "defendant in a suit of Thomas Corbet for a fraud in a deed of property in Munden, Shropshire, late estate of Thomas Colfax."

Again, we find him as defendant in a suit of Richard Lyster, "for relief of extent concerning property in Broughton, Shropshire, the late estate of his father, Richard Lyster."

We have recorded the marriage of a sister of Sir Humfry Lee with Miclirs Lyster, doubtless son of the said Richard, in whose behalf Sir Humfry is enlisted. We find among the same "proceedings" a suit, which Henry Vannor, who married the fourth daughter of Sir Richard Lee, sustains against Thomas

\* Burke's Commoners.

A.D. 1620. Owen, Edward Horton, Richard Parker, Ann Vannor, widow, and Luke and Gabriel Gunn, "for relief against cancelled bonds given by the plaintiff's father for performance of covenants."

It seems the plaintiff's father, Henry Vannor, being seized of lands, &c., in Condover, called Houghton-Fields, Shropshire, sold the same to defendants, Horton, Audly, and Parker: Parker, however, sells his third part to Richard Lec, the plaintiff's father-in-law, who again conveys the same to plaintiff's father, Henry Vannor, which third part he claims by descent. The defendant, Parker, at the same time released the plaintiff's father from a bond of two thousand pounds, given him and others with the said bargain and sale; which release the plaintiff states to be still in defendant's hands, and prays recovery and relief from suits on said bond, and also for the inheritance of the said third part.\*

The suit appears long and complicated, but interesting, in regard to the parties connected with the old genealogy.

From the Harleian collection of manuscripts, an original letter is referred to, from Humfry Lee to Mr. Joe Orenge, dated Lee, 15th April, 1594, "concerning his being left out of the new peace commission sent down for the county of Shropshire;" and from the same work, a notice of the Lees of Langley and Cotton, the originals of which are preserved in the British Museum.

Of the daughters of Sir Humphry Lee, Margaret married Sir Francis Kynaston, Knight of Otely, in Shropshire.

A.D. 1663. The remainder were doubtless under age at the time the old genealogy closes, which it here does for the first branch, after adding the arms of the Lees of Langley, which will be noticed presently.

\* Chancery Proceedings in Privy Council of Queen Elizabeth.

Of the sixth daughter of Sir Richard Lee, Katharine, who married Johis Heyward, we have some account in A.D. 1663 Burke's "Commoners:"—

"The family of Hereford, or Heyward, is of great antiquity, deriving its name, according to old manuscripts, from a city in Wales, the residence of the ancient earls of Hereford. They moved, during the reign of Edward I., to England, and to the county of Herefordshire. From Roger Hereford, the founder, time of Henry II., 1170, sprang the numerous family. John Hereford, of Lofton, was born 8th September, 1558. Wedded, first, in 1578, Catherine, daughter of Richard Lee of Langley, and had a son Richard, his heir; second, to Elizabeth, daughter to Humfry Archer, Esq., of Tamworth, Warwickshire, who died 1641, leaving a large family."

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"Johis Lee of Nordley, in the county of Shropshire. A.D. 1540.  
Married Elizabeth, daughter and heiress of Thomas Corbyne."

We have already stated that Roger Lee succeeded to the Roden Estate by inheritance, and also acquired the Langley Estate by marriage. We here find Johis Lee possesses Nordley, which his father acquired through the Astleys.

The Corbyne, or, as it has since become, Corbin Family, is one of the most ancient and noble of England. Hugo de Corbin, the founder, is spoken of as holding lands previous to the Doomsday survey, and probably came over with the Conqueror. The family still bear nearly the same name, and are scattered throughout

A.D. 1540. England and this country. As will be seen hereafter, the two families intermarried several times.

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A.D. 1574  
to 1600. "Thomas Lee of Nordley, in county of Shropshire. Married Johanna, daughter of Robert Morton of Houghton, Shropshire."

We have already referred to this marriage in speaking of Thomas Lee of Langley (see 15). Robert Morton evidently was twice married, Johanna being his daughter by his first wife: he afterwards married Jocosa, eldest daughter of Thomas Lee of Langley.

Thomas Lee of Nordley leaves but three children,—Thomas, Humphry, and Anna. Thomas married an heiress, and left one son, Francis, who is mentioned in the Lansdowne manuscripts as petitioning the council to encourage his art of making gunpowder, rather than buy abroad; and also proposes, in 1588, to make saltpetre at ninepence per pound.

He probably died unmarried, leaving this branch extinct.

Humphry Lee, the eldest son and heir, marries, and his issue forms a continuation of the second branch.

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A.D. 1600. "Humfry Lee of Cotton, Shropshire. Married Katherine, daughter of Johannes Blount of Yeo."

Cotton, the residence of Humphry Lee, which has but once

been previously mentioned, is situated in Nordley, or, as it was usually called, the King's-Nordley. *Nordley* is <sup>A.D. 1600</sup> called after one of the French towns or provinces, and comprised one of those large tracts of land reserved by the king, under the term "Terra Regis:" hence these tracts bore the prefix of king, as King's-Langley, King's-Swinford, and King's-Nordley.

Most of the property of the Lees was situated in this district. This branch of the family was heretofore known by the district; but later, and as the laterals spread, the family-seat of *Cotton* is added, to more minutely designate them. Cotton was situated near Bridnorth, on the road leading to Shrewsbury, the county-town, and probably formed a village. As has been stated, Cotton has passed out of the Lee Family.

Of the family of Blount, in which Humfry Lee married, Burke says, —

"The surname of this family was originally *Le Blount*; and Sir Alexander Cook says he is now the representative of the senior branch of that ancient house, which had its origin from the Blondi, or Brondi, of Italy.

"Its patriarchs, the counts of Guisnes, claimed alliance with most of the royal families of Europe, and counted among their progenitors the emperors and kings of France, the kings of Denmark, and dukes of Bavaria. The family is now known under the name of Croke."

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"Johannes Lee of Cotton in King's-Nordley, in county of Shropshire.

"Married the daughter of Johis Romney, who married a daughter of John Brington of Stoke."

A.D. 1600. Here is given the mother of Jocosæ, who, we presume, is of a distinguished family. By this marriage we have eight children, all sons, the issue of but one of which is given, though we presume the others married.

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Here we have the family residence more minutely located.

From the Cottonian manuscripts we find a Thomas Lee, Chief Justice of Ireland in 1608. Also a Dr. Edward Lee, Archbishop of York A.D. 1525, and Gilbert Lee, 1588; which renders it probable they were of this branch of the family. Thomas Lee left nine children, only two of whom were sons.

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A.D. 1663. Launcelot Lee of Cotton, eldest son and heir of Thomas Lee, is noticed briefly in an interesting article upon the Lee Family, as found in Bishop Meade's "Old Churches of Virginia." He was doubtless living at the time the genealogy was completed, as his age is given; and we may presume he was instrumental in its formation.

Launcelot Lee was twice married, both wives being from the county of Stafford. By his first wife he left three sons, John, Thomas, and Richard; the issue of Thomas alone being given. He was forty-three years of age at the close of the record; which would place the marriage of his father about A.D. 1620.

The father-in-law of Launcelot Lee, Thomas Clemson, is mentioned among the parliamentary writs of that time as having been twice married, his second wife being Joyce Cassandra.



By his second wife, a daughter of Henry Gough, A.D. 1663.  
Launcelot Lee left seven children, three sons and four daughters: of the latter, only two married. From Burke's "British Commoners" we have an interesting account of this Henry Gough, who, it appears, was a man of much distinction.

"Gough — a most ancient family, and its members highly distinguished, reaching from time of Henry I. It founded the noble house of *Calthorpe*. The Goughs derive their name from John Gech, or Gough, of the principality, living in time of Henry IV.

"Henry Gough, father of Elizabeth, purchased the lordship and seat of Old-Fallings in Staffordshire, and was amongst the most zealous adherents of Charles I., devoting himself, heart and fortune, to the service of that ill-fated prince.

"His Majesty, during his troubles, stopped at Wolverhampton, where he was entertained by Madam St. Andrew, a near connection of Mr. Gough; and that gentleman himself ventured to accommodate their royal Highnesses, Charles, Prince of Wales, and James, Duke of York. An ancient tenement still remains at Wolverhampton, which is part of the house wherein these princely guests resided.

"A subscription being set afoot to aid the exigencies of the royal cause, the inhabitants cheerfully contributed according to their ability: but the most ample supply was expected from Mr. Gough, whose loyalty was as prominent as his fortune was superior; when, to the great surprise and disappointment of every one, he refused any assistance, though strongly urged by the king's commissioners, who returned in disgust and chagrin. When night approached, putting on his hat and cloak, Mr. Gough went secretly, and solicited a private audience of his Majesty.

A.D. 1663. This appearing an extraordinary request, the dangerous circumstances of the times considered, the lord-in-waiting wished to know the object of the request, with an offer to communicate it to the king. Mr. Gough persisting, however, to decline this medium of communication, after much interrogation obtained admission to the royal presence. He then drew from his cloak a purse containing a large sum of money,\* and, presenting it with due respect, said,—

“‘ May it please your Majesty to accept this: it is all the cash I have about me, or I would have brought more.’ The gift was so acceptable to the king, that an offer of knighthood was made to Mr. Gough; but this loyal subject, having no other view than to serve his sovereign, declined the honor, which was afterwards conferred upon his grandson, Henry of Perry Hall, when he was introduced into the court of Charles II., and had mention made of the ‘loyalty of his ancestors.’”

Henry Gough died in 1655.

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It will be seen that John Lee, eldest son by the first wife of Launcelot Lee, died unmarried; hence the property falls to Thomas Lee, second son, who had four children, all of whom were under age at the close of the genealogy.

Here the old document ends, after adding another coat-of-arms

\* Family tradition says twelve hundred pounds. The Goughs were so affluent, that the country people used to say of this gentleman or his father,—

“Here’s old Justice Gough,  
Who has money enough.”



1911



for this branch; but we are enabled to continue the record to the present time, through Richard Lee, third son of Launcelot Lee by his first wife, who emigrated to America about the year 1641, and whose posterity are now widely scattered over our Southern land. A.D. 1663.

This Richard Lee is the pioneer of the family in America. He was married twice, as we learn from his will, which is subjoined. The second marriage took place about the year 1640.

We give an extract from a letter of William Lee, Esq., of Tower Hill, London (son of the celebrated President Thomas Lee, whose history we give hereafter), concerning this Richard Lee. The letter is dated 1771.

“Richard Lee, of good family in Shropshire, and whose picture, I am told, is now at Cotton, near Bridgworth, the seat of Launcelot Lee, Esq., some time in the reign of Charles I., went over to the colony of Virginia as secretary, and one of the king's privy council, which last part will, for shortness, be called ‘of the council.’ He was a man of good stature, comely visage, enterprising genius, a sound head, vigorous spirit, and generous nature. When he got to Virginia, which at that time was not much cultivated, he was so well pleased with the country that he made large settlements there with the servants he carried over. After some years, he returned to England, and gave all the lands he had taken up and settled at his expense, to those servants he had fixed on them, some of whose descendants are now possessed of very considerable estates in that colony. After staying some time in England, he returned to Virginia with a fresh band of adventurers.” . . .

The remainder of the article is somewhat similar to the one

A.D. 1663. already referred to in our Introduction, from which we now quote concerning Richard Lee:—

“Richard Lee, one of the younger branches of the House of Litchfield, emigrated to America early in the year 1641. He and Sir William Berkeley kept the colony to its allegiance during the civil war between Charles I. and Cromwell. While Charles II. was at Breda, Richard Lee went over and had a private conference with him in regard to the colony. On his return, he and Berkeley succeeded in having Charles II. proclaimed king of England, France, Scotland, Ireland, and Virginia.\* In gratitude for this loyalty, on the Restoration, Charles ordered the arms of Virginia to be added to those of England, France, Scotland, and Ireland, with the motto, ‘EN DAT VIRGINIA QUINTAM.’”†

Mr. Charles Campbell, in his highly interesting “History of Virginia,” thus notices Richard Lee:—

“Richard Lee, first of the family in Virginia, great grandfather of Richard Henry Lee, a cavalier, emigrated from England to Virginia during the civil commotions, in the time of Charles I., and, making several voyages to the mother-country, brought over with him a number of followers, each of whom received a portion of land, under the title of ‘head-rights.’ He probably settled first

\* This circumstance has been questioned by some historians.

† In confirmation of this fact, the editor of this work has in his possession a copper coin, which was ploughed up on his farm, in Albemarle County, Va., of the following description: On one side a head, with the words, “*Georgius III. Rex*;” on the other, a shield, surmounted by a crown, upon which are quartered the arms of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Virginia, the whole encircled with the word, “Virginia, 1773.” We thus learn the origin of the term *Old Dominion*, which has since been applied to the State of Virginia. There is one other similar coin now existing, which is in possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

in York, for he appears a burgess of that county, A.D. 1647 (1 Henning Stat. at Large, p. 339)."  
A.D. 1663.

