

A0886

Robert E. Lee (1807-1870) Collection, 1834-1967

4 folders

Processed by Christopher Gordon, January 2003

REPOSITORY

Missouri Historical Society Archives

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RESTRICTIONS

Due to security concerns, items from this collection must be paged to the special archives request table.

DONOR INFORMATION

The items in the collection were received from various donors or purchased from manuscript dealers.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert Edward Lee was born January 19, 1807, in Westmoreland County, Virginia, the son of Henry and Ann Hill Carter Lee. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1829 and chose the corps of engineers as his department of service. Lee was commissioned second lieutenant of engineers in July 1829. In the summer of 1837, Lee traveled to St. Louis to superintend a project to protect the St. Louis harbor from shifts in the channel of the Mississippi River. While working on the project he rose to the rank of captain in July 1838. He remained in St. Louis until October 1840. In April 1861, Lee resigned his commission in the U.S. Army upon learning of the secession of Virginia from the Union. He was commissioned as a brigadier general in the Confederate army in May 1861. He led the Army of Virginia and became general in chief of the Confederate army in February 1865. In April 1865, he accepted the terms of surrender of his armies at Appomattox, Virginia. Lee died October 12, 1870 in Lexington, Virginia.

Henry Kayser was born August 9, 1811, at St. Goarshausen, Germany. Kayser studied architecture and higher mathematics at Darmstadt before making the journey to the United States with his brother Alexander. In 1834, he opened a drawing school in St. Louis and made maps of the Indian reservations for the superintendent of Indian affairs. Later he served in the U.S. surveyor-general of public land office before being appointed as assistant engineer under Lieutenant Robert E. Lee. Kayser surveyed the Mississippi River and reported on the harbor improvement project to Lee. He acted as a government surveyor until 1839, when he was selected to serve as the first city engineer for the city of St. Louis. He held this position off and on until 1857. In 1871 and 1873, he was elected city comptroller. Henry Kayser died October 16, 1884, in Hoboken, New Jersey.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Robert E. Lee Collection consists of correspondence, contracts, photocopies, handmade copies and biographical information relating to Lee's life. The collection is arranged chronologically. The bulk of the collection consists of correspondence between Lee and Henry Kayser relating to the river channel project at St. Louis; Lee's financial investments in St. Louis; political affairs; and family news and gossip. The Lee and Kayser letters (1838-1846) were published in the Missouri Historical Society's *Glimpses of the Past* (Volume 3, 1936). The remaining material consists of various military field orders and correspondence from the Civil War including a letter from Lee to U.S. Grant regarding prisoner exchange and the status of freed slaves. The postwar material consists of some correspondence by Lee to friends and supporters and later material regarding Lee's life and memorials.

One souvenir ribbon was moved to Artifact Box 4.

The following abbreviations have been used in this inventory:

- AD Autograph Document unsigned (an unsigned document in the hand of the author)
- ADS Autograph Document Signed (a document signed by and entirely in the hand of the author)
- AL Autograph Letter unsigned (an unsigned letter in the hand of the author)
- ALS Autograph Letter Signed (a letter entirely in the hand of and signed by the author)
- DS Document Signed
- LS Letter Signed
- TD Typescript Document unsigned
- TDS Typescript Document Signed

Inventory

folder 1	1837-1839
folder 2	1840-1842
folder 3	1843-1851
folder 4	1861-1967; no date

