

DeButts-Ely Collection of Lee Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79029777>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010014>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010
Revised 2023 May

Collection Summary

Title: DeButts-Ely Collection of Lee Family Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1749-1914

Bulk Dates: 1832-1872

ID No.: MSS29777

Extent: 900 items

Extent: 5 containers

Extent: 2.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79029777>

Summary: Reproductions of originals of correspondence, letterbooks, journal, scrapbook, memorandum book, reminiscence, clippings, and other papers pertaining primarily to Robert E. Lee and members of his family, including his wife, Mary Custis Lee.

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

Custis, Daniel Parke, 1711-1757.

Lee family.

Lee, Agnes, 1841-1873.

Lee, Mary Randolph Custis, 1807-1873.

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

Organizations

Confederate States of America. Army.

United States. Army.

Subjects

Military engineering--Missouri.

Military engineering--Texas.

Places

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Titles

Lee family papers

Acquisition Information

The DeButts-Ely Collection of Lee Family Papers was deposited in the Library of Congress by Ann Carter Ely and Mary Custis Lee DeButts in 1933-1934. It was withdrawn in 1940 and 1960, but reproduced with the permission of the owners in 1961.

Processing History

The collection of photocopies and enlargement prints was processed in 1983 by Jacqueline Goggin. The finding aid was revised in 2008 and additional revisions were made to the finding aid in 2010.

Other Repositories

Originals of DeButts-Ely material relating to the Lee family are held by the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings of the Lee family in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for further information.

Access and Restrictions

The DeButts-Ely Collection of Lee Family Papers is 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, DeButts-Ely Collection of Lee Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The DeButts-Ely Collection of Lee Family Papers span the years 1749-1914, with the bulk from 1832 to 1872. It consists of reproductions of original correspondence, letterbooks, journal, scrapbook, memorandum book, reminiscence, clippings, and other papers pertaining primarily to Robert E. Lee and members of his family, including his wife, Mary Randolph Custis Lee. Topics concern Lee's military career as an engineer in Missouri and Texas and as commander of the Confederate Army. Other family members represented include Daniel Parke Custis and Agnes (Eleanor Agnes) Lee.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Invoice book, Daniel Parke Custis, 1749-1757
BOX 1	Journal, Agnes Lee, 1852, Dec.-1858, Jan.
BOX 1	Memorandum book, Robert E. Lee, 1855-1861
BOX 1	Letterbooks, Robert E. Lee
BOX 1	No. 1, 1838-1860 (5 folders)
BOX 1	No. 2, 1842-1860, 1913 (4 folders)
BOX 2	No. 3, 1865-1866 (5 folders)
BOX 2	No. 4, 1866-1870 (4 folders)
BOX 2	Correspondence, Robert E. Lee
BOX 2	1832-1847 (2 folders)
BOX 3	1848-1861, June (7 folders)
BOX 4	1861, July-1865 (6 folders)
BOX 5	1866-1872, undated (4 folders)
BOX 5	Newspaper clippings, undated
BOX 5	Scrapbook, Mary Custis Lee, 1914 (3 folders)
BOX 5	"My Reminiscences of the War," Mary Randolph Custis Lee, 1866