The *will* of Richard Lee is also found in the same work, as furnished by Mrs. Susan H. Thornton, one of his descendants. This will is dated 1663, just previous to his last voyage to Virginia. The following is an extract from it:—

“I, Col. Richard Lee, of Virginia, and lately of Strafford-Langton in the county of Essex, Esq., being bound out upon a voyage to Virginia aforesaid, and not knowing how it may please God to dispose of me in so long a voyage,—First, I give and bequeath my soul to that good and gracious God that gave it me, and to my blessed Redeemer, Jesus Christ, assuredly trusting in and by his meritorious death and passion to receive salvation, and my body to be disposed of, whether by sea or land, according to the opportunity of the place, not doubting but at the last day both body and soul shall be united and glorified. Also my will and earnest desire is, that my good friends (Thomas Griffin and John Locky, merchants in England) will, with all convenient speed, cause my wife and children—all except Francis, if he be pleased—to be transported to Virginia, and to provide all necessary for the voyage. . . . To my wife, during her life, I give the plantation (Stratford) whereon I now reside. ten English servants, five negroes, three men and two women, twenty sows, and corn proportionable to the servants. The said negroes I give to her during her widowhood, and no longer, and then presently to return to those of the five youngest children: also the plantation Mock-Neck. Item,—my will and earnest desire is, that my household stuff at Stratford be divided into three parts, two of which I give to my son John, and bind him to give to every one of his brothers a bed, and the other third I give to my wife, Anna

A.D. 1663. Lee. Item, — I give all my plate to my three eldest sons or the survivor or survivors of them, each to have his part delivered to him when he comes to the age of eighteen years. Item, — I give to my son John and his heirs forever, when he comes to the age of eighteen years, all my land and plantation at Matholick, all the stock of cattle and hogs thereupon, also ten negroes; viz., five men and five women, and ten English servants for their times, &c." He likewise bequeaths his plantation Paradise, and the servants there, &c., to Richard. The Paper-Makers'-Neck and War-Captains'-Neck, with five negroes and ten English servants, to Francis. To his five younger children, William, Hancock, Betsy, Ann, and Charles, the testator bequeaths a plantation including Bishop's-Neck, four thousand acres of land on the Potomac, and the remainder of two plantations, after the death of his wife, together with the residue of his estate, real and personal. To his eldest son, John, he bequeaths "three islands lying in the Bay of Chesapeake, the great bed that I brought over the last year in 'The Duke of York,' and the furniture thereto belonging." To William, he bequeaths his lands on the Maryland side: "also my will is, that goods sufficient be set apart for the maintenance of the gangs of each plantation for the space of two years, and all the rest of the goods to be sold to the best advantage, and the tobacco shipt home to Mr. Lockey and Mr. Griffith, &c." To Francis, he gives his interest, "being one-eighth part in the ship 'Elizabeth and Mary,' and the ship 'Susan.'" The will provides for a fund "for the better education of John and Richard equally, to assist, the one in his travel for the attainment of a reasonable perfection in the knowledge of physick; the other at the University or the Inns of Court, which he shall be most fit for."



From these several extracts, we have much variance as to time and locality. From the first, we infer that <sup>A.D. 1663.</sup> this Richard Lee is from Cotton, the residence of his father, Launcelot Lee: the second article speaks of him as of the "House of Litchfield," of which we have no mention in our table. In the will, however, he speaks of himself as "lately of Strafford Langton, in the county of Essex." We also gather from the tombstone of his son, Richard Lee of Ditchly, Westmoreland County, that he is "descended of an ancient family of Merton-Regis, Shropshire." The old genealogical statement is at variance with each of these accounts, placing him from Southwark, a small village situated on the Thames, and tributary to London, being called a "borough" by way of distinction.

This latter was doubtless his residence during the lifetime of his first wife, Elizabeth Langdon, after whose death, and upon his second marriage, he removed to Essex, from whence he emigrated to Virginia as above stated. That the first Richard Lee of Virginia was of the House of "Cotton," Shropshire, and a descendant of the branch here recorded, there can be no doubt; and that Richard Lee of Southwark is that person we have every reason to believe, as he is the only descendant of that name given during that period. This Richard Lee left a family of eight children, six sons and two daughters, all of whom were under age at the writing of the above will. His son Richard inherited the homestead at Westmoreland, and from him we continue to trace the family.

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Richard Lee, second son of the first Richard, was  
 A.D. 1646  
 to 1714 born in Virginia, 1646. He was sent to England with  
 his brother to complete his education. He graduated  
 with distinction in law, and, returning to his native State, took an  
 active part in its legislative councils.

He married the eldest daughter of Henry Corbin. (This  
 was the father of Col. Thomas Lee, who was the father of  
 Richard Henry Lee, &c.) He settled upon his large estate in  
 Westmoreland County, where he built the old family-seat,  
 Ditchly, the ruins of which are still to be seen.

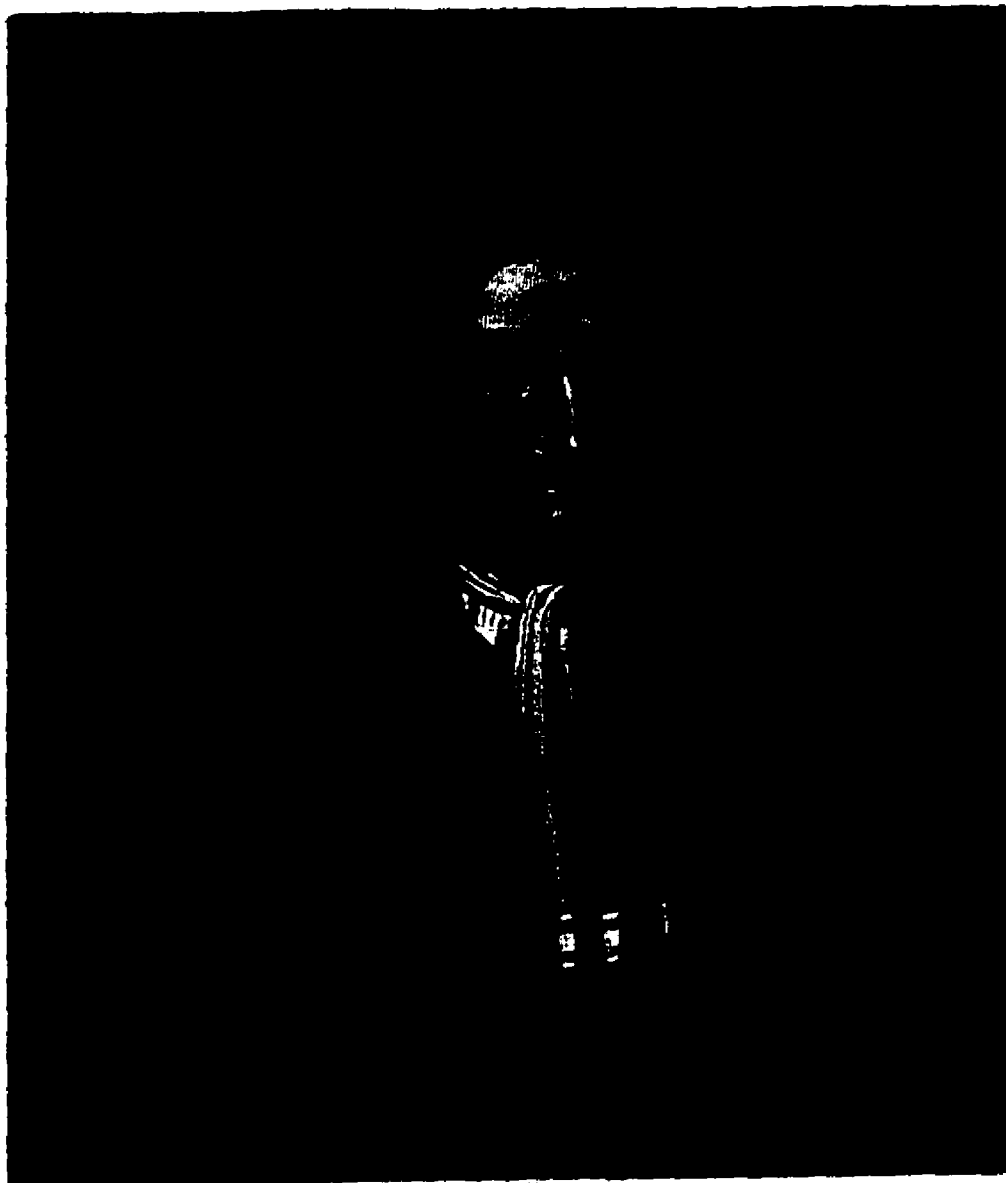
His father-in-law, Henry Corbin, in the year 1650, came to  
 America, and settled in the parish of Stratton-Major, King and  
 Queen County.

The tombstones of Richard and Letitia Lee are still to be  
 seen in the Burnt House Fields, at Mount-Pleasant, Westmore-  
 land County, Va.

"Hic conditur corpus Ricardi Lee armigeri nati in Virginia  
 fili Ricardi Lee, generosi, et antiqua familia in Merton-Regis in  
 comitatu Salopsiensi oriundi. In magistratum obeundo boni pub-  
 lici studiosissimi, in literis Græcis et Latinis et aliis humanioris  
 literaturæ disciplinis versatissimi.

"Deo quem summa observantia semper coluit animam tran-  
 quillus reddidit xii mo. die Martii anno "MDCCXIV.; ætat  
 LXVIII."

"Hic Juxta situm est corpus Lætitia ejusdem uxoris fidæ,  
 filiæ Henrici Corbyne, Generosi, liberorum matris amantissimæ,  
 pietate erga Deum charitate, erga egenos, benignitate erga omnes  
 insignis. Obiit Octob, dii vi. MDCCVI. ætatis XLIX."





"Here lieth the body of Richard Lee, Esq., born in Virginia, son of Richard Lee, gentleman, descended of <sup>A.D. 1714</sup> an ancient family of Merton-Regis in Shropshire. While he exercised the office of a magistrate, he was a zealous promoter of the public good. He was very skilful in Greek and Latin languages, and other parts of polite learning.

"He quietly resigned his soul to God, whom he always devoutly worshipped, on the 12th day of March, in the year 1714, in the sixty-eighth year of his age.

"Near by is interred the body of Lettuce, his faithful wife, daughter of Henry Corbin, gentleman. A most affectionate mother, she was also distinguished by piety toward God, charity to the poor, and kindness to all. She died on the 6th October, 1706, in the forty-ninth year of her age."

Richard Lee left five sons, — Richard, Philip, Francis, Thomas, and Henry. Richard Lee, the eldest, married Miss Silk of London, who left three children, one of whom married another of the Corbin Family. Thomas Lee (of whom we will presently speak more fully) married Miss Ludwell; and Henry Lee, fifth son (great grandfather of Gen. Robert E. Lee), married Miss Bland.

From contemporary records we gather further particulars of this Richard Lee, furnished chiefly by William Lee of London.

"... Richard Lee (second son of the first Richard) spent almost his whole life in study, and usually wrote his notes in Hebrew, Greek, or Latin, many of which are now in Virginia; so that he neither improved nor diminished his paternal estate, though, at that time, he might with ease have acquired what would, at this day, produce a princely revenue. He was of the council of Virginia, and also in other offices of honor and profit, though

A.D. 1714 they yielded little to him. He married Miss Corbin, and left behind him five sons — Richard, Philip, Francis, Thomas, and Henry — and one daughter.

“ Richard settled in London as a Virginia merchant, in partnership with one Thomas Corbin, a brother of his mother. He married an heiress in England, of the name of Silk; and left one son, George, and two daughters, Lettuce and Martha. These three children went to Virginia and settled. George married a Wormley there, who died, leaving one daughter; then he married a Fairfax, nearly related to Lord Fairfax of Yorkshire, and died, leaving, by his last marriage, three sons, who are now minors, and are at school in England, under the care of Mr. James Russel. Lettuce married a Corbin, and her sister married a Turbiville: their eldest children intermarried, from which union George Lee Turbiville, now at school at Winton College, is the eldest issue.”

A.D. 1744 Philip, the second son, went to Maryland early in 1700, and settled; and is the head of the Maryland branch of the Lee Family, of which we give a full account at page 113.

A.D. 1777 “ Francis, the third son, died a bachelor. Thomas, the fourth son, though with none but a common Virginia education, yet having strong natural parts, learned the languages without any assistance but his own genius, and became a tolerable adept in the Greek and Latin. . . . This Thomas Lee, by his industry and parts, acquired a considerable fortune; for being the younger brother, with many children, his paternal estate was very small. He was also appointed of the council; and, though he had few acquaintances in England, he was so well known by his reputation, that, upon his receiving a loss by fire, the late Queen Caroline sent him over a bountiful supply from







her privy purse. Upon the late Sir William Gooche being recalled, who had been some time governor of Virginia, he became president of the council and commander-in-chief of the colony, in which station he continued for some time, until the king thought proper to appoint him governor of the colony; but he died before his commission got to him. He left by his marriage six sons — Philip Ludwell, Thomas Ludwell, Richard Henry, Francis Lightfoot, William, and Arthur — and two daughters, all well provided for in point of fortune.”

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The Hon. Thomas Lee, fourth son of Richard Lee, is given us in history as one of the most prominent men of the early times of Virginia. Of the exact date of his birth and early life we have no record. The earliest mention of him is from the article just quoted; and we also find him spoken of in the article referred to in our Introduction, as “the first native governor of Virginia under the English government; and so popular was he in England, that, having suffered a severe loss by fire, Queen Caroline sent him a large sum of money from her privy purse, with an autograph letter. The fine mansion of Stratford was built for Thomas Lee, by the East India Company.”

Thomas Lee married Hanna Ludwell, daughter of Col. Philip Ludwell, of Green-Springs, president of the council: she was grand-daughter of old Philip Ludwell, the first of the family in Virginia.

Stratford Hall, the residence of President Lee, has been rendered famous, not only from the circumstances under which it

A.D. 1756. was built, but as the great centre of genial old Virginia hospitality. Here was the headquarters of the fashion, genius, and nobility of the Old Dominion; and its extensive halls and massive corridors not only resounded to the strains of martial music and the festive dance, but also to the powerful voice of genius, as it eloquently went forth to establish the political events of the country.

Stratford Hall is still standing; and as a distinguished writer, in speaking of it, says, "Chantilly, the home of the eloquent Lee, is in ruins; but Stratford, his *birthplace*, still stands on the Potomac, as stately as when it was first erected one hundred and twenty years ago, at the expense of Queen Caroline, for his father, Thomas Lee, then president of the council. Stratford has no superior in Virginia, and but one rival, Rosewell, on the York."

In a letter received from Mr. Charles Carter Lee of Powhattan, Va., he thus speaks of the old mansion:—

"In Bishop Meade's work on 'Old Families of Virginia,' there is an engraving of Stratford as it now appears: but, when I was a boy, the chimneys of the house were the columns of two summer-houses, between which there was a balustrade; and in Col. Philip Lee's time, during the evening promenade of ladies and gentlemen, a band of music played the while in one of the summer-houses. Col. Philip also kept a barge, in which the family enjoyed the music of his band upon the water. But the house is more remarkable for being the birthplace of *two* of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, and also of my brother Robert, who was born in the same chamber as they were." In his "Virginia Georgics," Mr. Lee thus poetically refers to Stratford:—

“On the Potomac doth a mansion stand,  
Whose walls were built of brick from Old England;  
Eight chimneys formed two summer-house pillars,  
From which were seen Potomac’s sea-like billows;  
Tall Lombardy poplars, in lengthened row,  
Far o’er the woods a dwelling’s signal show,—  
A pillar of cloud by day to guide the stranger  
To a generous board, and his horse to a good manger.  
This was the old seat of the Lees, renowned  
For what none else can boast of on the ground,—  
For being the birthplace of *two* of the signers  
Of the Declaration of Independence. Mine was  
Here, too, a circumstance to others worthless,  
But much to me, for I am fond of my birthplace,  
And am glad the sun first greeted me on earth  
Where the moon of independence had his birth.