Folder 1 1837-1839

17 October 1837	TDS Statement exhibiting the estimates, appropriations, expenditures, to September 30, 1837, inclusive, in relation to a pier to give direction to the current of the Mississippi River near the city of St. Louis. 1 page
12 December 1837	Articles of agreement between R.E. Lee, U.S. Corps of Engineers, and Peter Tellon and Martin Himes 4 pages
27 January 1838	ALS M.C. Meigs to H. Kayser describing a catalog of various models of suspension bridges. 3 pages
1 February 1838	ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser on Kayser's register on the stages of the river and directions on surveying for the construction of a new road. 5 pages
9 March 1838	ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser concerning building materials for work on the river channel. 4 pages
2 April 1838	ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser relating that John Lowry has been placed in charge of the piling operations at St. Louis harbor. 3 pages
11 July 1838	DS Receipt certifying that the article (an anchor) was received as necessary for the improvement of the harbor. 1 page
26 July 1838	ALS R.E. Lee to H. Kayser states that he has written to Walsh for two kegs of pressed spikes and noting that work on the river has been delayed due to rising water. 2 pages
27 July 1838	ALS R.E. Lee to H. Kayser ordering seventeen shieves. 1 page
8 November 1838	ALS R.E. Lee to Captain Bissell asking if a stand of willow trees near Gingran Creek can be cut for use as building material. [hand-made copy] 1 page
3 December 1838	ALS R.E. Lee to Captain L. Bissell stating that they have cut all the willows as granted by Bissell and asks for further permission to cut more. [copy] 1 page
31 December 1838	DS R.E. Lee to Wm. Beaumont: Check for \$187.50 from the Bank of the State of Missouri. 1 page

- 13 January 1839 TDS R.E. Lee check for fifty dollars drawn from the Bank of the State of Missouri. 1 page
- 3 April 1839 ALS Robert E. Lee to Henry Kayser giving him orders to report to Quincy [Illinois] in order to pay for services rendered by contractors. 2 pages
- 22 April 1839 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser placing Kayser in charge of all public property and books, instruments, etc. during Lee's absence. 2 pages
- 4 August 1839 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser asking Kayser to hire more workmen to assist with the project. 2 pages
- 18 September 1839 ADS William Carr Lane: Inventory of property belonging to the appropriations for a pier. 4 pages
- 30 September 1839 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser asking him not to include the boats in a report to the War Department. 1 page
- 11 October 1839 AL Henry Kayser[?] to William Carr Lane notifying Lane that he has taken charge of the harbor project. 2 pages
- 29 November 1839 LS William Carr Lane to Henry Kayser advising Kayser to stop the harbor improvement operation due to weather and lack of funds. 2 pages
- 30 November 1839 DS Henry Kayser receipt for \$400 for expenses for the harbor project. 1 page
- 30 November 1839 DS Henry Kayser[?] to R. Simpson for advance of \$550 received for use of payment for harbor project. 1 page
- 4 December 1839 AD Henry Kayser[?] to William Carr Lane: Report on the improvement of St. Louis harbor. 5 pages
- 5 December 1839 ALS Henry Kayser to R.E. Lee notifying him that the boats lent by the U.S. government are no longer needed and will be returned to Lee. [transcript available] 1 page
- Folder 2 1840-1842**
- 1840 DS R.E. Lee: Receipt for articles for use on the Mississippi River above the mouth of the Ohio River. 1 page
- 1 January 1840 DS R.E. Lee: Inventory of property belonging to the appropriations for a pier. 1 page
- 1 January 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser acknowledging letter of 5 December 1839 that boats will be discharged to Lee. 4 pages

- 7 January 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser asking him to inspect all borrowed property for accounting purposes and relates family news. 1 page
- 17 February 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to H. Kayser regarding expenses accrued and final payments to contractors. 4 pages
- 1 April 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to H. Kayser regarding final expenses and accounts. 3 pages
- 11 April 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser notifying him that bonds are in the safe at the American Fur Company and should be redeemed in order to pay St. John. [transcript available] 1 page
- 4 May 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to H. Kayser expresses concern over Kayser's report that the Mississippi River has resumed its former course and asks for more information. 2 pages
- 19 May 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to H. Kayser stating that expenses must to cut in order to pay expenses on boats and items related to the harbor project. [transcript available] 3 pages
- 16 June 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser provides Kayser with his own assessment of the problems concerning the channel movements. 3 pages
- 26 June 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser giving the results of an auditor's settlement of his accounts. [transcript available] 2 pages
- 30 June 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser discusses sale of boats and expresses regret that St. Louis seems not to want to continue harbor project. [transcript available] 2 pages
- 23 July 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser regarding the disposition of boats. 2 pages
- 5 September 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser asks Kayser to investigate terms for obtaining a crew for the steamboat *Des Moines*. 1 page
- 8 September 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser expresses his wish to sell the steamboat *Des Moines* and intentions to sink the flatboats and crane boats. [transcript available] 3 pages
- 12 September 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser notifying Kayser that he has sold the *Des Moines*, keelboats, and yauls. Flat and crane boats will be sunk up river. 2 pages

