

The original documents are located in Box 20, folder “Lee, Robert E. - Restoration of Citizenship Bill” of the John Marsh Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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*written
Aug. 28, 1865*

Quotation from Speech made at Washington College following Civil War, do not have that quotation has a better one that will serve your purposes. There is no recorded speech Letter written by Lee Letcher, War time governor of Virginia "The interests of the state are therefore the same ^{as} those of the United States. Its property will rise or fall with the welfare of the country. The duty ^{of} its citizens, then, appears to me ^{to} explain to admit of doubt. All should unite in honest efforts to ^{abolish} alleviate the effects of war, and to restore the blessings of peace. They should remain in the country; promote harmony and good feeling... I have invariably recommended this course and have endeavored to practice it myself."

Letter written to a former Confederate veteran who was questioning Lee's willingness to sign the Oath of Allegiance.

*7, 1865
Sept of 1865*

"The War being at an end, the southern state having laid down their arms, and the questions ~~at~~ at issue between them and the northern states having been decided, I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unit in the restoration of the country and the reestablishment of peace and harmony ... it appears to me that the Allayment of passion, the dissipation of ^{prejudice} ~~preis~~ ^{predi} and the restoration of reason, will alone enable the people of the country to acquire a true knowledge and form a correct judgment of the events of the past years."

dissipation



Quote from Letter written by Lee to former Confederate veteran who was questioning Lee's willingness to sign the Oath of Allegiance, written September 7, 1865:

"The War being at an end, the Southern States having laid down their arms, and the questions at issue between them and the Northern States having been decided, I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unite in the restoration of the country and the re-establishment of peace and harmony . . . it appears to me that the Allayment of passion, the dissipation of prejudices and the restoration of reason, will alone

Quote from Letter written by Lee to former Confederate veteran who was questioning Lee's willingness to sign the Oath of Allegiance: written September 7, 1865:

"The War being at an end, the Southern States having laid down their arms, and the questions at issue between them and the Northern States having been decided, I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unite in the restoration of the country and the re-establishment of peace and harmony... it appears to me that the Allayment of passion, the dissipation of prejudices and the restoration of reason, will alone enable the people of the country to acquire a true knowledge and form a correct judgment of the ~~ew~~ents of tge past years."

Letter from Lee to Governor Letcher August 28, 1865:

"The interests of the state are therefore the same as those of the United States. Its prosperity will rise or fall with the welfare of the country. The duty of its citizens, then, appears to me too plain to admit of doubt. All should unite in honest efforts to obliterate the effects of war, and to restore the blessings of peace.] They should remain in the country; promote harmony and good feeling . . . I have invariably recommended this course and have endeavored to practice it myself."

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Sept
7/1865

all caps

er or (e)

P. 2 - conf
sold to. ~~it~~

~~coat of arms~~

~~of~~ 92

coat of arms

5x8 index cards

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Separate card -

Confederate Soldier

Letter written by Lee to a former ~~Confederate~~ veteran who was questioning Lee's willingness to sign the Oath of Allegiance: September 7, 1865:

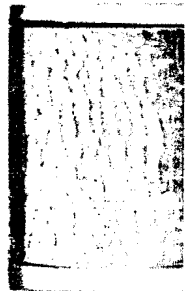
"The War being at an end, the Southern States having laid down their arms, and the questions at issue between them and the Northern States having been decided, I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unite in the restoration of the country and the reestablishment of peace and harmony ... it appears to me that the ~~l~~layment of passion, the dissipation of prejudices and the restoration of reason, will alone enable the people of the country to acquire a true knowledge and form a correct judgment of the events of the past years."