“I think there was a mile of solid wall  
Surrounding offices, garden, stables, and all;  
And on the eastern side of the garden one,  
Pomegranates ripened in the morning sun;  
And farther off, yet sheltered by it, grew  
Figs, such as those Alcinous’ garden knew,  
And owned, when they increased my childhood’s blisses,  
By him who was called the American Ulysses.\*

“Yet at the end of this long wall, where played  
So often in the soft pomegranate’s shade,  
Phil, Tom, Dick, Henry, Francis Lightfoot Lee,  
William, and Arthur, in their childhood’s glee,  
Destined, at length, to be such famous men,  
Was formed at the same structure a pig-pen:  
Perhaps its best description is, ’twas one  
End of the wall shaped to an octagon.”†

\* Col. Henry Lee, of the Legion, who was thus styled by Col. Howard.

† See *Virginia Georgics*, p. 41.

Another writer thus describes the mansion :—

A.D. 1756

“For the thickness of its walls, and the excellency of its architecture, it is not surpassed, if equalled, by any in Virginia. An American writer says there were one hundred rooms in the house; but a view of it will show how untrue this is: even including the basement and large hall, there are not more, I think, than seventeen, and never were more. Another author says there were one hundred stalls for horses, as equally untrue.”

The following simple inscription upon the tomb of Thomas Lee is still to be seen at the family-vault, near the old family-seat :—

“In memory of the Hon. Thomas Lee,  
Whose body was buried at Pope’s-Creek  
Church, five miles above his  
Country seat, Stratford Hall.

A.D. 1756.”

By the marriage of Thomas Lee, we have eight children, six sons and two daughters, each of whom is famous in the annals of our country, and will require a separate notice.

A.D. 1756  
to 1794 Thomas Lee (known as President Lee) was father of Philip Ludwell, Richard Henry, Thomas, Francis Lightfoot, and William, and Arthur. We add, in the language of Mr. Charles Campbell, “As Westmoreland, their native county, is distinguished above all others in Virginia as the birthplace of genius, so, perhaps, no other Virginian could boast so many distinguished sons as President Lee.”

Philip Ludwell Lee, the eldest son, was born at Stratford. He was a member of the house of burgesses, and took an active part in the commencement of the struggle for independence.

He resided at Stratford, and maintained the generous hospitality of his father, as we learn from his descendant, Mr. Charles Carter Lee. He married Miss Steptoe of Virginia, and had two daughters, Matilda and Flora; one, the wife of the celebrated partisan leader, Gen. Henry Lee; the other, the wife of Ludwell Lee of Loudon County, Va. A.D. 1756.

Thomas Ludwell Lee, the second son, who bears the name of both parents, was also prominent in the military movements of the times; and was one of the first to lead Virginians against the invaders of their rights.

We learn from the Hon. Judge Daniel of Virginia, that "Col. Thomas Ludwell Lee owned a plantation on the Potomac Creek, called Belle View. His son, who bore his name, removed to London: one of his daughters married Daniel Carroll Brent of Richland, Stafford County, and the other, Dr. John Dalrymple of Prince William County."

The wife of Thomas Ludwell Lee was Miss Aylett, of an ancient Virginia family.

Richard Henry Lee, the great political leader, was born at Stratford, on the banks of the Potomac, on the 20th of January, 1732, the year of the birth of Gen. Washington, and scarce a month before that event.

He completed his academic education in England; and, at an early age, returned to Virginia, where he pursued his studies until the year 1755, when he raised a company of volunteers in aid of Gen. Braddock; but his expectations failed, as that general refused more troops. At the early age of twenty-five, he was appointed a justice for his county, a position which then was rarely given to one of his years. A.D. 1756  
to 1794.

Being afterwards sent to the house of burgesses from his

A.D. 1756  
to 1794

county, he rapidly rose to distinction, and soon commanded the attention and respect of the house.

His first great political act was produced in 1764, being a remonstrance to the king and house of lords against the tax act, "which," says his grandson and biographer, "contains the genuine principles of the Revolution, and abounds in the firm and eloquent sentiments of freemen."

But the greatest and most important act of his political career was his great motion of 10th June, 1776,—"That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown; and that all political connection between them and Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally absolved."

We can almost hear these stirring and patriotic notes as they ring upon the ears of his entranced hearers, and can almost see that tall spare form, "his head," in the language of a kindred spirit, "leaning persuasively and gracefully forward; his Roman profile, which instantly marked him out from lobby or gallery; his action, polished with such rare skill, that the loss of the fingers of his left hand failed to attract the attention of the observer; his flowing eloquence, set off by the modulated tones of a sweet voice; his classic wit; his devotion to his country; and his calm and ardent piety, which gilded his pathway almost from the cradle to the grave,—all of which," as the writer adds, "as they are contemplated by us with delight at the distance of two generations, so they will be remembered with grateful admiration for all time to come."

After serving for many years, both in the congressional and state councils, and after seeing the establishment of a "permanent government" as the fruit of his labors, he was forced by failing

health to resign his seat in Congress; and retiring to Chantilly, his seat upon the Potomac, died June 19, <sup>A.D. 1794</sup> A.D. 1794, mourned and beloved by a grateful country.

Richard Henry Lee was twice married. His first wife was Miss Aylett; his second, Miss Pinkard. He had seven children.

Francis Lightfoot Lee, like his brothers, took an active part in the political and military events of the time in which he lived.

He married Rebecca Tayloe, A.D. 1769.

William Lee, fifth son of President Lee, married Miss Ludwell, and resided at Great Tower Hill, London. We subjoin a very interesting letter from him to the Rev. Dr. H. Lee, warden to Winchester College, England, which throws much light upon the family history.

"Letter from William Lee, Esq., of Virginia, dated Great Tower Hill, London, 1771, to Rev. Dr. H. Lee, warden of Winchester College, England."

"SIR, — It gave me much pleasure to find from a conversation the other day with Mr. Batson, my banker, who speaks very highly in your praise, that we were of the same family. He tells me you are the second son of the late Eldred Lancelot Lee of Coton, in Shropshire, and that your elder brother is now at Aix, in the south of France, for the recovery of his health. I know your father corresponded with mine, who was one of the king's privy council in Virginia, and, when he died, was president and commander-in-chief over that colony; and I remember, when a little boy in Virginia, to have seen and read a very sensible letter, and well written, from your father to mine, giving an accurate genealogical account of our family from so old a date as the Saxon government in this country; from which people I am sure

A.D. 1794 he traced the descent of our family. From that account, it appeared that *Cotton*, or *Coton*, was the eldest branch; and his immediate predecessor, who went to Virginia about one hundred and thirty years ago as secretary of the king's privy council, was a younger brother. I remember one observation he made, which struck my young mind very forcibly. He says, 'Tis worthy of remark, that, in so long a period, there has been neither spendthrift nor usurer in the family; the children moderately using the patrimony left them, without adding much to the store, by which means they have always continued independent; and, not being ambitious, they have kept nearly the same rank in life through so many centuries as the original stock was in, which is more than can be said of most families in the kingdom:' which remark is surprisingly verified by the family in Virginia, which has continued, from father to son, to be placed in the highest offices of honor in the colonies ever since the first Richard Lee, my great-grandfather, who went there one hundred and thirty years ago to this very day; and I believe every inch of property left them as his (which was considerable) is now in the possession of his immediate descendants. As your father was a gentleman of learning and observation, I do not doubt his having left behind him some historical account of the family, and I shall be particularly obliged to you for any information you can give me about it, as I am anxious to know all the different branches in this country. Pray, is not the Earl of Litchfield of our family? for he has the name, and, I think, bears the arms. Have we any relations in or near London, as I find there are many of our name? I shall be glad to hear of your brother's recovery; and, if he comes to London on his return, I shall be happy to see him on Great Tower Hill, where I will hope for the honor of a visit from you when you



come to town; and I shall with much pleasure render  
you any services here that are in my power. A.D. 1794

"Yours, &c.

"WM. LEE."

We also learn that William Lee was the first to suggest the steps that led to the armed neutrality of 1780. We insert a letter on this subject, addressed to his kinsman Thomas Sim Lee, governor of Maryland, of whom we give an interesting sketch in our chapter on the Maryland branch of the family. We introduce this letter, with some remarks from "The National Intelligencer" of 1859, which will increase its interest:—

"William Lee, the writer of the communication, as we learn from the gentleman (a lineal descendant of Gov. Lee) to whom we are indebted for the privilege of laying it before our readers, and as is also stated by Mr. Sparks in his 'Diplomatic Correspondence of the American Revolution,' was, in July, 1777, appointed by the Continental Congress a commissioner of the United States to the courts of Vienna and Berlin. At the commencement of the Revolution, he had resided several years in London as a merchant, and had acquired so much popularity, that he was chosen an alderman of that city, which post he held at the breaking-out of the war. It is a little remarkable, that, during the entire period of Mr. Lee's public agency in the service of the United States, he was still an alderman of the city of London. He sent his resignation to the common council; but they declined accepting it, on account of the alleged difficulty of finding a suitable successor whose principles agreed with those of the majority. We have only to add, that William Lee, the writer of the following letter, was the brother of Richard Henry Lee, Francis Lightfoot Lee, and Arthur Lee, whose names are more familiarly

A.D. 1794. known from their more public connection with our Revolutionary history; the names of the two former being found subscribed to the Declaration of Independence.

"BRUSSELS, Dec. 10, 1780.

"DEAR SIR,— I embraced the earliest opportunity of congratulating you on the signal honor done, by your country, to your merit and abilities, by appointing you their governor; and, though the period is trying and difficult, I have no doubt of your acquitting yourself in the important station to the advantage of your country and credit of yourself.

"You have been frequently advised of the enemy's plan against North Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland, which was adopted since receiving advice of the capture of Charleston; and, to facilitate the business, many suspicious characters, natives of those States, that have been in England, doing no good to us, for some years past, have been ordered to their respective countries to aid the enemy's designs, by creating division, confusion, and disturbance in your councils and operations. Should any such characters now come among you, especially if they have passed through the enemy's quarters, you cannot be too attentive to their motions and conduct. It is said that they have permission from the British ministry to take the oaths to their respective States, for reasons obvious. By Leslie's expedition to the Chesapeake, part of the enemy's grand plan has begun to be executed; and, if Leslie succeeds in making any establishment in Virginia or North Carolina, next spring's campaign will be opened with the greater part of the British force against Virginia and Maryland, in which case your country will act with sound wisdom and policy by affording very powerful assistance to Virginia, which

will surely prove the most effectual method to prevent the horrors of war from raging in their own country, and the flames from seizing their own houses. Every State will show its wisdom in choosing the most able and honest men among them, and who have an interest of their own to lose, to represent them in Congress. The system of general and long-continued embargoes on the export of grain and provisions appears to me bad policy, as they naturally tend to produce scarcity, and, in bad seasons, even a famine, by discouraging agriculture. Your operations seem to have been much distracted by the depreciation of your paper currency: the only solid remedy seems to be in the power of Congress; and perhaps it has hitherto been neglected because it is plain and simple. A fund established in Europe (which might be established by a loan, until, by the export of your commodities, it might be supported on easier terms to America), and sacredly appropriated to the sole use of paying the interest annually of the paper money, would, in a little time, establish the credit and currency of your paper on as solid a basis as the bank-notes of England or Holland; and by this means, with your paper, you would be enabled to procure supplies for your army on much better terms than you have done hitherto. The plan of conducting such a business is so plain, that I shall only add my sincere wishes it may speedily be adopted.

“The British ministry have certainly promised Gen. Clinton to send him in the spring a re-enforcement of ten thousand men, including the recruits for the German corps now in America. Perhaps some may flatter you that the enemy will not be able to procure such a number to send; but I request you not to deceive yourselves, and be inattentive to your true interests, by relying on such rumors, or the foreign aid that may be promised you

A.D. 1794. from Europe: no people can be in safety that rely on another for protection. France is indeed very powerful, both by sea and land, and will, no doubt, act vigorously against the common enemy; but so many accidents and untoward circumstances have intervened to render abortive all the attempts they have hitherto made to assist us, that, in common sense and prudence, you ought not to trust to aid that is to come from Europe. If it does come, so much the better, as you may then finish the war at once; but place your confidence on yourselves alone, and then you cannot be essentially hurt.

“The Dutch have at last formally acceded, and so has the King of Prussia, to the treaty of armed neutrality, as proposed last spring by the Empress of Russia, and since entered into by Sweden and Denmark. The object of this great and powerful league is to support the freedom of general commerce and navigation against the unwarrantable pretensions of Great Britain; therefore she must now quietly permit France and Spain to be supplied with naval stores for the support of their navy, or enter into a war with this tremendous confederacy. It is, however, impossible for her to resist, which must finally give the superiority to France and Spain. I feel no little pleasure in communicating to you the completion, so far, of this confederacy, as the first traces were laid by myself, two years ago; and, if Congress had now in Europe ministers properly authorized to negotiate with those powers, it would not be difficult to obtain a general acknowledgment from them of the independence of America, which was my ultimate object in forming the outlines of this scheme.

“The public news in England you will see in all the papers that go by this conveyance; so that I have only to recommend

to you, in the most pressing manner, a vigorous exertion, unanimity, and confidence in yourselves, which may, in all probability, end the war this year in your favor. A.D. 1794

"We humbly present our respectful compliments to your worthy lady, and beg you to believe me to be, at all times, dear sir, your affectionate relation, and most obedient, humble servant,

"WILLIAM LEE."