- 20 November 1840 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser congratulates Kayser on the completion of the lower dikes and describes his inspection tour of fortifications in North and South Carolina. 2 pages
- 8 January 1841 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser asking Kayser to purchase a buffalo powder horn for him and to pay himself out of Lee's funds. [transcript available] 1 page
- 24 January 1840 ALS Henry Kayser to Richard B. Dallam sends accounts and vouchers for disbursements for improvement of harbor. 2 pages
- 17 February 1840 DS William Renshaw to Henry Kayser receipt for \$233.66 for account of the City of St. Louis. 1 page
- 23 February 1841 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser says he will remit money to the Mayor upon receipt of assurance from the secretary of war. 2 pages
- 29 March 1841 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser regarding the application of funds and asks Kayser to act as Lee's representative in his St. Louis financial affairs. 3 pages
- 5 April 1841 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser discusses Lee's financial business and describes the atmosphere in Washington, D.C. after the death of William Henry Harrison. [transcript available] 2 pages
- 22 April 1841 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser giving instructions for paying contracts for harbor project and describing his new assignment. [transcript available] 1 page
- 13 May 1841 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser discusses personal financial matters and Kayser's dissatisfaction with his present employment. [transcript available] 3 pages
- 6 June 1841 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser details a possible legal action to be taken against a Mr. Whitney by the U.S. attorney in St. Louis for payment of a note. 2 pages
- 16 July 1841 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser discusses matters relating to non-payment by Mr. Whitney. 2 pages
- 25 September 1841 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser tells Kayser that Meriwether Lewis Clark asks permission to make copies of Lee's reports on the St. Louis harbor. 3 pages
- 23 November 1841 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser discusses financial matters and thanks Kayser for handling his financial affairs. [transcript available] 3 pages

- 7 March 1842 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser discusses Lee's bank deposits and interest paid. Congratulates Kayser on being reappointed as city engineer. 2 pages
- 27 September 1842 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser relative to disposition of Lee's bonds which he leaves in the care of Kayser and inquires about the river works. 3 pages
- 14 November 1842 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser concerning Lee's bank account and a bank error of \$4000. 3 pages
- 22 November 1842 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser asks Kayser to send his five new bonds to him and discusses city bonds. 2 pages
- 23 December 1842 ALS R.E. Lee to H. Kayser tells of his accounts and acknowledges receipt of the bonds from Kayser. 2 pages
- 24 December 1842 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser wishes Kayser to have some corrections made at the bank in the accounts of Lee and Bliss. 1 page

Folder 3 1843-1851

- 20 February 1843 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser sends copies of his bank notes to Kayser and reports that he has checked all accounts and cannot understand account discrepancies. 3 pages
- 24 March 1843 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser sends money for deposit and thanks him for sending a copy of the amended St. Louis city charter. 2 pages
- 1 May 1843 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser acknowledges receipt of interest money and states that the account books of the Bank of Missouri agree with Lee's account books. 2 pages
- 22 August 1843 ALS R.E. Lee to Alexander Kayser regarding St. Louis city bonds maturing and redeeming the bonds. 2 pages
- 4 September 1843 ALS R.E. Lee to Alexander Kayser accepting Alexander's offer to act as Lee's St. Louis financial liaison while Henry Kayser is in Germany. 2 pages
- 25 November 1843 ALS R.E. Lee to Alexander and Henry Kayser: [1st part] Discusses personal financial matters with Alexander and thanks him for this cooperation. [2nd part] Expresses his distrust of the stability of the Bank of Missouri and asks Kayser to withdraw Lee's remaining funds. 3 pages