Letter written by ~~John~~ Lee ~~August~~

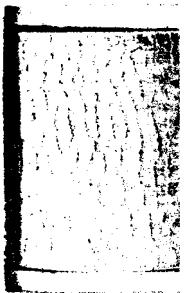
Letter written by Lee September 7, 1865 to a former Confederate soldier concerning his signing the Oath of Allegiance:

LETTER WRITTEN BY LEE SEPTEMBER 7, 1865 TO A FORMER
CONFEDERATE SOLDIER CONCERNING HIS SIGNING THE OATH OF
ALLEGIANCE:

"THE WAR BEING AT AN END, THE SOUTHERN STATES HAVING
LAID DOWN THEIR ARMS, AND THE QUESTIONS AT ISSUE BETWEEN
THEM AND THE NORTHERN STATES HAVING BEEN DECIDED;



I BELIEVE IT TO BE THE DUTY OF EVERYONE TO UNITE IN THE
RESTORATION OF THE COUNTRY AND THE REESTABLISHMENT OF PEACE
AND HARMONY . . ."



LETTER FROM LEE TO GOVERNOR LETCHER - - AUGUST 28, 1865:

"THE INTERESTS OF THE STATE ARE THEREFORE THE SAME AS THOSE
OF THE UNITED STATES. ITS PROSPERITY WILL RISE OR FALL WITH THE
WELFARE OF THE COUNTRY. THE DUTY OF ITS CITIZENS, THEN, APPEARS
TO ME TOO PLAIN TO ADMIT OF DOUBT.

ALL SHOULD UNITE IN HONEST EFFORTS TO OBLITERATE THE EFFECTS OF
WAR, AND TO RESTORE THE BLESSINGS OF PEACE."

NOTE: Butler wants
to personally drop off
the signed document to
Washington & Lee University.

R. FORD

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

R-

Lee
Letters
States
M

GERALD R. FORD LIBRARY

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MR. MARSH:

The attached are the letters re the Robert E. Lee bill. They've all been checked and are okay to send.

Did you want to personally take in the printed copies of the bill for the President to autograph?

Yes _____

No _____

Send them in via Jim Connor?

Yes _____

No _____

Thanks.

Connie

(NOTE: You had previously said that you'd like to have the President sign the bills rather than the letters and the bills.)

5) Members of the Lee Family

✓ Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Lee, IV
Master Robert E. Lee, V
8459 Brook Road
McLean, Virginia 22101

✓ Mr. Robert de Butts, Jr.
Master William de Butts
402 Virginia Avenue 22302

✓ Mrs. A. Smith Bowman
Sunset Hills, Virginia 22090

1st name
if child

✓ Miss Mary Custis Lee Spencer
✓ Miss Martha Richardson Spencer
Upperville, Virginia 22176

6) Private citizen who originally pressed bill

✓ Mr. Elmer O. Parker
2627 Parkwood Drive
Columbia, South Carolina 29204

7) Others citizens

Ted ✓ Honorable Theodore C. Marrs
3441 Rose Lane
Falls Church, Virginia 20042

Clem ✓ Honorable Clem Conger
320 Mansion Drive
Alexandria, Virginia 22302

✓ Dr. Robert Huntley
President
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Virginia 24450

✓ Mrs. Elden M. Jett
President
United Daughters of the Confederacy
506 Manor Road
Independence, Missouri 64055

8) Institutions

Sid

✓ Major General Sidney B. Berry
Superintendent, United States Military Academy
West Point, New York 10996

George

~~may. Gen. Richard L. Irby~~
~~Major General George R. E. Shell~~
Superintendent, Virginia Military Institute
Lexington, Virginia 24450

Not
contact
person

✓ Mr. John Hughes
Lee Chapel
Washington and Lee University
Lexington, Virginia 24450

✓ Major General Edwin Dooley
Virginia Military Institute Civil War Museum
Lexington, Virginia 24450

✓ Colonel Robert Patterson *
Lee-Jackson Memorial
Citizens Commonwealth Center Building
Charlottesville, Virginia 22901

* Suggested by Clem Conger.

