

U. D. C. DEPARTMENT

LOUISIANA DIVISION

ROBERT EDWARD LEE.

(A Sketch).

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The Lee family in Virginia is a younger branch of one of the oldest families in England. Launcelot Lee, the founder, was originally from London in France, and went to England with William the Conqueror. After the battle of Hastings, a fine estate in Essex was bestowed upon him as one of the followers of William, and as a reward of his valor. In the year 1192 Lionel Lee, first Earl of Litchfield, raised a company of cavaliers of gentlemen, and accompanied Richard Coeur de Lion in the third crusade.

One Lee after another distinguished themselves in the services of England following each generation. Finally, Richard Lee, youngest son of the house of Litchfield, branched off and emigrated to America in the year 1600 and was the founder of the Lee family in the colony of Virginia, whose descendants have always occupied positions of honor and trust in the State of Virginia, some of

whom became possessed of considerable property.

Major Henry Lee fought under George Washington in 1778. He belonged to the famous Lee family of Virginia, which furnished the signer of the Declaration of Independence, and two representatives of the American colonies abroad.

Robert Edward Lee, the subject of this sketch, was born January 19th, 1807, at Stratford, Westmoreland County, Virginia. He descended from a race of statesmen and warriors. His father was Colonel Henry Lee, who won distinction during the Revolutionary War, and who was subsequently Governor of Virginia. The latter was the son of Richard Lee, whose paternal grand-father, of the same name, was the founder of the family in America. Robert E. Lee's mother was Matilda Lee, a daughter of Philip Ludwell Lee, who in 1776 offered in the Continental Congress the famous resolution, which was the introduction to the Declaration of Independence. Thus his parents were distant cousins. Robert E. Lee was born in the old homestead, which had served the family for several generations. His boyhood life was passed in Northern Neck, most of the time amid scenes of war during

1814. While the second war with England was in progress British ships were ravaging Virginia's coast cities. Robert was at that time seven years old, and the stirring events happening so near his home left an indelible impression on his young mind.

At the age of eighteen his inherited military instincts asserted themselves and he entered West Point Military Academy. He was a model student, and one of exemplary habits, he won high honors; and graduated in 1829 second in a class of 46, and became by brevet a second lieutenant in the corps of topographical engineers. For several years he was engaged with work in connection with the Atlantic coast defenses.

In 1831 he married Mary Randolph Custis, grand-daughter of Martha Washington, from whom he inherited the Arlington estates on the Potomac.

The personal history of Robert E. Lee is almost lost in the history of the great crisis of America's national life. Political friends and foes alike acknowledged the disinterestedness, and purity of his motives, his self-denying sense of duty, and the unremitting loyalty with which he accepted the defeat of his army in the War between the States.

Robert E. Lee's entire life seemed to have been interwoven with military experiences. He gave his services in the Mexican war in 1847, under General Scott, and greatly distinguished himself at the siege of Vera Cruz. Several years later he was appointed superintendent of West Point Academy and after filling that position for some time, he resigned to accept the Lieutenant-Colonelcy of the second cavalry regiment. The same year his regiment was dispatched to Texas to put down Indian uprisings, and for the next four years he was engaged in dangerous contention with the hostile Aborigines.

He was next ordered to take command of the body of militia of the State of Virginia, which routed John Brown and his band of fellow conspirators from their stronghold at Harper's Ferry. This was the insignificant prelude to the conflict between the North and South. Lee returned to Texas, and was there in the early part of 1861, when the great crisis was approaching, he carefully watched the excited conditions in the country, but took no part in its evolutions.

It was evident that about this time he contemplated returning to civilian life, and spending his remaining years with his wife and children upon his

vast estates in Virginia. For in sending his resignation from the Federal service April 1861 to General Scott, when his native state had seceded from the Union, he wrote from Arlington, Virginia, a letter accompanying his resignation, in which he said "Save in defense of my state, I never desire again to draw my sword." The resignation was accepted, and three days later his commission as commander of all forces in Virginia was confirmed by the State Legislature.

Then followed the long four years of the War between the States, in which Robert E. Lee became the commander-in-chief of all the Armies of the Confederacy, and with it all its horrors and privations.

New Year's day 1865 witnessed a sad and pitiful spectacle in the devoted army of General Lee. On every hand he was threatened with ruin, and with him the cause of the South. Food was scarce, the men were insufficiently clad in their tattered uniforms, and disease and death lurked everywhere. The confidence of the people was losing ground. Lee was the only man in the South in whom the populace had not lost faith. But the time for hope and faith was passing. General Grant with his well equipped, and well fed army, was pushing the half-starved Confederates further South. Richmond and Petersburg had surrendered after the desperate fighting and the great sacrifice of blood that had been made to save them, Lee retreating to Farmville was completely hemmed in, which forced the Confederates to give up the struggle. Lee surrendered to General Grant at Appomattox Court House April 9th, 1865.

