



The New York Public Library Manuscripts and Archives Division

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

Creator: 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.

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)

Theodoric 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