Mr. James Redmond *

✓ Arlington House
The Robert E. Lee Memorial
Arlington National Cemetery
Turkey Run Park
McLean, Virginia 22101

Mr. Donald J. Orth *

✓ Arlington Historical Museum
P. O. Box 402
Arlington, Virginia 22210

mu
~~Kurt E. Brandenburg~~ **
~~Museum of the Confederacy~~
~~1201 Clay Street~~
~~Richmond, Virginia 23219~~

same
Mr
✓ Kurt E. Brandenburg
Robert E. Lee House
708 E. Franklin Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

mu
✓ John M. Jennings ***
The Virginia Historical Society
428 North Boulevard
Richmond, Virginia 23221

✓ Mrs. Joseph H. Gardner, President
Stratford Hall
Robert E. Lee Memorial Association
Stratford, Virginia 22558

* Suggested by Clem Conger

** This is the White House of the Confederacy

*** Battle Abbey located here.

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 17, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: JOHN MARSH

VIA: PAUL THEIS *at aw*

FROM: AGNES WALDRON

SUBJECT: LEE CITIZENSHIP LEGISLATION

The following is the information you requested so that the President can send personally autographed copies of the Lee Citizenship bill to interested parties:

1) Virginia Congressional Delegation

Harry ✓ Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr. *Sen*
2801 New Mexico Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20007

Bill ✓ Honorable William Lloyd Scott *Sen*
3930 West Ox Road
Fairfax, Virginia 22067

Dan ✓ Honorable ~~W. Dan~~ Daniel *House*
520 N Street S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20024

Bob ✓ Honorable Robert W. Daniel, Jr. *House*
700 New Hampshire Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20037



Joe ✓ Honorable Joseph L. Fisher
2601 North 24th Street
Arlington, Virginia 22207 *House*

Ken ✓ Honorable J. Kenneth Robinson
112 North Cameron Street
Winchester, Virginia 22601 *House*

Bill ✓ Honorable William C. Wampler
110 D Street, S. E.
Washington, D. C. 20003 *House*

Caldwell ✓ Honorable ^{M.} Caldwell Butler
110 D Street, S. E.
Washington, D. C. 20003 *House*

Herb ✓ Honorable ^{E.} Herbert ^{II} Harris
9106 Mount Vernon Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22309 *House*

Dave ✓ Honorable ^{E.} David ^{III} Satterfield
511 St. Christopher's Road
Richmond, Virginia 23226 *House*

Tom ✓ Honorable Thomas N. Downing
27 Indigo Dam Road
Newport News, Virginia 23606 *House*



9) Sponsors of the Legislation *

SJR 23

✓ Honorable Mike Gravel
705 Muirfield Circle
Oxon Hill, Maryland

sen

✓ Honorable Jesse Helms^{A.}
2820 South Joyce Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

sen

✓ Honorable Hubert H. Humphrey
550 N Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

sen

✓ Honorable Strom Thurmond
6015 Claiborne Drive
McLean, Virginia 22101

sen

✓ Honorable John Tower
4100 Cathedral Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20016

sen

Mac ✓ Honorable Charles ~~M.B.~~ Mathias, Jr.
3808 Leland Street
Chevy Chase, Maryland

McC.

sen

* In addition to Senator Harry F. Bryd, Jr.

HJ Resolution was sponsored by the following:

✓ Honorable Ken Heckler
242 Cannon Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

HHS



Dave

Honorable David R. Bowen
1668 Avon Place, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

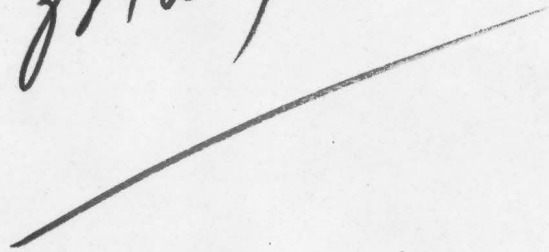
House

Ron

Honorable Ramano L. Mazzoli *
1212 Longworth Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

House

ash
max



* No home address could be found
NB. Resolutions were also offered by Congressmen Downing
and Harris on the Virginia delegation list.