THE ARMED NEUTRALITY OF 1780.—"It is known to every student of history and of public law, that the usages and practices of belligerent nations, from the earliest times, subjected enemy's goods, in neutral vessels, to capture and condemnation as lawful prize of war. This prevalent regulation was, however, in many cases, suspended by treaty stipulations, forming a temporary conventional law between the parties to such compacts. It became, for instance, at an early period, an object of interest to Holland, as a great commercial country whose permanent policy was pacific, to obtain a relaxation of the severe rules which had been previously recognized in maritime warfare. The principle that the character of the vessel should determine that of the cargo was also adopted by the celebrated Treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, subsequently confirmed by the Treaties of 1721 and 1739, between Great Britain and Spain, and by the Treaties of Aix-la-Chapelle in 1748, and of Paris in 1763, between Great Britain, Spain, and France.

"Such, says Wheaton, was the fluctuating state of consuetudinary and conventional law prevailing among the principal maritime powers of Europe, when the Declaration of Independence by the British North-American Colonies gave rise to a maritime

A.D. 1794 war between Great Britain and France. With a view to conciliate those powers which remained neutral in this war, the cabinet of Versailles issued, on the 26th of July, 1778, an ordinance or instruction to French cruisers, prohibiting the capture of neutral vessels, even when bound to or from the enemy's ports, unless laden, in whole or in part, with contraband articles, designed for the enemy's use, the French government reserving, however, the right to revoke this concession, unless the enemy should adopt a reciprocal measure within six months.

"The British Government, far from adopting any such measure, issued, in March, 1780, an order in council suspending the special stipulations respecting neutral commerce and navigation contained in the treaty of alliance of 1674, between Great Britain and Holland. And it was immediately after the promulgation of this edict that the Empress Catharine of Russia communicated to the belligerent and neutral powers of Europe the famous declaration of neutrality, the principles of which were speedily acceded to by France, Spain, and the United States of America, as belligerent parties, and by Denmark, Sweden, Prussia, Holland, the Emperor of Germany, Portugal, and Naples, as neutral powers.

"By this declaration (which, as Wheaton adds, afterwards became the basis of the armed neutrality of the Baltic powers), the rule that free ships make free goods was adopted without the previously-associated maxim that 'enemy ships should make enemy goods.' The British Government answered this formidable declaration by appealing to 'the principles generally acknowledged as the law of nations;' but circumstances compelled it to suppress, for a time, the resentment naturally felt towards the parties to a measure which so greatly crippled British supremacy

on the seas, and aided the insurgent colonies in their struggle for independence. A.D. 1794.

"In 'The Intelligencer' of Saturday last, we gave an interesting extract from a recent oration of George Sumner, Esq., of Boston, in which the authorship of this famous declaration is referred to Florida Blanca, the Spanish minister for foreign affairs at that date. To this effect Mr. Sumner remarks as follows:—

"'One of our wisest statesmen, John Adams, has said, "We owe the blessings of peace, not to the causes assigned, but to the armed neutrality." And who was the real author of the armed neutrality? Who conceived that act? and who, by his ingenuity and indefatigable perseverance, led Russia, and, with her, the northern powers, to adopt it? Florida Blanca, the minister of Spain; and to him and to his country I here render the honor, with all the more pleasure that this has not usually been done, and that the documents which establish their claim to it are in my possession. For such aid as the armed neutrality gave us, again we have to thank Spain.'

"A friend, whose attention was called to the historical memoranda cited by Mr. Sumner, has obligingly communicated to us the subjoined letter, in which it will be seen that the writer, unknown to common fame, though not without honorable historic traditions connected with his name, claims to have been the first to suggest the steps which led to this important measure. The letter, which was written in December, 1780, and therefore contemporaneously with the promulgation of the armed neutrality, is from the pen of William Lee, a native of Virginia; and is addressed to his kinsman, Thomas Sim Lee, at that time, and from 1779 to 1783, the governor of Maryland."

The sixth son of President Lee was Dr. Arthur  
A.D. 1794. Lee of London (who is supposed to have brought the ancient genealogical document to this country), whose valuable services to his country in negotiating with the European powers was justly appreciated by his native State, which presented him with forty thousand acres of land. In this connection, we offer a most interesting extract from a letter from Baron Neslerode to Dr. Arthur Lee, dated Antwerp, Dec. 20, 1782, enclosed in a letter to his kinsman, Governor Thomas Sim Lee of Maryland.

Extract of a letter from Baron Neslerode to Dr. A. Lee, dated Antwerp, Dec. 20, 1782.

“The Empress of Russia, instead of furnishing the assistance to the Dutch which she was bound to do by the treaty of armed neutrality, has been amusing them with an offer of her mediation for a particular peace with Great Britain. This mediation the British ministry at first haughtily rejected, but have lately accepted it in very flattering terms to the empress, on condition, however, that the Dutch submit to their terms.

“The late prime minister, Count Parrin, declared in council that he had been offered *one hundred thousand pounds* sterling by the British ministry, which he had rejected with disdain; and he hoped that all her Majesty’s ministers would act in the same manner: but finding himself mistaken, and that the British emissaries had got possession of the empress’s ear, he resigned. This resignation had occasioned such a ferment among the nobles and grandees, that, if the empress were to take an open part with England, she might possibly pay for her folly with her life. ’Tis certain she apprehends something, since she has sent her son, the grand duke and his wife, on their travels to Vienna and Italy, —an honorable banishment for three years, they being enemies to



England. The Prince of Orange is sold to the English by the Duke of Brunswick, his director. The Orange faction, finding that the popular party is gaining ground every day, insist upon an immediate treaty with France; for a joint prosecution of the war, and a treaty of commerce with America, have, in combination with the British ministry, pushed the business of the Russian mediation, to amuse the public with the idea of peace, that no preparation may be made during the winter for the ensuing campaign, and to prevent the proposed treaties with France and America. A.D. 1794.

“The emperor has turned his back on the English, and, taking advantage of the present times, is demolishing all the fortifications of the barrier towns in this country where the Dutch kept garrisons; and it seems that the states-general have agreed to withdraw their troops. We do not know that the system of France will be altered by the death of Count Maurepas; but of this we shall be better able to judge when his successor is appointed.”

Sent, with Mr. A. Lee's compliments, to Governor Lee of Maryland.

FRED. A. LEE.

After making the tour of Europe in the service of his country, he returned to Virginia, where he continued in public life up to the time of his death, which took place Dec. 12, 1792, at his residence in Rappahannock County, Va. For his literary and scientific attainments, he was eminent in both countries; and many of his valuable productions are still preserved.

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A.D. 1694. The Ludwell Family was of German descent. Through their mother, Philip and John Ludwell were descendants of the famous Lord Cottington, of whom we have a full account in Clarendon's "History of the Rebellion." Philip Ludwell went to America in 1694, as governor of Carolina, from whence he went to Virginia, and married the widow of Sir William Berkeley. Their only daughter married Col. Parke; and their son Philip married Miss Harrison, and had two daughters. Lucy, the eldest, married Col. Grymes, and Hannah married Thomas Lee. This Philip Ludwell was, as his father, of the council of Virginia.

The following epitaph of Thomas Ludwell, uncle of the above Philip, is still seen in the old Williamsburg graveyard:—

"Under this marble lyeth the body of Thomas Ludwell, Esq<sup>r</sup>, Secretary of V<sup>a</sup>, and who was born at Bruton, in the County of Somerset, in the Kingdom of England, and departed this life in the year 1678; and near this lye the bodies of Rich<sup>d</sup> Kemp, Esq<sup>r</sup>, his predecessor in the secretary's office; and Sir Thomas Lunsford, knight. In memory of whom this marble is placed by order of Philip Ludwell, Esq<sup>r</sup>, nephew of said Thomas Ludwell, in the year 1727."

A.D. 1671. Henry Lee, fifth son of Richard Lee, whose issue forms the fourth branch handed down to us, was born in Virginia, and, like his brothers, was a member in the early councils of the colony. He married a Miss Bland, of whose family Mr. Campbell thus speaks:—

"The Blands of Virginia derive their name from Bland, a place in Westmoreland or Cumberland, England. William de Bland flourished in the reign of Edward III., and did good service in the wars which that king carried on in France, in company with John of Gaunt, Earl of Richmond. Thomas de Bland obtained a pardon of Richard the Second, for the death of a person slain in

a duel, by the interposition of his friend, the Duke of Guyenne and Lancaster. Edmund Bland, a merchant <sup>A.D. 1671.</sup> in Spain (1643), removed to Virginia, and settled at Kimages, in Charles-city County. Theodoric Bland left three sons, of whom the second was born at Berkeley (1665). His second wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Col. William Randolph of Turkey Island; and their eldest son was Richard, afterwards a member of the old Congress, and whose seat was called 'Jordon's Point.'\*

This Richard was the father of the Miss Bland here referred to:—

"Theodoric Bland, the father of Richard, settled at Westover, upon James River, Charles-city County, 1654, and died 23d April, 1671, aged forty-one years, and was buried in the chancel of the church, which he built and gave, together with ten acres of land, a court-house, and prison, for the county and parish. He lies buried in the Westover Churchyard, between two of his friends; the church having long since fallen down. He was of the king's council, and speaker of the house of burgesses, and was, in fortune and understanding, inferior to no man of his time in the country. He married Ann, daughter of Richard Burnet, sometime governor of the colony."†

By the marriage of Henry Lee and Miss Bland, there were three children,—two sons and a daughter. Richard Lee of Lee Hall, the eldest, married a Miss Poythress of Prince George, whose family we have not obtained.

Henry Lee, second son, married a Miss Grymes, whose family we will notice more fully; and the only daughter married a Fitzhugh.

\* See Mr. Charles Campbell's "History of Virginia," p. 161.

† See Bland Papers, vol. i. p. 148.

A.D. 1750. Henry Lee of Stafford, and Lucy Grymes, were married at Green-Spring, on Saturday, 1st December, 1753, by the Rev. William Preston of James City.

Henry Lee was a member of the house of burgesses, and took an active part in all the exciting events of his time.

"Lucy Grymes, who married Henry Lee, is reported to be a descendant of Major John Grymes, whose father was Gen. Thomas Grymes, under Cromwell. His epitaph is as follows:—

" 'Here lies interred the body of  
The Hon. John Grymes, Esqr, who for  
many years acted in the public  
affairs of this Dominion with  
honor, fortitude, fidelity to their  
Majesty's King George I. and II.  
Of the Council of State, of the  
Royal Perogative, of the liberty  
and property of the subject, a  
Zealous asserter. On the seat  
of Judgment clear, sound, unbiassed.  
In the office of Receiver General punctual  
approved. Of the College of William & Mary  
an ornament, visitor, patron.  
Beneficent to all, a pattern of true  
piety. Respected, loved, revered.  
Lamented by his family, acquaintance,  
Country. He departed this life the  
2<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 1748, in the  
57<sup>th</sup> year of his age.' "

Green-Spring, which is frequently mentioned in connection with the Lees, was the residence of Sir William Berkeley, which was granted to him in 1669. It was afterwards the temporary

residence of President Lee during his administration of the colony. In 1676, Green-Spring was plundered by Bacon and his followers, during the rebellion. Of this the governor complained much, that "his dwelling-house at Green-Spring was almost ruined, his household goods, and others of great value, totally plundered; that he had not a bed to lye on; two great beasts, three hundred sheep, seventy horses and mares, all his corn and provisions, taken away." A.D. 1750.

The Assembly of Virginia was held at Green-Spring in 1677. An interesting description is given of the old mansion in "The Virginia Historical Register."

Henry Lee left a large family, — six sons and five daughters.

First, Col. Henry Lee (Light-Horse Harry), who married twice. Charles Lee, the second son, first married a daughter of Richard H. Lee. His second wife was Margaret, widow of Yelverton Peyton, and youngest daughter of the Rev. John Scott.

John died early. The remaining sons, Richard, Theodoric, and Edmund G., married; and their families are now represented throughout the State.

Of the five daughters, two died young. Mary married a Fendall; and Nancy married William B. Page, of whose family we gather the following:—

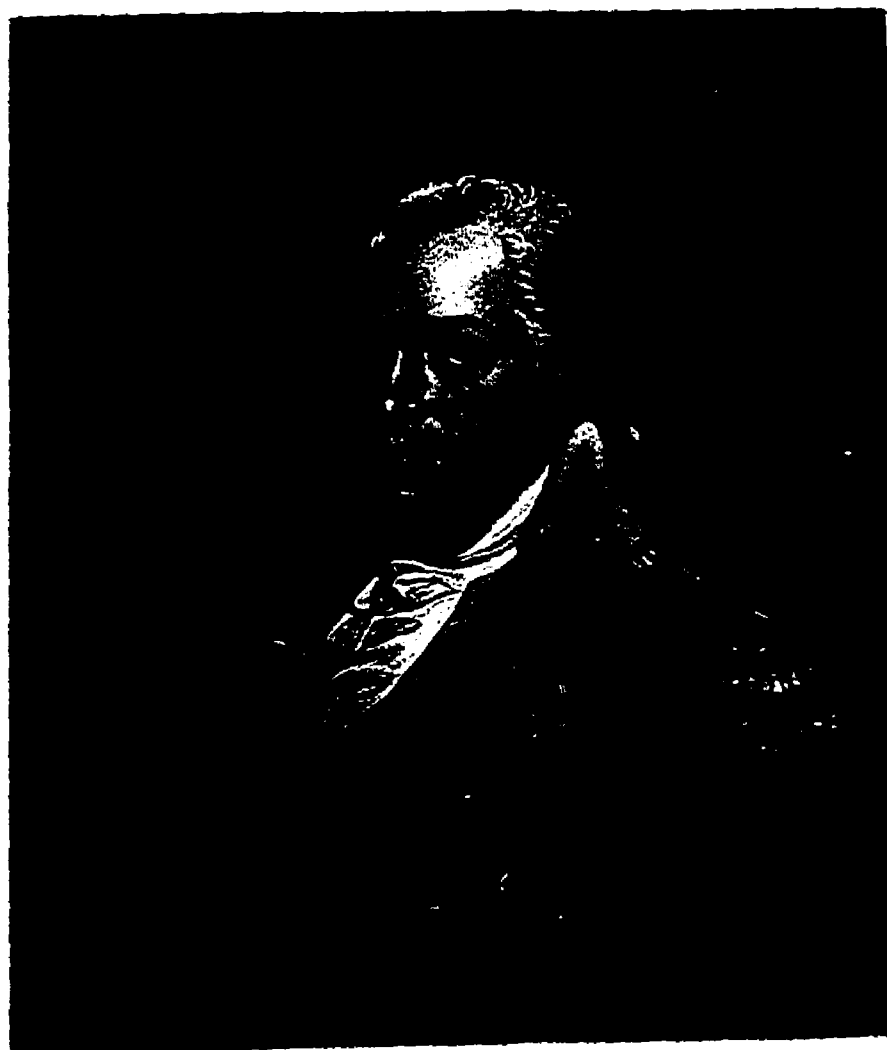
"William Byrd Page was the grandson of John Page of London, supposed to have been knighted for proposing a regulation on the tobacco-trade and duty thereon. (See Auto. of Gov. Page.) Roswell on the York, the former seat of the Pages, is still standing, a monument of colossal grandeur, and fully justifies the immense wealth of its owner, whose landed estate was computed at nearly thirty thousand acres, scattered throughout Virginia. The family is still represented throughout the country, many of whom have been distinguished in public affairs."

