

Mary Lee Bowman collection

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1868-1923

Title Statement

Mary Lee Bowman collectionMary Lee Bowman collection WLU.Coll.0543

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

WLU.Coll.0543

Unit ID

/repositories/5/resources/1169

Unit Date

1868-1923

Language

English .

source

Bowman, Mary Lee

Extent

0.25 Linear Feet 1 half document case, one oversize folder

Repository

Washington and Lee University, University Library Special Collections and Archives

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection came to us from the Trustees of the Mary Lee Bowman Estate in February 2024. Her collection of family papers and art was distributed among several institutions in Virginia.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Mary Lee Bowman Collection (WLU Coll. 0543), Special Collections and Archives, James G. Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, Va.

Biographical Note

Mary Lee Bowman was the daughter of George Bolling Lee and Helen Keeney Lee and the great-granddaughter of Robert E. Lee. She married A. Smith Bowman in 1960. She died in December 2022.

Scope and Contents

This collection primarily focuses on the W. H. F. "Rooney" Lee family. Rooney was the son of Robert E. Lee. Included are photographs, correspondence among family members, invoices and receipts, and a couple of recipes. The primary recipient of the correspondence was Rooney's wife, Mary Tabb Bolling Lee. Correspondents include G. W. C. Lee and Robert E. Lee, III. The photograph subjects include George Bolling Lee, Robert E. Lee, Robert E. Lee, III, W. H. F. Lee, and the President's House at Washington and Lee University. There is also a photograph of the Lee Recumbent statue.

Primary correspondence subjects include White House (Lee farm), Robert E. Lee, III's health, and other family matters. Of particular note is a letter written by Mary Custis Lee in 1922 while on board a ship after spending the day in Athens, Greece. This letter relates to the Mary Custis Lee travel scrapbooks housed in Special Collections (WLU-Coll-0576). Also of note is a letter written by John D. Letcher in 1922 to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee which goes into great detail about how the remains of her young children were reinterred in the Lee family crypt/mausoleum. There is also a typed 1923 letter to Washington and Lee from Giles Buckner Cooke, "sole survivor of the staff of General Robert E. Lee," asking that the Chapel be left intact and a separate auditorium be built elsewhere, if needed.

The collection ranges in date from 1868-1923.

Keywords

Bowman, Mary Lee
Lee, William Henry Fitzhugh, 1837-1891
Lee, Robert E., III, Colonel (Robert Edward), 1869-1922
Lee, Mary Tabb Bolling
Lee family
Lee, George Washington Custis, 1832-1913
Lee, George Bolling
Washington and Lee University
Washington and Lee University. Chapel

Description of Subordinate Components

W. H. F. "Rooney" Lee letters to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23758

Unit Date 1868-1883

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

W. H. F. "Rooney" Lee letters to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23759

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Letter from Virginia to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23760

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Joseph Wheeler letter to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23761

Unit Date 1891 October 17

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

George H. Sweet letters to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23762

Unit Date 1917 February 7, 1920 January 1

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Julia Lee letter to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23763

Unit Date 1917 September 30

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Robert E. Lee, III letters to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23764

Unit Date 1903 May 15

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Robert E. Lee, III letters to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23765

Unit Date 1915 March 14

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Robert E. Lee, III letters to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23766

Unit Date 1922

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Mary Custis Lee letters to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23767

Unit Date 1922 March 9, undated

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Thomas B. Love letter to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23768

Unit Date 1922 July 19

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

John D. Letcher letter to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23769

Unit Date 1922 September 22

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Thomas B. Scott letter to Mary Tabb Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23770

Unit Date 1923 October 22

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 13 (folder)

G. W. C. Lee letter to W. H. F. Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23771

Unit Date 1873 October 26

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 14 (folder)

William A. Anderson letter to Mary Custis Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23772

Unit Date 1884 August 12

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Joseph E. Washington letter to Robert E. Lee, III

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23773

Unit Date 1895 November 19

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Robert E. Lee, III letter to George Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23774

Unit Date 1916 October 31

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Fitzhugh Lee letter to Agnes Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23775

Unit Date [?] January 24

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Mary M. Lee note

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23776

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Wife/widow of Robert E. Lee, III

Giles Buckner Cooke letter to Washington and Lee University

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23777

Unit Date 1923 November 23

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Mary Tabb Bolling Lee: Invoices and Receipts

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23778

Unit Date 1887, 1913-1915

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Recipes for English Plum Pudding and White Cake

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23779

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Photographs of Two Unidentified Children

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23780

Unit Date circa 1873-1875

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Scope and Contents

possibly Robert E. Lee, III and George Bolling Lee

Photographs of W. H. F. "Rooney" Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23781

Unit Date circa 1869-1870, circa 1880-1890

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Military images are copies of earlier originals

Photographs of Robert E. Lee, III

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23782

Unit Date circa 1873-1875, circa 1880s

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Photograph of Unidentified Woman

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23783

Unit Date circa 1880s-1890s

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Photographs of Robert E. Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23784

Unit Date circa 1880s-1890s

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Scope and Contents

Copies of earlier originals

Photograph of Robert E. Lee, Jr.

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23785

Unit Date circa 1880-1885

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Photograph of George Bolling Lee

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23786

Unit Date circa 1885

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 29 (folder)

Photograph of Four Young Men

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23787

Unit Date circa 1890s

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 30 (folder)

Scope and Contents

George Bolling Lee (front left) and Robert E. Lee III (front right)

Photograph of Washington and Lee University President's House

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23788

Unit Date circa 1890-1900

Mixed Materials [35101013593855] 1 (box)

Container 31 (folder)

Photograph of Washington and Lee University President's House

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23789

Unit Date circa 1870s

Mixed Materials Manuscripts Oversize Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 4 (Oversize)

Photograph of Robert E. Lee Recumbent Statue in Chapel

Unit ID /repositories/5/archival_objects/23790

Unit Date 1930

Mixed Materials Manuscripts Oversize Box 1 (box)

Container Folder 4 (Oversize)

Scope and Contents

inscribed on back to Dr. George Bolling Lee from C. C. Pinckney, Lexington, Virginia October 24, 1930