

**Stewart Bell Jr. Archives**  
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**Robert E. Lee Collection**  
**Collection Number: 1055 THL/WFCHS**

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS:** Collection is open to all researchers.

**CONDITIONS GOVERNING REPRODUCTION AND USE:** Restrictions may apply concerning the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a member of the archives staff for information concerning these restrictions. The user assumes all responsibility for identifying and satisfying any claimants of copyright. Some materials may require special handling.

**PROCESSING INFORMATION:** Processed by Buffy Knappenberger. Last updated May 2024.

**EXTENT:** .21 linear feet

**DATE:** 1863 – 1998

**SCOPE AND CONTENT:** This small collection contains ephemera about General Robert E. Lee, with a focus on his service in the Confederate Army.

**BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL:** Robert Edward Lee was born at *Stratford Hall* in Westmoreland Co., VA on January 19, 1807. He was the son of Henry “Light Horse Harry” Lee and Anne Hill Carter. In 1825, Lee gained an appointment to West Point and graduated in 1829. He married Mary Ann Randolph Custis in 1830, and they would go on to have seven children. Lee fought with decoration in the Mexican War as a captain of engineers. In 1852 as a Colonel, Lee was appointed superintendent of West Point’s Military Academy. In 1855 Lee was a commissioned lieutenant colonel of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cavalry Regiment serving in Texas. In 1859, Robert E. Lee was given military leadership of the US forces’ recapture of the arsenal at Harpers Ferry, which had been seized by John Brown and abolitionist supporters.

At the beginning of the Civil War in April of 1861, Lee resigned his commission with the U.S. Army to fight for the Confederate States Army. He was accepted into the Regular CSA on May 14, 1861 as a brigadier general. General Lee became commander of the Army of Northern Virginia in 1862. He would lead Confederate forces at numerous significant battles including the Battle of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Cold Harbor. By spring of 1865, the tide of the war had shifted to the Union. Lee’s army was pursued by Union General U.S. Grant from Petersburg, VA to Appomattox, VA. At Appomattox Courthouse, Lee’s army, devastated by casualties, desertion, and lack of supplies, was surrounded by Grant’s forces. On April 9, 1865, Lee surrendered to Grant, thus marking the beginning of the end of the Civil War.

Following the Civil War, Robert E. Lee would become president of Washington College in Lexington, VA. The college would later be renamed Washington and Lee University. Lee would serve in this position until his death in 1870.

**RELATED MATERIAL:** Lee, Robert E.—Papers—facsimiles, 4 leaves, printed. *Lewis Neill Barton Collection, 485 WFCHS*

**IMMEDIATE SOURCE OF ACQUISITION:** Gift from multiple donors.

**CONTAINER LIST:**

**BOX 1**

Attempted resignation, 1863 - article, "A Piece of Secret History," no author, no journal name, Volume 11, No. 34, 2 pages, printed

Biographical sketches

"Robert E. Lee – An Address by Landon C. Bell," 1929, private printing, 27 pages

"Robert E. Lee – A Character Sketch," by H.H. Smith, Blackstone, VA, no date, printed, 48 pages

"Lee – The Final Achievement (1865-1870), by Francis Pendleton, Washington and Lee University *Bulletin*, 1933

"Stratford – Colonial Home and Plantation" and "Stratford Plantation," articles by Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation, no date

"Character of Robert E. Lee," by Reverend William G. Pendleton, 1962, printed by Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, 2 copies

"Three Birthdays in the Life of Robert E. Lee," a lecture by Dr. Brandon H. Beck, January 19, 1998, 10 pages, by McCormick Civil War Institute of Shenandoah University.

Ceremonies Connected with the Inauguration of the Mausoleum and the Unveiling of the Recumbent Figure of General Robert E. Lee at Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA – June 28, 1883, Oration of John W. Daniel, "Historical Sketch of the Lee Memorial Association," Richmond, VA: West, Johnston, and Co, 1883, 83 pages

Examination by Congress, 1866 – transcript of Robert E. Lee's testimony, 42 leaves, typescript  
*History of the Life of Rev. Wm. Mack Lee, body servant of Gen. Robert E. Lee*, Newport News, VA: Warwick Printing Co., 1918.

Flowers/leaves from General Robert E. Lee's Casket—leaves, 1 manuscript note

Memorial services, January 19, 1871 – "In Memoriam – General Robert E. Lee," oration by Colonel F. W. M. Holliday, poem by Daniel Lucas, Times Office, Winchester, 1871, 1 item, 3 copies, printed

News Articles—Robert E. Lee, unnumbered leaves, printed (photocopy)

News Articles—Mrs. Robert E. Lee, unnumbered leaves, printed (photocopy)

Proclamation in Honor of his 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday – printed, 1 item

Signature – May 1865, in the signature book of First National Bank, Richmond VA, 1 leaf, manuscript (photocopy)

*Southern Collegian*, "The Death of General Lee," 1870, 4 pages, printed

**Physical Location: Oversize, Box 11**