Gen. Henry Lee, first son of Henry Lee of Stafford,  
A.D. 1756  
to 1818 was born at Leesylvania, Prince William County, Va.,  
Jan. 29, 1756. Much connected with this celebrated  
chieftain is to be found in the history of the country, the most  
important parts of which we give.

Gen. Henry Lee was educated in this country. At an early  
age, he was intrusted with the management of the family estate,  
which was extensive, and which trust he most ably fulfilled. In  
1776, he was appointed captain of a cavalry company, with which,  
under the command of Col. Bland, he joined the provincial army,  
under Washington. By a strict system of discipline, and great  
care of his men and horses, he gained distinction, and attracted  
the notice of his commanding officers. In 1778, congress pro-  
moted him to the rank of major, for gallant conduct; and, with a  
fine corps of cavalry and infantry, his command soon became  
celebrated, and was known as the famous "Lee's Legion," which  
formed the rear-guard to Gen. Greene's army in his retreat to  
Virginia before Cornwallis. After participating in many of the  
principal actions in North and South Carolina and Georgia, Col.  
Lee, after the surrender of Cornwallis, was appointed, in the fall  
A.D. 1786 of 1786, a delegate to congress from Virginia, in which  
station he remained until the permanent Constitution of  
the United States was established, after which he was a member  
A.D. 1788 of the Virginia convention of 1788, which ratified the  
Constitution, in aid of which he was a zealous advocate.  
He was afterwards a delegate for his native State.

In 1792, retiring from the assembly, he was raised to  
A.D. 1792 the gubernatorial chair, which he filled with great dis-  
tinction for three successive years.

During the rebellion in Western Pennsylvania, Gen. Washing-



*Henry Lee*





ton appointed Gov. Lee to the command of the forces to put down that disturbance, which he most effectually did. In 1799, he was again chosen a member to congress, and, while there, pronounced his great eulogy upon Washington. A.D. 1799.

Upon the accession of Mr. Jefferson to the presidency, he retired to private life, in which he remained to his death. During the latter part of his life, he prepared his excellent memoirs of the "Southern Campaigns," a work which, a distinguished writer says, "If not remarkable for great polish of style, is entitled, from its bold, manly, and sincere tone, as well as the power of the descriptions, and the interest of the information, to rank with the best works relating to the Revolutionary War."

In 1814, Gen. Lee received such serious injuries, during a Baltimore riot which he was attempting to quell, that his health rapidly declined. He sought the mild climate of the West Indies, hoping to allay the disease; but, while on his way home to the United States, he died on Cumberland Island, near St. Mary's, Ga., March 25, 1818. A.D. 1814.

Gen. Lee married twice,—first, Matilda, daughter of Philip Ludwell, of whose family we have already given a sketch. By this wife he had two children,—Henry Lee, who was major in the war of 1812, and a daughter Lucy. The second wife of Gen. Lee was Ann, daughter of Charles Carter, Esq., and sister of the celebrated Robert Carter of Crotoman, *alias* "King Carter," an interesting account of whom is to be found in Mr. Charles Campbell's work, from which we take the following:—

"Robert Carter (sometimes called Robin) married, first, Judith Armstead, and, secondly, Betty, a descendant of the noble family of Landons, by whom he left many children. His portrait, and that of one of his wives, are still preserved at 'Shirley,' on James

River, the seat of Hill Carter, Esq. The arms of the Carters bear cart-wheels vert; John Carter, first of the family, and one of the council, is mentioned in Henning's "Statutes at Large;" also Edward Carter, burgess, and member of the council. Robert Carter, owing to his ample extent of territory in the northern neck of Virginia, which is reported to have been three hundred thousand acres of land, and one thousand slaves, acquired the soubriquet of 'King Carter.' He died, and was buried at his residence, Aug. 4, 1732, aged 69."

Speaking of Robert Carter, Grigsby, in his eloquent report on the Virginia Assembly of 1776, says, —

"The 'king,' as a boy of fourteen, had known Sir William Berkeley, had played on the lawn of Green-Spring, and might have seen the aged cavalier, when, in search of health, he embarked for England, to revisit his rural home no more."

A.D. 1818      The children of the second wife of Gen. Henry Lee are three sons and two daughters; namely, Charles Carter Lee, Esq., of Powhattan, Va., Sydney Smith Lee, who was a commodore in the United-States navy in 1860, and Gen. Robert Edward Lee, now president of Washington College Lexington, Va. The two daughters were Anne Lee and Mildred Lee.

# Genealogy.

## LEE.

"This Pedigree & y Deeds were Extracted

[1]

"by Us,

CHARLES TOWNLEY, York :

JOHN POMFRET, Rouge Croix.

August 1<sup>st</sup> 1750."

[2]

Hugo de Lega sive

de le in charta

valde antiqua

sine data.

[3]

Reginaldus de la Le

cui Willus filius Willi

filii Alani ad peticoriam

Falconis filii Warini

concessit terras.

[4]

Joñes de Lee, Miles cui

Hugo de Hinton dedit

terras per chartam

sine data: vixit A<sup>o</sup>. 26: Et

pater Thomae de la Lee

A<sup>o</sup>. 30. Et

L

[5]

Thomas de la Lee Miles,  
concessit Reginaldo de  
la Lee filio suo p̄mogenito  
Villam de Lee subius  
Pebehull.

==

Petronilla filia  
Thomae Corbet.  
Militis.

[6]

Reginaldus de la Lee  
cui pater ejus dedit  
villam de Lee; supstes  
A<sup>o</sup>. 14: E. 2.

==

Thomas de la Lee,  
filius junior.

[7]

Alicia, uxor  
ejus vixit  
A<sup>o</sup>. 13. E. 2.

==

Joñes de la Lee Miles  
filius Reginaldi, Dñus  
de Roden, A<sup>o</sup>. 15 E: 2.  
et A<sup>o</sup>. 1 E. 3.

==

Matilda, filia  
Henrici de Erdington.

Joñes de la Lee Miles,  
filius Johis de la Lee  
Militis. A<sup>o</sup>. 32. E. 3. et  
33: E. 3.

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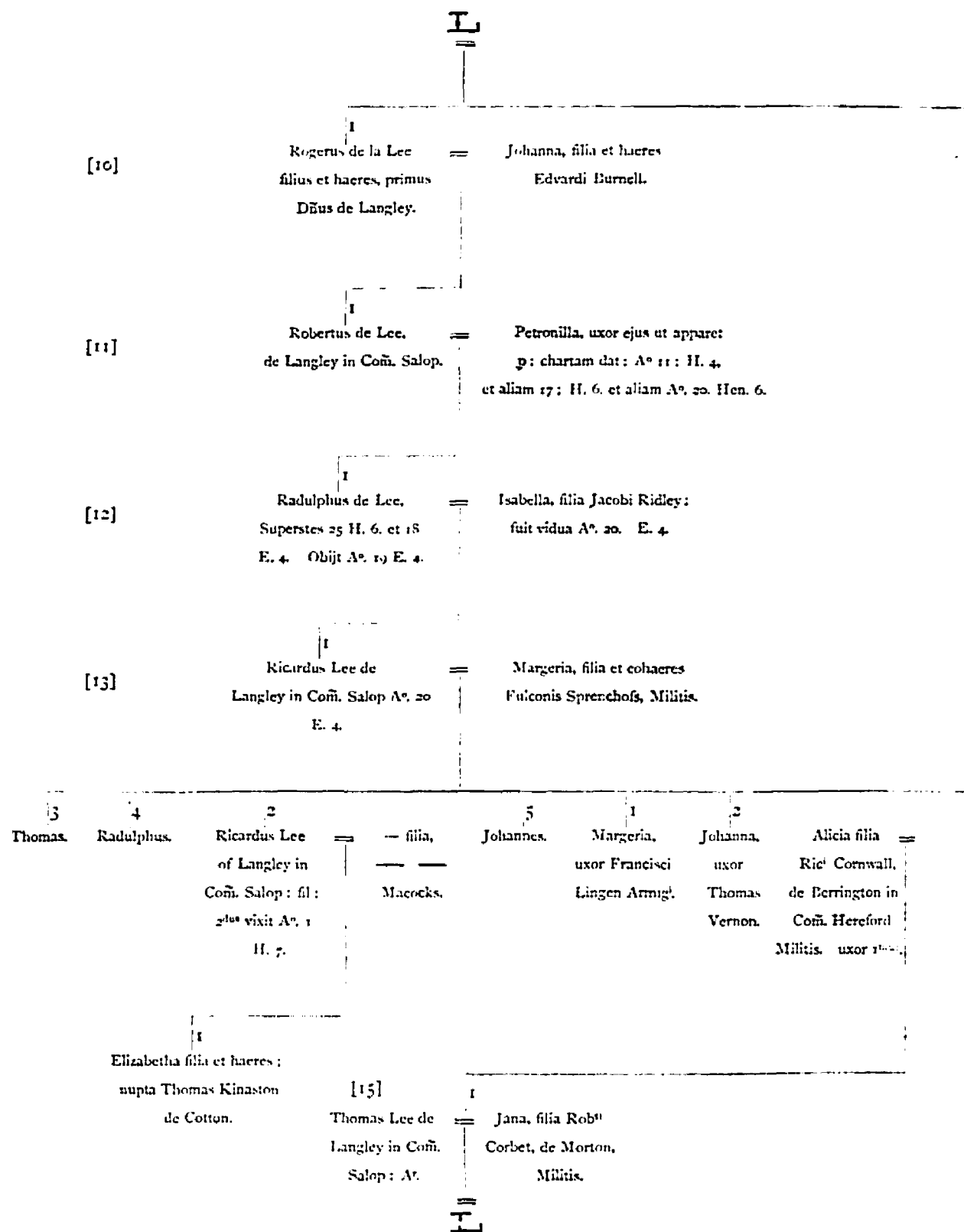
Matilda de la Lee  
1 E: 3.

[8]

Robertus de la Lee  
filius Johis de la Lee  
Dñi de Roden, A<sup>o</sup>.  
8. R: 2.

==

Margareta filia et haeres  
Thomae Astley de Nordley.



LE

Johannes Lee  
filius junior Roberti  
de la Lee.

Jocosa, filia  
— Packington.

[9]

Johes Lee de Nordley  
in Com. Salop.

Elizabetha, filia et  
haeres, Th<sup>o</sup> Corbyne.

[17]

Thomas Lee de  
Nordley in Com. Salop.

Johanna, filia Ro<sup>h</sup> Morton  
de Houghton, in Com. Salop.

[18]

Thomas Lee  
fil: 2<sup>da</sup>.

— fil: & haeres,  
— Hoke.

Humfridus Lee  
de Cotton in  
Com. Salop.

[19]

Katherina, filia  
Johannes Blount  
de Yro.

Anna nupta  
Johi Kinge.

Fulco Lee  
de  
Langley in  
Com. Salop:  
filius et  
haeres.

Elizabetha, filia  
Johis Leighton  
Arm. uxor 2<sup>da</sup>.

[14]

Margareta, uxor  
Reginaldi Williams.

LE

LE

# I

1	2	1	3	4	5	6	2	3	7
Jocosa,	Dorothea,	Richardus = Elianora,	Iana,	Maria,	Margareta,	Katherina,	Jeronimus,	Thomas,	Sufanna.
uxor Rob <sup>l</sup> .	uxor Ric <sup>l</sup>	Lee, de	filia Walteri	uxor	uxor	uxor Hugonis	uxor Edvardi		
Morton de	Parfell.	Langley in	Wrotesley de	Edri	Edri	Boffock de	Corbet de		
Houghton		Coñ Salop.	Wrotesley in	Moore.	Plowden	Morton, Say.	Langnor.		
juxta Shipnall.		A <sup>7</sup> :	Coñ. Staff:	de					
				Plowden in					
				Coñ: Salop.					

[16]

2	1	1	2	3	4	5	3	6	4
Walterus	Jana,	Humfridus = Margareta,	Dorothea,	Iohanna,	Maria,	Elizabetha,	Franciscus	Katherina,	Edvardus
Lee,	uxor	Lee, de	filia Reginaldi	uxor Thomae	uxor	uxor	uxor	Lee	uxor Johis
2 filius.	Ric <sup>l</sup>	Langley in	Corbet A <sup>7</sup> :	Mackworth	Ric <sup>l</sup> Powell,	Henrici	Michis	3 filius.	Heyward.
	Jenkin.	Coñ. Salop:	renius Justic:	de Belton,	de Ednop.	Vannor	Lister.		4 filius.
		Baronettus.	Banco Regis.	Strange in		de			
		A <sup>7</sup> . 1623.		Coñ Salop, A <sup>7</sup> .		Condoover.			

1		1	2	3	4
Richardus Lee,	=	Elizabeth dau	Margareta uxor	Maria,	Alicia.
filius et haeres		Sir Edward Allen	Francisci Kinaston		
apparens,		Knt. of London,	de Oteley in Coñ		
of Langley &		died 1660.	Salop. Militia.		
Acton Burnell					
Salop.					