- 15 January 1844 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser expresses his regrets over the condition of St. Louis harbor and notes that problems will persist until the channel east of Bloody Island is closed. 2 pages
- 29 March 1844 ALS Hilseman, Austrian charge d'affairs, to Thomas H. Benton seeking his assistance in locating John Kapaztas and Mary Zonder formerly of Hungary. 2 pages
- 14 May 1844 AL Thomas H. Benton to Alexander Kayser requesting information relative to John Kapaztas. 1 page
- 19 May 1844 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser describes what he has done for the reappointment of Kayser as city engineer and regrets that he could not do more. 3 pages
- 30 June 1844 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser states that he is glad Kayser was reappointed city engineer and speaks of his stay at West Point. 2 pages
- 16 November 1844 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser acknowledges receipt of draft and tells of personal matters. 2 pages
- 16 June 1845 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser states that he has paid drafts and other financial matters. 3 pages
- 15 October 1845 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser asking Kayser's advice on investing in St. Louis or Missouri bonds. Lee talks about his children and visiting relatives. 2 pages
- 19 December 1845 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser inquiring whether bonds had been purchased yet for Lee and Lee's account of an injury sustained to Rooney Lee's hand. 3 pages
- 4 July 1846 ALS R.E. Lee to Henry Kayser expressing regret that Kayser did not get an appointment as city engineer and describes events pertaining to the Mexican War. (torn) 3 pages
- 18 March 1851 ALS Cyrus W. Field to Alexander Kayser describing plans for a vacation trip with his wife and friends and asks the Kaysers to travel with them to the Falls of St. Anthony. 2 pages
- Folder 4 1861-1967; no date**
- 8 September 1861 ALS R.E. Lee to John B. Floyd responding to Floyd's report of increased artillery fire at Suttonsville. 1 page
- 30 March 1863 ALS R.E. Lee to J. Longstreet relating reports of General Ambrose Burnside's troop movements. [photocopy] 1 page

- 20 April 1863 ALS Cousin (R.E. Lee) to Cousin Ellen thanks her for her expressions of sympathy for his loss, but notes that individual grief is absorbed in universal affliction. 1 page
- 3 October 1864 ALS R.E. Lee to U.S. Grant noting that a prisoner of war exchange relating to those captured around Richmond does not include Negroes belonging to our citizens or Confederate deserters. 1 page
- 9 April 1865 DS R.E. Lee et al: Parole of honor that the signers will not serve in the Confederate army or in any military capacity. [reproduction] 3 copies
- 10 April 1865 ADS R.E. Lee: General Order No. 9 Farewell to men of the Army of Northern Virginia. [reproductions] 1 page
- 2 March 1866 ALS R.E. Lee to W.P. Moore stating that he has not written an account of the war and if he does it will not be completed soon. 1 page
- 22 February 1867 ALS M.C. Lee to Cousin Ellen regarding conditions at Arlington House, R.E. Lee's duties at Washington College, and Reconstruction politics in Washington. 4 pages
- 8 June 1870 ALS R.E. Lee to Mrs. D.C. Kennedy responding to a request for lock of hair to aid in raising funds for collecting and burying the Confederate dead in Missouri. 1 page
- 29 May 1890 Souvenir ribbon commemorating the unveiling of the Robert E. Lee monument, Richmond, Virginia. [**Artifact Box 4**]
- 9 December 1870 ALS W. N. Pendleton to T.C. Reynolds, governor of Missouri, detailing actions to create a committee for the construction of a R.E. Lee memorial church in Lexington, Virginia. 1 page
- 26 September 1902 *Rushville (IL) Times* clipping: Article recounting the myth of Ann Carter Lee's premature burial. 1 page
- 2 June 1913 Invitation to a special lecture by the Hon. Shepard Barclay on "Robert E. Lee in St. Louis" delivered to the Missouri Historical Society. 1 page
- 2 June 1913 Flyer: Inviting Missouri Historical Society members and their friends to a lecture by the Hon. Shepard Barclay on "Robert E. Lee in St. Louis." 1 page
- 26 April 1937 TD [form letter] William Warren to membership regarding commemoration event held at the site of the St. Louis residence of R.E. Lee. 1 page

- 1966 Press release, Washington and Lee University, regarding a poetic letter from Robert E. Lee to Julia Gratiot of St. Louis. 1 page
- 1967 Press release, Washington and Lee University, regarding a research request by 10-year-old Ohio resident Rene Dygutowicz for information on Lee. 2 pages
- no date TD D.M. Frost on recollections of Robert E. Lee 1 page