2) Governors and Former Governors of Virginia

Mills ✓
Honorable Mills Godwin
Governor of Virginia
Executive Mansion
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Lin ✓
Honorable Linwood Holton
6010 Claiborne Drive
McLean, Virginia 22101

Colgate ✓
Honorable Colgate Darden
7438 Flicker Point
Algonquin Park
Norfolk, Virginia 23505

3) Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates

John ✓
Honorable John Warren Cooke
Speaker of the House of Delegates
Richmond, Virginia 23219

4) Governors of the Southern States

George ✓
Honorable George C. Wallace *
Governor of Alabama
Montgomery, Alabama

David ✓
Honorable David Pryor *
Governor of Arkansas
Little Rock, Arkansas

Sher

Honorable Sherman W. Tribbitt
Governor of Delaware
Dover, Delaware

Reubin

Honorable Reubin Askew *
Governor of Florida
Tallahassee, Florida

George

Honorable George Busbee *
Governor of Georgia
Atlanta, Georgia

Wendell

Honorable Wendell H. Ford
Governor of Kentucky
Frankfort, Kentucky

Ed

✓ Honorable Edwin W. Edwards *
Governor of Louisiana
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Marvin

✓ Honorable Marvin Mandel
Governor of Maryland
Annapolis, Maryland

Bill

✓ Honorable William L. Waller *
Governor of Mississippi
Jackson, Mississippi

Chris

Honorable Christopher S. Bond
Governor of Missouri
Jefferson City, Missouri

Jim

✓ Honorable James E. Holshouser *
Governor of North Carolina
Raleigh, North Carolina

J. B. Edwards

Honorable James B. Edwards
Governor of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

*

Ray Blanton

Honorable Ray Blanton
Governor of Tennessee
Nashville, Tennessee

*

Dolph Briscoe

Honorable Dolph Briscoe
Governor of Texas
Austin, Texas

*

Virginia Governor in Item 2.

* Confederate State

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

[Aug. 1975]

I am pleased today to sign S. J. Res. 23, restoring posthumously the long overdue full rights of citizenship to General Robert E. Lee.

The signing of this bill corrects an oversight which occurred in history over a 100 years ago.

It is significant that this bill be signed at this place. It is fitting that this citizenship be restored because Lee in his ~~charter~~^{charter} and service after the war demonstrated that we ~~are~~^{are} one Nation and one people. Although his dedication to his native state would chart his course for the bitter war years because of it it caused him to reluctantly resign from the United States Army in which he had had a distinguished career. Nevertheless, Lee believed that once the war was over, it could no longer be north vs. south and state against state. He advocated by example as a college President a dedication that the citizens of his state and his region should dedicate their efforts to rebuilding the south as a strong and vital part of the



American Union. As a soldier he left his mark on military strategy.

As a man he stood as a symbol of valor and duty, and as an educator

he appealed to reason and learning to achieving understanding and to

building a stronger nation. The course he chose after the war became

a symbol to all those who had marched with him in the bitter years to

Appomattox. His ~~charter~~ *character* has been an example to succeeding generations

of Americans that makes the restoration of his citizenship an event

in which every American can take pride.

General Lee was a widely respected leader whose

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

S.J. Mason

today

I am pleased to ~~have signed~~ ^{today} S.J. Res. 23, restoring posthumously the long overdue full rights of citizenship to General Robert E. Lee.

insert

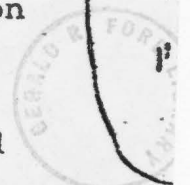
leader

General Lee was a widely respected ~~military figure~~ ^{leader} whose ~~dedication to duty has never been questioned.~~ ^{he played a particularly significant role in unifying the nation} During his

distinguished career, he honorably served both the United States and his native State of Virginia. However, as a result of his service as General of the Army of Northern Virginia, after having served in the Union Army, his full rights of citizenship had been forfeited. He faced defeat at the close of the Civil War with dignity and he later humbly sought to regain his full rights of citizenship in accordance with the Proclamations of Amnesty issued by President Andrew Johnson.