1		2
Rachel,	=	Ralph Cleaton Esq
colic <sup>l</sup> of		2 <sup>nd</sup> Son Ralph Cleaton
Lea Hall.		of Oteley Shrop <sup>shire</sup>
		Another daughter.

L H H

Franciscus  
Lee.

L H

Johannes Lee  
de Cotton, in  
Kings Nordley in  
Com. Salop.

Iocofa filia Johis  
Romney de Com Wigoon  
p. filiam Johis Drington  
de Stoke.

[20]

[21]

Gilbertus, 2.  
Jasperus, 3.  
Richardus, 4.  
Edvardus, 5.

Thomas Lee  
of Cotton in  
Kings Nordley in  
the parish of  
Aberley, in Co. Salop  
Son & heir.

Dorothy, dau<sup>r</sup>. unto  
Rich<sup>d</sup>. Oteley of  
Pitchford in Com  
Salop: Esq<sup>r</sup>.

Ferdinando, 6.  
Josias, 7.  
Willimus s. p. 8.

[22]

John Lee Citizen of London.	Katherine, 4 Da <sup>r</sup> . married unto Roger Dade.	Jane, Da <sup>r</sup> . of Thomas Clemson of Berrington in Co. Staff. (1 <sup>st</sup> Wife.)	Launcelot Lee of Cotton, Esq <sup>r</sup> . was aged 70 yrs. or thereabouts, A <sup>n</sup> . 1663.	Elizabeth, da <sup>r</sup> . of Henry Cough of Wolverhampton in Com. Staff: (2 <sup>d</sup> wife.)	Eleanor, Eldest da <sup>r</sup> . wife of Thomas Nicholls.	Joyce, wife of Rich <sup>d</sup> . Searle.	Mary, 5 <sup>th</sup> D <sup>au</sup> . Anne 6 <sup>th</sup> da <sup>r</sup> . Martha 7 <sup>th</sup> da <sup>r</sup> .	Jane 3 <sup>d</sup> da <sup>r</sup> .
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[23]

John Lee, Eld <sup>st</sup> . Son died unmar <sup>d</sup> .	Thomas Lee 2 <sup>d</sup> . an utter Barrist: of Lincoln Inne Æ 43 1663.	Dorothy da <sup>r</sup> . of John Eldred a Barrister of Lincoln Inne.	Richard Lee of the parish of Saint Olaves in the Borough of Southw <sup>ick</sup> 3 <sup>d</sup> Son A <sup>n</sup> . 1663.	Elizabeth da <sup>r</sup> . of Walter Langdon of — in Cornwall.	Launcelot Lee, 4 Son Citizen of London A <sup>n</sup> . 1663.	Thomas Lee, 5 <sup>th</sup> Son Citizen Draper of London A <sup>n</sup> . 1663.	Humphry Lee, 6 <sup>th</sup> Son of Cliffords Inne A <sup>n</sup> . 1663.	Dorothy Eldest da <sup>r</sup> . wife of William Bendy of Kings Swinford in Com. Staff.	Elizabeth 2 <sup>d</sup> da <sup>r</sup> . wife of Rich <sup>d</sup> . Baugh of Allson in Co. Salop.	Anne 3 <sup>d</sup> . Jane 4 <sup>th</sup> .
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L H

L H H H

[24]

1 D <sup>r</sup> . John Lee.	2 Richard Lee	=	Letitia Corbin.	3 Francis Lee.	4 William Lee.	5 Hancock Lee.	6 Charles.	=	Daughters. 1 Betsy Lee. 2 Ann Lee.
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L H H H



LH

1 Eldred Launcelot Lee  
 at: 12: Anno 1663.  
 2 Thomas  
 3 John  
 4 Dorothy.

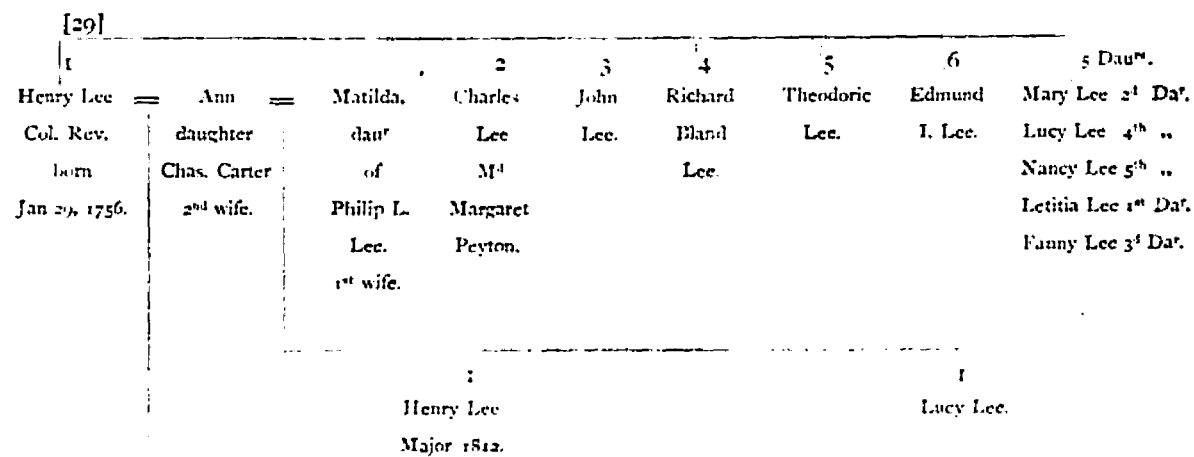
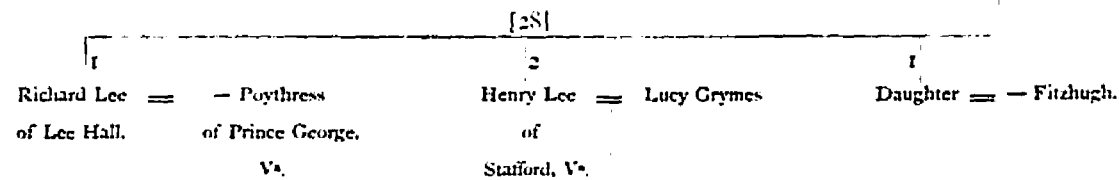
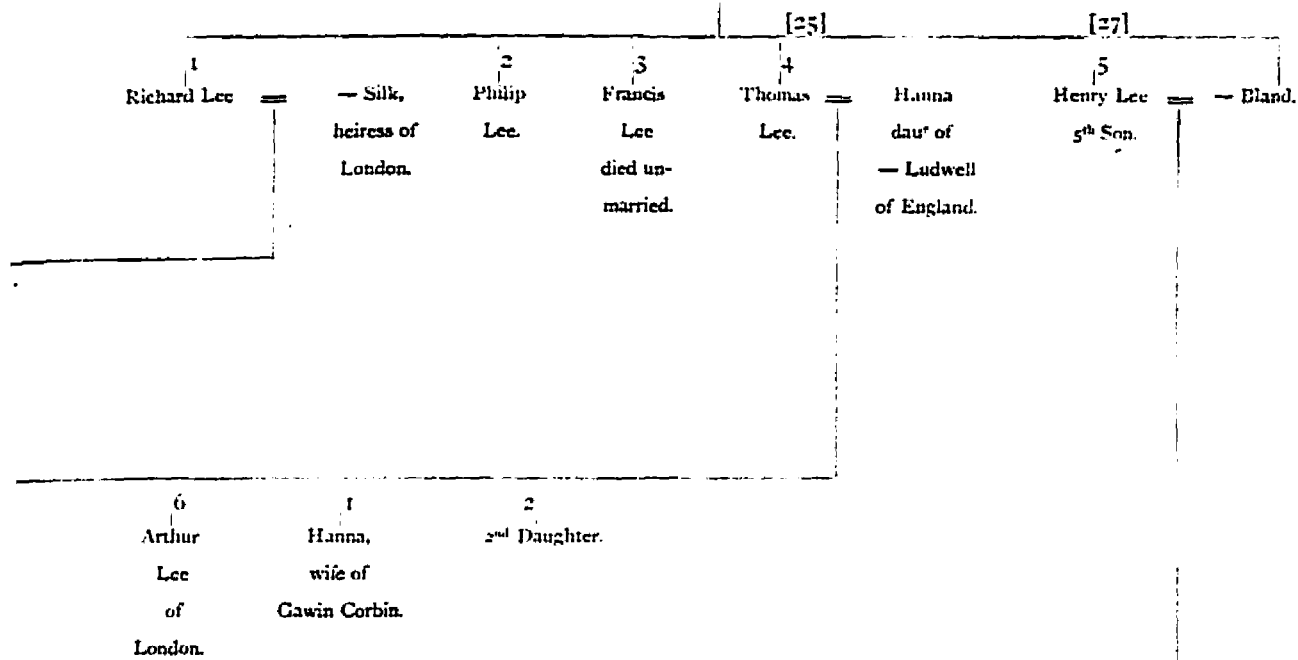
1 — Ball = Lettuce Lee = — Corbin.  
 2 Martha Lee married Turbi-ville.  
 3 — Wormley = George Lee = — Fairfax (1<sup>st</sup> wife) (2<sup>nd</sup> wife)  
 = Daughter = 3 Sons.

[26]

1 Philip Ludwell = — Steptoe. 2 Thomas = — Aylett. — Pinkard = Richard = — Aylett. 4 Francis 5 William  
 Lee, 1<sup>st</sup> Son. Lee. Lee. Henry Lee. 1<sup>st</sup> wife. Lightfoot Lee, Lee, mar<sup>d</sup> — Ludwell.  
 1 Matilda 2 Flora Son. 2 daughters. Rebecca Tayloe 1769.  
 wife of wife of  
 Gen. Henry Lee of Rev. Ludwell Lee of Loudoun Co.  
 1 — Turbiville = Hanna = — Maffit. 2 Sally = Edmund Lee  
 Lee. Lee. of Alexandria, Va.  
 Rev<sup>d</sup> W<sup>m</sup> F. Lee.

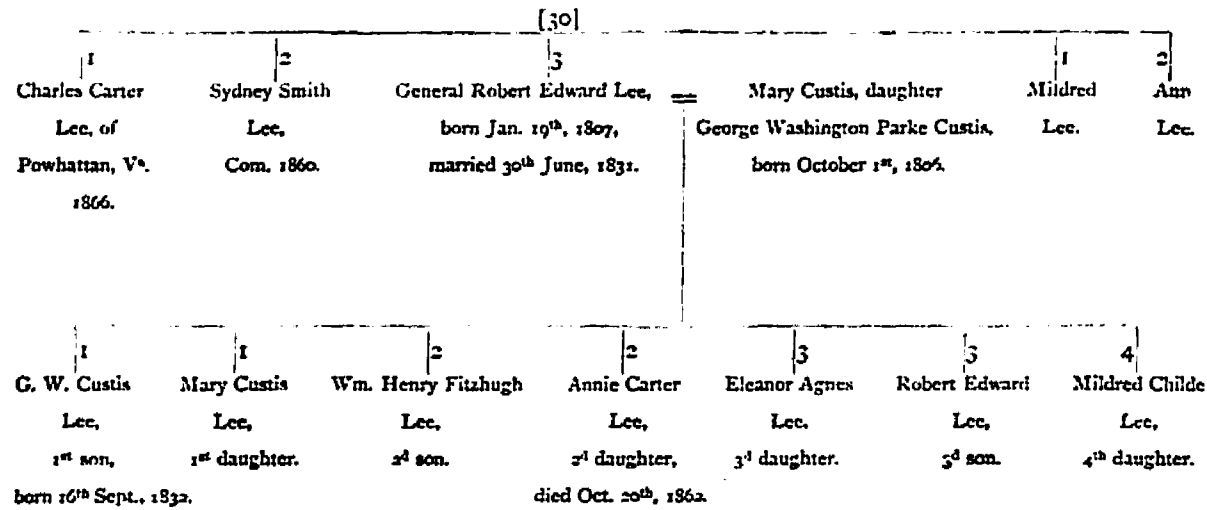
1 Thomas = 2 Ludwell = 3 Mary Lee, 4 Hanna Lee, 5 Ann Lee = Chas. Lee.  
 Lee. Lee of Loudoun Co. Va. wife of W. A. Washington. wife of Corbin Wash-ington.  
 = Eleanor = Girard Alexander. = Ann = Gen. Walter Jones.  
 = Catherine, missionary to China.

