

DeButts-Ely Collection of Lee Family Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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

2010

Revised 2015 October

Contact information:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010014>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lccn.loc.gov/mm79029777>

Prepared by Jacqueline Goggin

Collection Summary

Title: DeButts-Ely Collection of Lee Family Papers

Span Dates: 1749-1914

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1832-1872)

ID No.: MSS29777

Extent: 900 items ; 6 containers ; 2.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

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 Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

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.

Administrative Information

Provenance

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 It was withdrawn in 1940 and 1960, but reproduced with the permission of the owners in 1961.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. 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Copyright in the unpublished writings of the Lee family in these papers and in other collections in the custody of the Library of Congress is reserved.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

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, 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

| <i>Container</i> | <i>Contents</i> |
|------------------|--|
| 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 X 6 | "My Reminiscences of the War," Mary Randolph Custis Lee, 1866 (Closed) |