This resolution responds to the formal application of General Lee to the President on June 13, 1865, for the restoration of full rights of citizenship. Although his petition was endorsed by General Grant and forwarded to President Andrew Johnson through the Secretary of War, General Lee's application did not include his oath of allegiance because notice of this additional requirement had not reached him before he forwarded the application. Upon his inauguration as President of Washington College on October 2, 1865, General Lee executed a notarized oath of allegiance. However, his application was never acted upon by the President, apparently because the oath of allegiance was lost. It was discovered in the National Archives more than 100 years later in 1970.

The year was 1865



in passing and approving this joint resolution, the Congress
~~has~~ ^{has} removed the legal disabilities placed
upon General Lee as a result of his Civil War military service.

I am delighted to sign this ~~bill~~ ^{Resolution} ~~bill~~ ^{Act}

#



AUG 4 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Date: 8/2/75

TO: Jack Marsh

FROM: Max L. Friedersdorf

For Your Information X

Please Handle _____

Please See Me _____

Comments, Please _____

Other

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 2, 1975

Dear Jim:

Many thanks for your kind letter concerning the Robert E. Lee citizenship bill and the letter in your possession written by Lee.

Having lived in Virginia for the past 14 years, I thoroughly enjoyed Lee's touching letter.

The President plans to sign the Lee citizenship bill at 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 5, at the Custis-Lee Mansion in Arlington. You are cordially invited to attend the event if possible.

With regard to the letter, I am not sure what the proper approach should be. I will discuss this with Clem Conger, the White House Curator to ascertain his views.

It is my personal view that to file away such a beautiful letter in the White House archives would deprive many people of the opportunity to view the letter.

It might be better displayed at one of the various Virginia museums.

However, I'm sure the President would be pleased to receive the letter if you and the Virginia delegation agreed.

With cordial regard.

Sincerely,

Max L. Friedersdorf
Assistant to the President

Honorable James W. Symington
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 2, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: MAX L. FRIEDERSDORF *M.L.F.*

SUBJECT: Tiger Teague

Tiger Teague was taken to Bethesda Naval Hospital last Wednesday after suffering an apparent stroke.

Flowers from the President were sent and Tiger called me today to thank the President and indicate he expects to be in the hospital at least a month.

Tiger said his left arm is paralyzed and he is having speech difficulty.

He said the flowers really cheered him up.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TO: Jack Marsh

FROM: PAUL THEIS *PT*

Attached are proposed remarks for the President to use in signing the Resolution restoring General Robert E. Lee's citizenship Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. Could you let us have any suggested changes as early as possible, Tuesday a.m.? Thanks.

P.S. Our Research Office is still trying to locate the W. & L. quote. We did find the No. Va. Army farewell - but it's not usable. Copy attached.

CLEARANCE FORM FOR PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH MATERIAL

TO: THE PRESIDENT
VIA: ROBERT HARTMANN
FROM: PAUL A. THEIS
SUBJECT: Signing of S. J. Res. 23 -- Rights of Citizenship to
General Robert E. Lee

TIME, DATE AND PLACE OF PRESIDENTIAL USE: 2:00 p. m.
Tuesday, August 5, 1975 -- Lee Mansion, Arlington Nat. Cemetery

SPEECHWRITER: Domestic Council/Rousek

EDITED BY: Paul Theis

BASIC RESEARCH/SPEECH MATERIAL SUPPLIED BY: .
Domestic Council

CLEARED BY (Please initial):

(Staffed by Domestic Council)

(X) OPERATIONS (Rumsfeld) _____

(X) CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC LIAISON (Marsh) _____