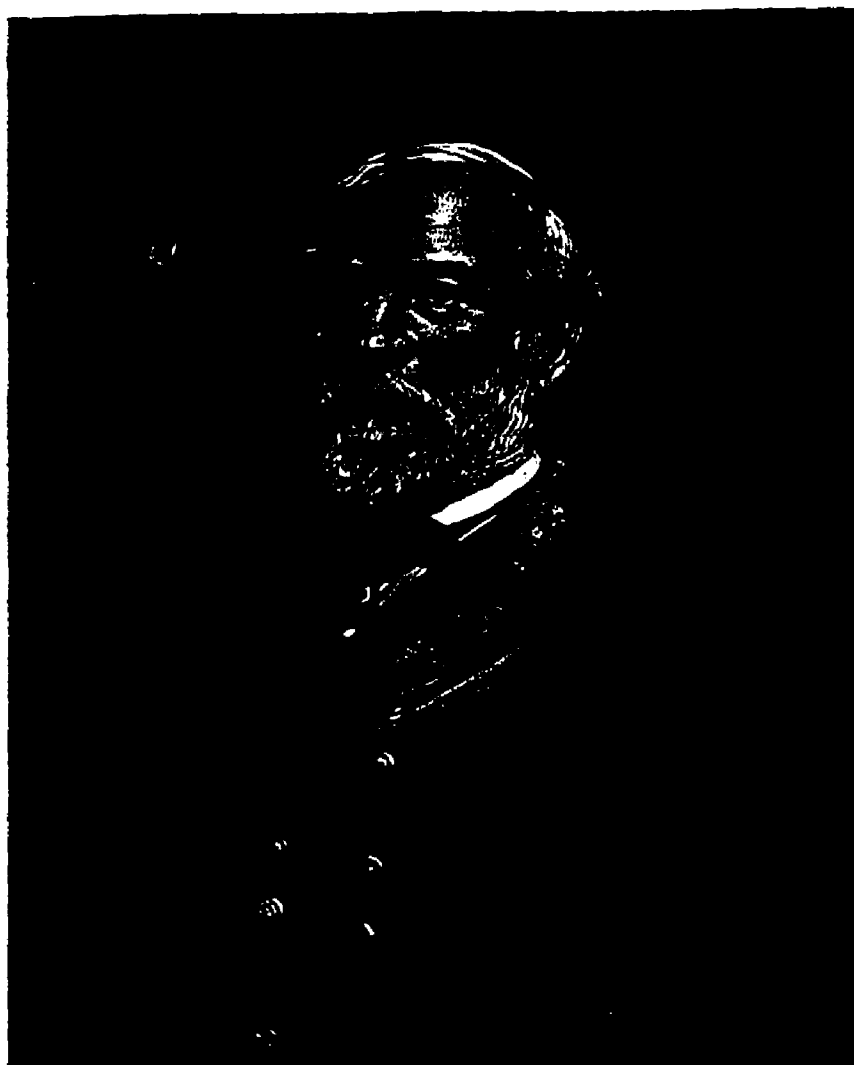
# LEE



133333

# LEE





*Portrait*

*I am very truly yours*

*R. D. M.*





## GENERAL ROBERT EDWARD LEE.

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ROBERT EDWARD LEE was born at Stratford, Westmoreland County, Va., on the 19th of January, A.D. 1807, in the same room in which two of the signers of the Declaration of Independence were born; namely, Richard Henry Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee. He was the fifth child of Henry Lee, the celebrated "Light-Horse Harry" of the Revolution, and bears the name of his maternal uncles, Robert and Edward Carter of "Shirley," the family residence of the Carters. Robert Carter, full brother of Mrs. Lee, was named for "Old King Carter," familiarly called "Robin," and was the father of the present Hill Carter of Shirley: Edward Carter, half-brother of Mrs. Lee, was the father of Shirley and John Hill Carter.

Robert E. Lee was admitted to the West-Point Military Academy, A.D. 1825, at the age of eighteen, and graduated with the first honor in 1829, receiving an appointment of second lieutenant of engineers. On the 30th June, 1831, Lieut. Lee married Mary Custis, daughter of George Washington Parke Custis, adopted son, and step-grandson, of George Washington.

In 1835, he was appointed assistant astronomer of the commission for determining the boundary lines between Ohio and Michigan. He was promoted first lieutenant in 1836, and

captain in 1838. In 1846, Capt. Lee was appointed chief-engineer, on the staff of Gen. Wool, in Mexico; and the next year was brevetted major for gallantry at the battle of Cerro Gordo, April 18, 1847; and soon after became lieutenant-colonel, by brevet, on account of his services at Contreras and Cherubusco, Aug. 20, 1847.

Col. Lee was wounded at the battle of Chapultepec, and was brevetted colonel for his conduct in that battle. Upon the return of peace, he was appointed superintendent of the military academy at West Point, which position he held from 1852 to 1855.

In 1858, he again engaged in active service, as a cavalry officer, under Col. Albert Sydney Johnston, and distinguished himself during the troubles with the Indians in Texas.

All are familiar with Col. Lee's last active service for the United States, when, at the head of a corps of marines, he was sent from Washington to suppress the "John Brown raid," at Harper's Ferry, Va., at the close of the year 1859.

Col. Lee took no part in the political dissensions that agitated the country for the next two years: he adhered conscientiously to the United-States government and flag, until the secession of his native State. With her fortunes he felt bound to identify himself, and in April, 1861, resigned his position in the United-States army, and entered the service of the late Confederate States.

It is unnecessary for us to refer to the Christian fidelity, humanity, and military skill, the uniform and distinguished gallantry, with which Gen. Lee performed his duties, from the first hour of conflict, in 1861, to the close of hostilities, in 1865. We simply give the facts and dates as *addenda* to this genealogy. The historian of future ages will do justice to the details of the life and character of the noble soldier.



Since the close of the war, Gen. Lee has occupied the position of President of Washington College, Rockbridge County, Va., an ancient institution, which is fast rising to renewed life and usefulness under his able supervision.

The following letters will be read with interest:—

LETTERS FROM GEN. LEE.—These letters were written soon after the outbreak of the Rebellion:—

ARLINGTON, VA., April 20, 1861.

GENERAL,—Since my interview with you on the 18th inst. I have felt that I ought not longer to retain my commission in the army. I therefore tender my resignation, which I request you will recommend for acceptance. It would have been presented at once, but for the struggle it has cost me to separate myself from a service to which I have devoted all the best years of my life, and all the ability I possessed.

During the whole of that time, more than a quarter of a century, I have experienced nothing but kindness from my superiors, and the most cordial friendship from my comrades. To no one, general, have I been as much indebted as to yourself for uniform kindness and consideration; and it has always been my ardent desire to merit your approbation. I shall carry to the grave the most grateful recollections of your kind consideration; and your name and fame will always be dear to me.

Save in defence of my native State, I never desire again to draw my sword. Be pleased to accept my most earnest wishes for the continuance of your happiness and prosperity, and believe me most truly yours,

R. E. LEE.

LIEUT.-GEN. WINFIELD SCOTT, commanding United-States Army.

A copy of the preceding letter was enclosed in the following letter to a sister of the general, Mrs. A. M.: —

ARLINGTON, VA., April 20, 1861.

MY DEAR SISTER, — I am grieved at my inability to see you. . . . I have been waiting "for a more convenient season," which has brought to many before me deep and lasting regret. Now we are in a state of war, which will yield to nothing. The whole South is in a state of revolution, into which Virginia, after a long struggle, has been drawn; and though I recognize no necessity for this state of things, and would have forborne and pleaded to the end for redress of grievances, real or supposed, yet, in my own person, I had to meet the question, whether I should take part against my native State.

With all my devotion to the Union, and the feeling of loyalty and duty of an American citizen, I have not been able to make up my mind to raise my hand against my relatives, my children, my home. I have, therefore, resigned my commission in the army; and save in defence of my native State, with the sincere hope that my poor services may never be needed, I hope I may never be called on to draw my sword.

I know you will blame me; but you must think as kindly of me as you can, and believe that I have endeavored to do what I thought right. To show you the feeling and struggle it has cost me, I send a copy of my letter to Gen. Scott, which accompanied my letter of resignation. I have no time for more. . . . May God guard and protect you and yours, and shower upon you everlasting blessings, is the prayer of your devoted brother,

R. E. LEE.

PRIVATE LETTER OF GEN. LEE. — The original of the following letter was found at Arlington House by a Federal soldier: —

ARLINGTON HOUSE, April 5, 1852.

MY DEAR SON, — I am just in the act of leaving home for New Mexico. My fine old regiment has been ordered to that distant region, and I must hasten on to see that they are properly cared for. I have but little to add in reply to your letters of March 26, 27, and 28. Your letters breathe a true spirit of frankness: they have given myself and your mother great pleasure. You must study to be frank with the world: frankness is the child of honesty and courage. Say just what you mean to do on every occasion, and take it for granted you mean to do right. If a friend asks a favor, you should grant it, if it is reasonable; if not, tell him plainly why you cannot: you will wrong him and wrong yourself by equivocation of any kind. Never do a wrong thing to make a friend or keep one: the man who requires you to do so is dearly purchased at a sacrifice. Deal kindly, but firmly, with all your classmates: you will find it the policy which wears best. Above all, do not appear to others what you are not. If you have any fault to find with any one, tell him, not others, of what you complain: there is no more dangerous experiment than that of undertaking to be one thing before a man's face, and another behind his back. We should live, act, and say nothing to the injury of any one. It is not only best as a matter of principle, but it is the path to peace and honor.

In regard to duty, let me, in conclusion of this hasty letter, inform you, that, nearly a hundred years ago, there was a day of remarkable gloom and darkness, still known as the dark day, — a day when the light of the sun was slowly extinguished, as if by

an eclipse. The legislature of Connecticut was in session ; and, as its members saw the unexpected and unaccountable darkness coming on, they shared in the general awe and terror. It was supposed by many that the last day, the day of judgment, had come. Some one, in the consternation of the hour, moved an adjournment. Then there arose an old Puritan legislator, Davenport of Stamford, and said, that, if the last day had come, he desired to be found at his place, doing his duty ; and therefore moved that candles be brought in, so that the house could proceed with its duty. There was quietness in that man's mind,—the quietness of heavenly wisdom, and inflexible willingness to obey present duty. Duty, then, is the sublimest word in our language. Do your duty in all things, like the old Puritan. You cannot do more, you should never wish to do less. Never let me or your mother wear one gray hair for any lack of duty on your part.

Your affectionate father,

R. E. LEE

GEORGE WASHINGTON CUSTIS LEE.



very truly Yrs  
M. A. Lee



## MRS. MARY CUSTIS LEE.

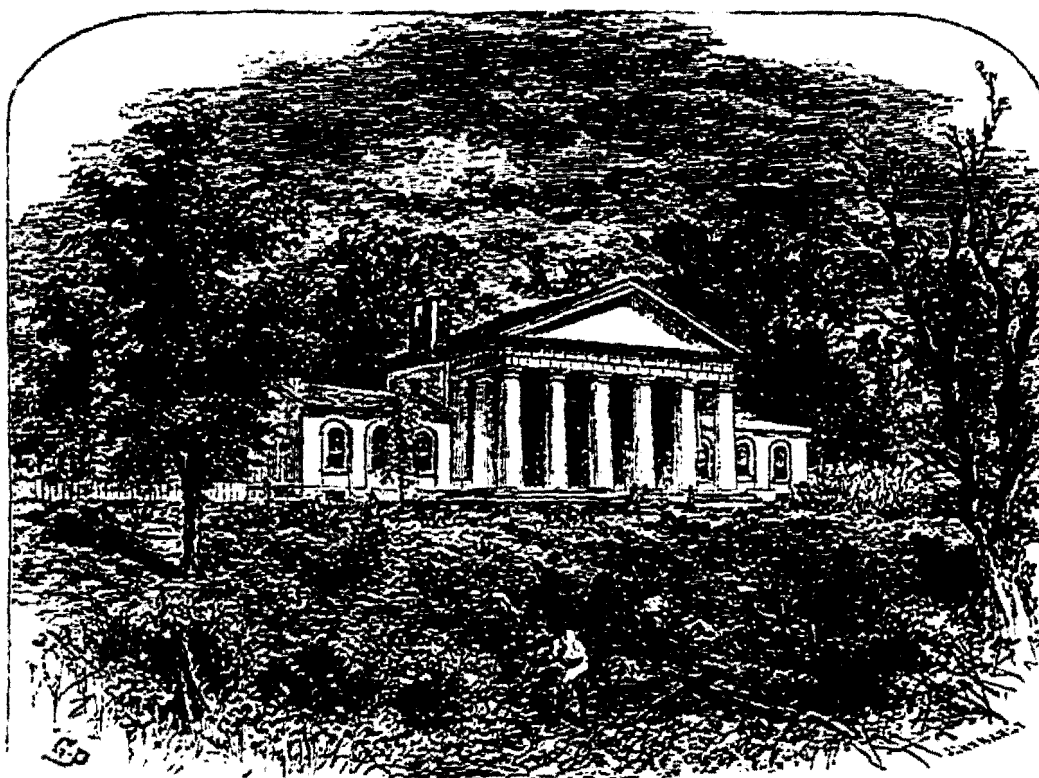
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MRS. MARY CUSTIS LEE, wife of Gen. Robert E. Lee, was born at Arlington, Va., on the 1st of October, A.D. 1808. We will give a short sketch of the distinguished ancestry of this lady, whose portraits once adorned the walls of the family mansion at Arlington.

Daniel Parke, Secretary of the Colony of Virginia, died A.D. 1679, and was buried at the "Old Bruton Church," at Williamsburg, Va. He left one son, who was born in York County, Va.

This son, Col. Daniel Parke, received from Queen Anne the appointment of Governor of Antigua, in the Leeward Islands; and, as a special mark of her regard, she presented him with her miniature, encircled with diamonds, as a testimonial to his gallantry at the battle of Blenheim. He bore from the Duke of Marlborough the despatch announcing to the queen the victory over the allied forces. A portrait of Col. Parke, in royal dress, painted by Sir Godfrey Kneller, a *protégé* of the Duke of Marlborough, is among the most conspicuous and interesting of the Arlington paintings. A portrait of Frances Parke, who married the Hon. John Custis, and that of her husband, are also in this

collection. These were the parents of Daniel Parke Custis, who was born Oct. 15, 1711, and who married Martha Dandridge, afterwards the wife of Gen. Washington.



THE ARLINGTON HOUSE—1860.

Their four children were Daniel Parke, Fanny Parke, John Parke, and Martha Parke Custis. Upon the death of John Parke Custis, Gen. Washington adopted his two youngest children, — Eleanor Parke Custis, and George Washington Parke Custis. The former married Major Lawrence Lewis, a nephew of Gen. Washington: this lady died in Clarke County, Va., in 1852, at the advanced age of seventy-four years. The son, George Washington Parke Custis, married Mary Lee Fitzhugh, daughter of William Fitzhugh, of "Chatham," opposite Fredericksburg, and



Anne Randolph. These were the parents of Mrs. Robert E. Lee.

Mr. Custis remained in the family of Gen. Washington until 1799, when he was appointed a cornet of horse, and afterwards aide-de-camp to Major-Gen. Charles C. Pinckney of South Carolina. The present Arlington mansion was built by Mr. Custis, and upon the estate left him by his father, which consisted of eleven hundred acres of land on the Potomac River, opposite Washington City: a very large tract of land, about four miles in the rear, was also bequeathed him in the will of Gen. Washington.

Mr. Custis was a gentleman of refined and cultivated tastes, and his love of art continued through life. We venture, in illustration, to insert a copy of the following letter to the artist, Rembrandt Peale:—

ARLINGTON HOUSE, VA., August, 1857.