Peace was restored, Lee the mainstay of the Southern Cause, had been vanquished by the overwhelming numbers of the enemy, but he had fought valiantly, and in accordance with his conscience. He maintained to the last moment that he was still capable of resisting, but had surrendered in the interest of peace, and to save further blood shed.

After the surrender Lee returned to his home in Richmond, his wife was always with him in Richmond during the Confederate war; and accompanied him to Lexington when he took charge of Washington University. Mrs. Lee had strong intellectual powers, and persistently favored the Confederate cause. Lee remained quietly at home, where he was visited by thousands, who called to express their admiration of his abilities as a warrior. Federal officers passing on to the North after the war called on him to shake his hand, and they were received with dignified kindness. He was placed in charge of Washington University, at Lexington, Va., where after many years' service in the education of the southern youths, he died October 12th, 1870, after a brief illness, which came upon him suddenly in the form of nervous prostration. His wife and children were with him when he passed away. Three days after General Lee's death his remains were buried beneath the Chapel of the University at Lexington. His funeral ceremony was simple in accordance to his wishes.

Not only the South, but the whole nation mourned his death; for his ability and worth was everywhere recognized.

February 1871, his eldest son, George Washington Custis Lee, succeeded him as president of Washington University (now Washington and Lee University). He also had a military education, and had served the Confederate army during the entire war. On June 25th, 1863 he was commissioned Brigadier-General.

There is a monument to Lee's memory in Richmond, Va., also a recumbent statue by Valentine over his grave, and a full-life bronze statue on a column at Lee Circle in New Orleans.

There is a portrait of him in the Senate Chamber in Richmond, still another at the University of Virginia, and one at the Louisiana State University, at Baton Rouge, La.

Arlington, Virginia, his splendid country estate, was rendered unfit for a home; as it was confiscated by the Federals and used as a burying ground for their soldiers who fell in battle in the defense of the Union. After Lee's death, and years had brought about a more friendly feeling in the people of the North toward the South, Congress passed an act appropriating a large sum of money for its purchase from the heirs, which gave the United States Government a clear title, and it was devoted entirely to a National Cemetery. Only a few weeks ago America's Unknown Soldier who fell in the World War was laid to rest in the soil that had been owned by the immortal Robert Edward Lee.

BENEFIT BOAT RIDE.

The boat ride on the steamer Capitol given by the three Chapters of the Daughters of the Confederacy, on

Friday, Feb. 24th, was for the benefit of their fund to entertain the State Division in May. The excursion was a big success in every way and much pleasure was derived from this means of entertainment. The editor of Woman's Enterprise is indebted to Mrs. Feeney-Rice for a ticket for the ride, which was very much appreciated.

CAMP MOORE CHAPTER, U. D. C.

Camp Moore Chapter N. 562, located in Tangipahoa, La., held a most interesting meeting on Friday of last week in the hospitable home of Mrs. Dan Settoon with a large membership of this chapter present and several visitors. The United Daughters of the Confederacy are always so interesting that members in distant towns are regular attendants. Sometimes the chapter holds its meetings in different parts of the parish for the members entertain alphabetically, and as there are members in Amite, Kentwood, Spring Creek, Independence as well as in Tangipahoa, and since a great many of the members have automobiles, it makes no difference where the meetings are held, they are always well attended and much enjoyed.

After the business meeting is held, there is always a delightful social hour with refreshments and a musical program or a reading or two.

Mrs. R. L. Lillard is the new president of the chapter, and a pretty feature of the meeting of last Friday was the presentation of a beautiful U. D. C. pin to the retiring president, Mrs. Dan Settoon who closed a most successful administration in November. Mrs. Ida D. Schwartz made the presentation speech complimenting Mrs. Settoon very highly on her splendid work. Camp Moore Chapter is always ready and willing to assist in the Division and General Order Work responding to every call. This chapter has the record of "going over the top" in the Hero Fund, and has recently contributed \$15.00 more to the Mouton Monument Fund. Mrs. Fred C. Kolman, Historian of the Chapter, although living in New Orleans, is most active sending a letter and a historical paper for every meeting. She recently requested that a local member be made historian and she be retained as Assistant Historian as she promised to contribute her letter and paper regularly as usual. Plans for beautifying Camp Moore Cemetery were discussed. Camp Moore, after which the Chapter is named, was where the soldiers were trained in '61-'65 and sent to fight for their Southland. Between three and four hundred soldiers who died in Camp of Measles are buried here, and al-

though a beautiful monument has been erected to their memory and an iron fence enclosed the acre of ground, Camp Moore Chapter wants to beautify this sacred spot which should

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