(X) PRESS (Nessen) _____

() LEGAL (Buchen) _____

() ECONOMIC POLICY BOARD (Seidman) _____

() OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Lynn) _____

(X) DOMESTIC COUNCIL (Cannon) _____

() NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (Scowcroft) _____

(X) RESEARCH (Waldron) _____

(X) MARGITA WHITE (FYI) _____

() ENERGY RESOURCES COUNCIL (Zarb) _____

() COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS (Greenspan) _____

() OFFICE OF PUBLIC LIAISON (Barody) _____

(X) JERRY JONES _____

(X) JUDY JOHNSON (FYI)

SIGNING OF S. J. RES. 23

RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP TO GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1975

- 1 -

I AM PLEASED TO SIGN S. J. RES. 23, RESTORING
POSTHUMOUSLY THE LONG OVERDUE FULL RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP TO
GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE.

THIS LEGISLATION CORRECTS A 110 YEAR-OLD OVERSIGHT
OF HISTORY. IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT IT BE SIGNED AT THIS PLACE.

1st day in a month back
EWC
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Paul -

1) "bound up"

2) Lee quote to
WYC students -
after war "first duty
is to the nation"

3) Frank Parsons -
WYC V. -

4)

THIS RESOLUTION RESPONDS TO THE FORMAL APPLICATION OF
GENERAL LEE TO PRESIDENT ANDREW JOHNSON ON JUNE 13, 1865,
FOR THE RESTORATION OF FULL RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP.

ALTHOUGH HIS PETITION WAS ENDORSED BY GENERAL GRANT AND
FORWARDED TO THE PRESIDENT THROUGH THE SECRETARY OF WAR, AN
OATH OF ALLEGIANCE WAS NOT ATTACHED BECAUSE NOTICE OF THIS
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT HAD NOT REACHED LEE IN TIME.

LATER, AFTER HIS INAUGURATION AS PRESIDENT OF WASHINGTON COLLEGE ON OCTOBER 2, 1865, LEE EXECUTED A NOTARIZED OATH OF ALLEGIANCE. AGAIN, HIS APPLICATION WAS NOT ACTED UPON BECAUSE THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE WAS APPARENTLY LOST. IT WAS FINALLY DISCOVERED IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES IN 1970.

AS A SOLDIER, GENERAL LEE LEFT HIS MARK ON MILITARY STRATEGY. AS A MAN, HE STOOD AS A SYMBOL OF VALOR AND DUTY. AS AN EDUCATOR, HE APPEALED TO REASON AND LEARNING TO ACHIEVE UNDERSTANDING AND TO BUILD A STRONGER NATION. THE COURSE HE CHOSE AFTER THE WAR BECAME A SYMBOL TO ALL THOSE WHO HAD MARCHED WITH HIM IN THE BITTER YEARS TOWARD APPOMATTOX.

CHARACTER

GENERAL LEE'S ~~CHAPTER~~ HAS BEEN AN EXAMPLE TO SUCCEEDING

GENERATIONS, MAKING THE RESTORATION OF HIS CITIZENSHIP AN

EVENT IN WHICH EVERY AMERICAN CAN TAKE PRIDE.

IN APPROVING THIS JOINT RESOLUTION, THE CONGRESS REMOVED

THE LEGAL OBSTACLES TO CITIZENSHIP WHICH RESULTED FROM GENERAL

LEE'S CIVIL WAR SERVICE. ALTHOUGH MORE THAN A CENTURY LATE,

I AM DELIGHTED TO SIGN THIS RESOLUTION AND COMPLETE THE ACTION

WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN TAKEN IN 1865.

END OF TEXT

wore a soldier's blouse for a coat, with the shoulder straps of my rank to indicate to the army who I was. When I went into the house I found General Lee. We greeted each other, and after shaking hands took our seats. I had my staff with me, a good portion of whom were in the room during the whole of the interview.

