

Ethel Armes Collection of Lee Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

Contact information: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm82054304>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009316>

Prepared by Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

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Collection Summary

Title: Ethel Armes Collection of Lee Family Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1671-1936

ID No.: MSS54304

Creator: Armes, Ethel, 1876-1945

Extent: 500 items

Extent: 3 containers

Extent: 1.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82054304>

Summary: Correspondence, architectural plans, genealogical papers, maps, legal papers, clippings, and other material assembled by Armes in preparing her book, *Stratford Hall: The Great House of the Lees* (1936).

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Armes, Ethel, 1876-1945.

Carter, Lucy Grymes Lee, 1786-1860. Lucy Grymes Lee Carter papers.

Corbin, Hannah Lee, 1728-1782. Hannah Lee Corbin papers.

Green, Duff, 1791-1875--Correspondence.

Greene Nathanael, 1742-1786--Correspondence.

Hamilton, Alexander, 1757-1804--Correspondence.

Hopkins, Cornelia Lee, 1780-1815. Cornelia Lee Hopkins papers.

Izard, Elizabeth C. (Elizabeth Carter), approximately 1774-1826. Elizabeth C. Izard papers.

Lee family.

Lee, Ann Hill Carter, 1773-1829. Ann Hill Carter Lee papers.

Lee, Anne Robinson McCarty, 1798-1840. Anne Robinson McCarty Lee papers.

Lee, Charles Carter, 1798-1871. Charles Carter Lee papers.

Lee, Elizabeth Collins, -1858. Elizabeth Collins Lee papers.

Lee, Henry, 1756-1818. Henry Lee papers.

Lee, Henry, 1787-1837. Henry Lee papers.

Lee, Mary Randolph Custis, 1807-1873. Mary Randolph Custis Lee papers.

Lee, Richard Bland, 1761-1827. Richard Bland Lee papers.

Lee, Richard Henry, 1794-1865. Richard Henry Lee papers.

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

Lee, Thomas, 1690-1750. Thomas Lee papers.

Livingston, Anne Home Shippen, 1763-1841. Anne Home Shippen Livingston papers.

Madison, James, 1751-1836--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.

Shippen, Alice Lee, 1736-1817. Alice Lee Shippen papers.

Shippen, Thomas Lee, 1765-1798. Thomas Lee Shippen papers.

Shippen, William, Jr., 1736-1808. William Shippen Jr. papers.

Tyler, John, 1790-1862--Correspondence.

Washington, George, 1732-1799--Correspondence.

Subjects

Agriculture--Virginia.

Plantations--Virginia.

Slavery--Virginia.

Places

Shirley Plantation (Va.)
Stratford Hall (Va.)
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783.
Virginia--Social life and customs.

Titles

Lee family papers.

Acquisition Information

The Ethel Armes Collection of Lee Family Papers was given to the Library of Congress by Armes between 1936 and 1939.

Processing History

The Ethel Armes Collection of Lee Family Papers was arranged and described in 1984 by Jacqueline Goggin. Ciphers used by the Lees, prepared by Edmund Cody Burnett, were transferred to the Edmund Cody Burnett Papers in 1998. The finding aid was revised in 2008 and additional revisions were made to the finding aid in 2009. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings in the Ethel Armes Collection of Lee Family Papers is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The Ethel Armes Collection of Lee Family Papers are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Ethel Armes Collection of Lee Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The Ethel Armes Collection of Lee Family Papers consists principally of photocopies and transcripts of documents found in other repositories. Armes collected and assembled these in preparation for her book, *Stratford Hall: The Great House of the Lees* (1936). Materials date from 1671 to 1936 and include family correspondence of the Lee and Shippen families pertaining mainly to life during the Revolutionary War period. The bulk of the correspondence is that of Henry "Lighthorse Harry" Lee, Revolutionary War general and father of Robert E. Lee, and Major Henry Lee, brother of Robert E. Lee. Subjects detailed in the correspondence include military activities during the Revolutionary War, politics and political appointments, financial affairs in the colonies, agriculture, planting, and slavery in Virginia, and family life on Shirley Plantation. Among other family members represented in the collection are Charles Carter Lee, Richard Bland Lee, Mary Randolph Custis and Robert E. Lee, Alice Lee Shippen, Thomas Lee Shippen, and William Shippen. One noteworthy item in the collection is a copy of a letter from a formerly enslaved woman, Eleanor Barry to Elizabeth Collins Lee, her previous enslaver. Duff Green, Nathanael Greene, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, John Tyler, and George Washington are among the more prominent correspondents in the collection.

Copies of architectural plans and drawings of various Lee family estates, family genealogies, legal papers, maps, and newspaper clippings are included in the collection. The few original documents in the Ethel Armes Collection of Lee Family Papers consist mainly of research notes and correspondence of Armes and pertain to her book. Of particular interest is a letter of Franklin D. Roosevelt to Armes; Roosevelt wrote the foreword to her book.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material or name of person.

Container List

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BOX 1	Correspondence
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BOX 1	Carter, Lucy Grymes Lee (1786-1860), 1798-1813
BOX 1	Corbin, Hannah Lee (1728-1782), 1759-1760
BOX 1	Izard, Elizabeth Byrd Carter Shippen, 1799-1824, undated
BOX 1	Lee, Ann Hill Carter (1773-1829), 1805-1816
BOX 1	Lee, Anne Robinson McCarty, 1828-1837, undated
BOX 1	Lee, Charles Carter (1798-1871), 1817-1868
BOX 1	Lee, Cornelia (Cornelia Lee Hopkins) (1780-1815), 1801-1808, undated
BOX 1	Lee, Elizabeth Collins (1747-1858), 1792, undated
BOX 1	Lee, Elizabeth Collins, 1925-1927, undated
BOX 1	Lee, Henry (1756-1818)
BOX 1	1779-1816
BOX 1	Undated
BOX 2	Lee, Henry (1787-1837)
BOX 2	1816-1830
BOX 2	1831-1836
BOX 2	Lee, Mary Randolph Custis (1806-1873), 1834-1871, undated
BOX 2	Lee, Richard Bland (1761-1827), 1811-1812
BOX 2	Lee, Richard Henry (1794-1865), 1840
BOX 2	Lee, Robert E. (1807-1870), 1840-1865
BOX 1	Lee, Thomas (1690-1750), 1720-1750, undated
BOX 2	Shippen, Alice Lee (1736-1817), 1778, undated
BOX 2	Shippen, Nancy Lee (Anne Home Shippen Livingston) (1763-1841), undated
BOX 2	Shippen, Thomas Lee, 1783-1809
BOX 2	Shippen, William, 1814
BOX 2	Other family correspondence, 1807-1825
BOX 2	General correspondence, 1753-1827, undated
BOX 2	Armes, Ethel, research notes, circa 1930s
BOX 2	Original documents, 1809-1895
BOX 2	Maps, 1671, 1775
BOX 3	Architectural plans and drawings of Lee family estates
BOX 3	Copies of title pages from books in Lee family library
BOX 3	Lee family genealogies
BOX 3	Lee, Charles Carter, writings
BOX 3	Legal papers
BOX 3	Newspaper clippings, 1870, undated
BOX 3	Transcripts of letters, 1750-1891, undated