DEAR SIR,—Yours of the 6th inst. came duly to hand. It is a most gratifying event to me to receive a letter from an octogenarian. It calls up the recollection of other days,—the fond, endearing memories of the past: indeed, my dear sir, I am myself ‘no chicken,’ having entered upon my seventy-seventh year. Honor to the memory of the soldier-artist, who hung up his palette, girded on his sword, and fought a campaign in the War for Independence; then resumed his palette, and painted the portraits of the general officers; and without whose artistic labors we should not have the likeness of the illustrious soldier, Greene, who was second only to him who was *first of all*. The provincial colonel of 1772 is in fine preservation, and always admired. I have the first and last of the distinguished and reliable portraits of Washington at Arlington House, twenty-four years between

them; Peale's and Sharpless'. Wishing you every success in your artistic labors, which, it appears, suffer no decline from your venerable age, I remain, dear sir,

Very truly and faithfully yours,

GEO. W. P. CUSTIS.

Mr. Custis died at Arlington, on the 10th October, A.D. 1857, leaving his beautiful house to his daughter Mary, now wife of Gen. Lee.

In the calm dignity and intelligence of this honored lady, we trace the hereditary expression of many of these ancient family portraits. Mrs. Lee was mother of seven children, all born previous to the Mexican war. "One is not," — the second daughter, Anne Carter Lee, died in 1862, in North Carolina. A beautiful monument has there been erected to her memory by those who love and honor her father.

The surviving children of Gen. and Mrs. Lee are —

George Washington Custis Lee,  
Mary Custis Lee,  
William Henry Fitzhugh Lee.  
Eleanor Agnes Lee,  
Robert Edward Lee,  
Mildred Childe Lee.

## Lees of England.

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### HOUSE OF DITCHLY.

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FROM various records, we are enabled to trace the several branches of the English Lees to a later period <sup>A.D. 1501.</sup> than that given in the old document.

Of the house of Ditchly, already mentioned, we have Sir John Lee of Wiltshire, who was created a Knight of the Bath at the marriage of the Prince of Wales, A.D. 1501. Time, Henry VII.\* Mary Brown of Arsly, in Bedfordshire, was the second wife of Sir John, who was brother to Sir Thomas Lee, baronet, to Sir William, Dean of the Arches, and to Sir George, Lord Chief Justice of England. She was afterwards married to Col. Schultz.†

The following inscription is said to be upon the door of Sir John's house at Addington:—

“In fourteen hundred and none,  
Here was neither stick nor stone;  
In fourteen hundred and three,  
The goodly building which here you see.”

\* Nicolas's Order of the Bath.

† Nichols's Literary Anecdotes.

A.D. 1597. Sir Henry Lee was elected and invested a member of the Order of the Garter 23d April, and installed 24th May, 1597. He died 12th February, 1611.

Ann Lee, a daughter of Sir Henry, married a Goodwin of Buckinghamshire.

A.D. 1611. Archdeacon Lee forms the second member of the family who joined this order. Their Stall Plates are yet to be seen in St. George's Chapel.\*

Sir Richard Lee, admiral, was invested in the Order of the Bath, 12th April, 1815, and died 6th August, 1837. He was rear-admiral of the white squadron of his Majesty's fleet, and was nominated a knight commander of the Most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, 2d January, 1815.

Capt. Lee received a medal from the king, upon the taking of the French fleet, on the 4th November, 1805, which had escaped at Trafalgar.

The medal bears the inscription, —

“Sir Richard Lee Knt., Captain of H.  
M. S. *Courageux*, on the 4th  
November M.D.CCCV.  
The French Squadron Taken.”†

\* Nicolas's Order of Garter.

† Nicolas's Order of Bath.

## HOUSE OF COTTON.

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WE have already traced the Lees of Virginia from this branch ; but the "Lees of Cotton Hall" were still known in England later than 1838. A.D. 1663.

Through Eldred Launcelot Lee, who was twelve years of age at the close of the old record, and the first son of Thomas Lee, and grandson of Launcelot Lee of Cotton, we continue to trace this line.

Launcelot Lee of Cotton, 1750, as mentioned in the article of Mr. William Lee of London, is doubtless a son of Eldred Launcelot Lee. This Launcelot Lee had a daughter Dorothy, who married Edward Bathurst, F. A. S., Esq., of that year ; also another daughter, Mary, who married Dr. William Carter of Canterbury : she was married A.D. 1786, and died 1815. Dr. Carter was born 1755, and died 1822.\* A.D. 1750.  
A.D. 1815.  
The sons of Launcelot Lee are not given.

The Rev. Henry Lee of Kingsgate House, Hants, is a representative of this branch of the family. He married Phillippa, daughter of Sir William Blackstone, knight, of the Priory of

\* Burke's Landed Gentry of England.

A.D. 1838. Willingford. The Rev. Mr. Lee died in 1838, leaving two sons. First, Rev. Henry Lee of Kingsgate House, Hants J. F. B. D. of New College, Oxford, and Vicar of North Bradly, near Trowbridge, 1832; a prebendary of Hereford, and fellow of Winchester College. He married Julia, eldest daughter of George Lowther, Esq., late of Kilven, County Meath.

William, the second son of the Rev. Mr. Lee, was born 1796. He married, in 1836, Elizabeth Thomson of Aubry, Sussex.\*

A.D. 1806. "Thomas Lee, Esq., descended from a very ancient family, of Lee of Cotton, Shropshire. He married Ann, sister of the celebrated John Warner, bishop of Rochester; and was father of the venerable Archdeacon Lee, whose son, Col. Henry Lee of Donjon, Canterbury, married Dorothy, daughter of Sir George Grubham Howe, baronet, of Berwick."†

The family of *Brydges*, or *Bridges*, succeeded this branch of the family, and bear their arms.

The ancient family seat, "Cotton Hall," continued in the family to the nineteenth century, when it was conveyed by an heiress to the Wingfields of Teckencote, County Rutland.

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From further documents, we are able to trace the descendants of Lancelot Lee to the year 1813, through his son Thomas Lee, whose eldest son, Eldred Lancelot Lee, was only twelve years of age at the close of the old genealogy, in 1663.

Eldred Lancelot Lee, born at Cotton, 1651.

\* Burke's Landed Gentry.

† Burke's Commoners of England.

Lancelot Lee and Harry Lee, warden of Winchester College.

Harry Lancelot Lee of Cotton, living at Bath, England, with his wife, and daughter Catherine Ann Harriet Lee, in 1813.

Of the English estates we take the following interesting facts from the family records:—

“The *Villam de Lee*, subtus Pebenhull, unknown now.

“The Langlev Estate went off early, by Roger Lee; very valuable.

“The Roden Estate remains unaccounted for; also valuable.

“The Coke Estate, supposed to be in Derbyshire; also unaccounted for.

“The Astley Estate, the Cotton Estate, and the Nordley Estate, united, formed three thousand acres, and were handed down till 1786, when fourteen hundred acres were sold of Astley and Nordley. The manorial rights remain, and the seniorage of the village of Allerbey (or Alverly). Part of the Cotton Estate now in possession includes a part of the Astley Estate, which came into and remained with this family since Robert Lee's marriage with Margaret Astley, in 1385, now four hundred and thirty-four years.

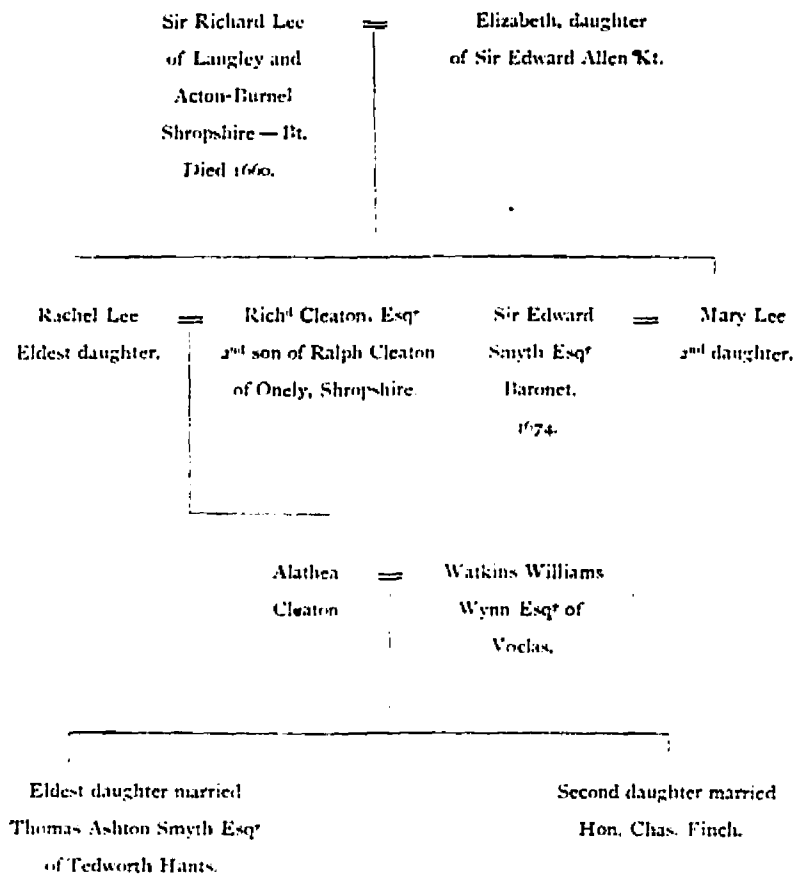
“Allerbey Church is supposed to be built upon land given by Hugh Hinton to John Lee, in 1295, and to have remained in this family for more than five hundred and twenty-four years; and a part of this land is said to have remained with the family since the first grant from William of Normandy to his followers, more than seven hundred years since, by what was termed his farewell grants.”—*Carta Valde Antiqua*.





# LEES OF ENGLAND.

## HOUSE OF LANGLEY.



We have already seen, from Article [16], that the male line of Langley expired in 1660. The family estate and arms were afterwards held by the Smyth, or Smith, Family, which is still largely represented throughout England.



## Maryland Lees.

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WE have already mentioned Philip Lee, second son of Richard Lee, as the first of the family established in Maryland. He moved into the State early in 1700, and died, according to his will, in 1744. He was married twice, and left a large family,—nine sons, and eight daughters. The sons were Richard of Blenheim, Thomas,—the father of Gov. Thomas Sim Lee, and grandfather of the present Hon. John Lee, ex-congressman of Maryland,—Philip, Corbin, Hancock, Arthur, John, and George.

Thomas Sim Lee was born in Prince-George County, Md., in 1745, and held many important offices, a list of which we subjoin:—

In 1777, Thomas Sim Lee was elected by the legislature of Maryland a member of council to the governor.

1779. Was elected by the legislature the second republican governor.

1782. Having served the constitutional term of three years, the General Assembly vote their thanks.

1787. Was appointed by the General Assembly a deputy to attend the meeting at Philadelphia, on the second Monday in May,—convention that formed the Constitution of the United States. He did not serve.

1788. The Maryland Convention assembled at Annapolis, April 21, and ratified the Constitution of the United States, April 28, by a vote of sixty-three to eleven. Gov. Lee was a delegate to this convention, with Gov. Johnson and Richard Potts, from Frederick County. Gov. Johnson and Gov. Lee were the two electors from Frederick County, to choose the Senate of Maryland for a term of five years; being the first Senate chosen after the adoption of the Constitution of the United States.

From 1792 to 1794, Gov. Lee served again as governor of Maryland.

1794. Unanimously elected a member of the Senate of Maryland. He declined the appointment.\*

1794. Was appointed by President Washington a commissioner of the city of Washington; declined the appointment.

1798. Again elected governor, but declined to accept, having retired from public life. Gov. Lee died at his farm, Needwood Forest, in Frederick County, Nov. 9, 1819, forty years from the day he was first elected governor of Maryland.

We also add a letter from Gen. Knox, Secretary of War, dated Philadelphia, Dec. 8, 1794, which will show the high estimation in which Gov. Lee was held by Gen. Washington:—

“The President of the United States conceives that he cannot, consistently with his sense of justice, omit the occasion presented to him by the disbandment of the militia raised for the purpose of vindicating the laws, without offering to you his cordial thanks for your zealous and effectual co-operation in calling the militia of Maryland into the field for suppressing the late insurrection in the western parts of this State. It is with great pleasure

\* See Sparks's Life of Washington, vol. x.

that I obey the President's directions in making this communication."

Gov. Thomas Sim Lee married Mary Digges. Their children were —

Ignatius,  
Thomas,  
William,  
Mary Christian,  
Archibald,  
Eliza,  
John.

All deceased, except the last. Hon. John Lee, now residing in Washington, D.C., having represented his native State in Congress for many years. This branch of the Lee Family have maintained the faith of their parents, who were faithful Catholics, — a fact which is recognized in the following notice, introducing an original letter of Gen. Washington to Gov. Thomas Sim Lee: —

"We have before us a manuscript letter from Gen. Washington, which, we believe, has never yet been printed. It is full of interest at this time, because it is addressed to a Catholic, to his Excellency, Thomas Sim Lee, then governor of Maryland. Its purpose was to announce the surrender of Cornwallis, and to notify Gov. Lee that a portion of the prisoners would be sent within his jurisdiction. Gov. Lee, by the by, administered the trust reposed in him so satisfactorily, that he was re-elected with great unanimity. It appears that Washington recognized and appreciated the fact, that, in "the times that tried men's souls," none were

more faithful to the American cause, and none more prompt in making sacrifices for it, than the people of Catholic Maryland:—

“CAMP, NEAR YORK, October, 1781.

“DEAR SIR,—Enclosed I have the honor of transmitting to your Excellency the terms upon which Lord Cornwallis has surrendered the garrisons of York and Gloucester.

“We have not been able yet to get an account of prisoners, ordnance, or stores in the departments; but, from the best general report, there will be (officers included) upwards of seven thousand men, besides seamen; more than seven pieces of brass ordnance, and one hundred of iron, with their stores, as also other movable articles. My present engagements will not allow me to add more than my congratulation on this happy event, and to express the high sense I have of the powerful aid which I have derived from the State of Maryland in complying with every request to the Executive of it. The prisoners will be divided between Winchester, in Virginia, and Frederick, in Maryland.

With every sentiment of the most perfect esteem and regard, I have the honor to be your Excellency's most obedient servant,

GEORGE WASHINGTON.