Guide to the 
**Richard Henry Lee letters**
1771-1793
MssCol 4522

Digitization was made possible by a lead gift from the Polonsky Foundation.
Compiled by Casey Babcock, 2015

---

**Summary**

**Cre:** Lee, Richard Henry, 1732-1794

**Title:** Richard Henry Lee letters

**Date:** 1771-1793

**Size:** .1 linear feet (1 folder)

**Source:** Donated by J. Pierpont Morgan, 1899, as part of the Ford Collection

**Abstract:** Richard Henry Lee (1732-1794), American statesman, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence and the Articles of Confederation. He represented Virginia in the Continental Congress and later in the United States Senate. The Richard Henry Lee letters, dated 1771-1793, are written mainly to family members, including his brother William Lee, and chiefly concern mercantile affairs, family matters and political or military news of the day. A letter to kinsman Charles Lee, August 31, 1779, discusses international alliances and mentions his brother Arthur Lee's interest in bringing a libel suit against Silas Deane for his published Address of December 5, 1778. Letters to other correspondents include a 1778 letter to Virginia statesman John Page, discussing British and American military movements and France's entry in the war, and a 1781 letter to an unidentified recipient suggesting means to secure a loan from Holland to help defray Virginia's war costs. Also present are Richard Henry Lee's letter of March 26, 1787 declining the position of delegate at the Constitutional Convention, and his resignation from the United States Senate, October 8, 1792, both letters citing poor health.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Preferred citation:** Richard Henry Lee letters, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Compiled by Casey Babcock, 2015

---

**Custodial History**
Most material was originally received as part of the Ford Collection.

**Key Terms**

**Occupations**
- Merchants
- Statesmen

**Subjects**
- Merchants -- Virginia -- 18th century

**Geographic Names**
- United States -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783
- United States -- Politics and government -- 1775-1783
- Virginia -- History -- Revolution, 1775-1783
- Virginia -- Politics and government -- 1775-1783

**Names**
- Deane, Silas, 1737-1789
- Lee, Charles, 1758-1815 -- recipient
- Lee, Richard Henry, 1732-1794
- Lee, William, 1739-1795 -- recipient
- Page, John, 1744-1808 -- recipient
- Lee family
- Ford Collection
Container List

William Lee
1771 July 3
Lee, William, 1739-1795 (subject)
1773 June 7
Lee, William, 1739-1795 (subject)
1775 September 5
Lee, William, 1739-1795 (subject)

John Page 1778 May 25
Page, John, 1744-1808 (subject)

Charles Lee 1779 August 31
Lee, Charles, 1758-1815 (subject)

Unidentified recipient 1781 September 3

James Monroe 1781 October 5
Monroe, James, 1758-1831 (subject)

George Turberville 1784 May 14
Turberville, George, 1742-1793 (subject)

Theoderic Lee 1786 January 27
Lee, Theodoric, 1766-1849 (subject)

Governor of Virginia [Edmund Randolph] 1787 March 26
Randolph, Edmund, 1753-1813 (subject)
Declining appointment to the Constitutional Convention

Richard Lee 1787 September 13
Lee, Richard, 1726-1795 (subject)

[Charles Lee] 1789 June 7
Lee, Charles, 1758-1815 (subject)

Unidentified recipient 1791 May 1

Speaker of the House of Representatives [Thomas Mathews] 1792 October 8
Mathews, Thomas, 1742-1812 (subject)
Letter to the Virginia House of Delegates resigning his position in the United States Senate

John Hopkins 1793 March 24
Hopkins, John, approximately 1757-1827 (subject)

L.H. Girardin undated
Girardin, Louis Hue, 1771-1825 (subject)

Autograph 1788