What General Lee's feelings were I do not know. As he was a man of much dignity, with an impassible face, it was impossible to say whether he felt inwardly glad that the end had finally come, or felt sad over the result, and was too manly to show it. Whatever his feelings, they were entirely concealed from my observation; but my own feelings, which had been quite jubilant on the receipt of his letter, were sad and depressed. I felt like anything rather than rejoicing at the downfall of a foe who had fought so long and so valiantly.

GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT, *Memoirs*, 1885-86, of the meeting at Appomattox

The war is over—the rebels are our countrymen again.

GENERAL ULYSSES S. GRANT, stopping his men from cheering after Lee surrendered at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865

After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage and fortitude the Army of Northern Virginia has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers and resources.

I need not tell the survivors of so many hard-fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result from no distrust of them.

But, feeling that valour and devotion could accomplish nothing that could compensate for the loss that must have attended the continuance of the contest I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have endeared them to their countrymen.

By the terms of the agreement, officers and men can return to their homes and remain until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend to you His blessing and protection.

With an unceasing admiration of your constancy and devotion to your country, and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself, I bid you all an affectionate farewell.

GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE, *General Order Number Nine*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Kendall -

R. E. Lee

Cathy Finley (*7054)

Customary

glossy - photographic copies -

John Ratchford

they request

On the bill - reverse side (authen.)

facsimile of bill itself -
this type of paper

AUG 6 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 6, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

- Mr. Marsh ✓
- Mr. Friedersdorf
- Mr. Loen
- Mr. Kendall
- Mr. Wolthuis
- Mr. Cavanaugh
- Mr. Hushen

The President, on August 5, approved:

<u>BILL NO.</u>	<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>SPONSOR</u>
* S. J. Res. 23	Citizenship for General Robert E. Lee	Sen. Byrd (Ind. D) of Virginia

* - Ceremony

Robert D. Linder
Robert D. Linder



OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
SIGNING CEREMONY FOR S.J. RES. 23,
RESTORATION OF CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS
TO GENERAL ROBERT E. LEE

LEE MANSION
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA



2:12 P.M. EDT

Governor Godwin, Senator Byrd, Congressman Butler, Congressman Harris, Congressman Satterfield, Congressman Downing and Congressman Daniel, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen:

I am very pleased to sign Senate Joint Resolution 23 restoring posthumously the long overdue full rights of citizenship to General Robert E. Lee. This legislation corrects a 110 year oversight of American history. It is significant that it is signed at this place.

Lee's dedication to his native State of Virginia chartered his course for the bitter Civil War years causing him to reluctantly resign from a distinguished career in the United States Army and to serve as General of the Army of Northern Virginia. He, thus, forfeited his right to U.S. citizenship.

Once the war was over, he firmly felt the wounds of the North and South must be bound up. He sought to show by example that the citizens of the South must dedicate their efforts to rebuilding that region of the country as a strong and vital part of the American Union.

In 1865, Robert E. Lee wrote to a former Confederate soldier concerning his signing the Oath of Allegiance, and I quote, "This war, being at an end, the Southern States having laid down their arms, and the questions at issue between them and the Northern States having been decided, I believe it to be the duty of everyone to unite in the restoration of the country and the reestablishment of peace and harmony."

MORE

This resolution passed by the Congress responds to the formal application of General Lee to President Andrew Johnson on June 13, 1865, for the restoration of his full right of citizenship.

Although his petition was endorsed by General Grant and forwarded to the President through the Secretary of War, an Oath of Allegiance was not attached because notice of this additional requirement had not reached Lee in time.

Later, after his inauguration as President of Washington College on October 2, 1865, Lee executed a notarized Oath of Allegiance. Again his application was not acted upon because the Oath of Allegiance was apparently lost. It was finally discovered in the National Archives in 1970.

As a soldier General Lee left his mark on military strategy. As a man he stood as the symbol of valor and of duty. As an educator, he appealed to reason and learning to achieve understanding and to build a stronger nation. The course he chose after the war became a symbol to all those who had marched with him in the bitter years towards Appomattox.

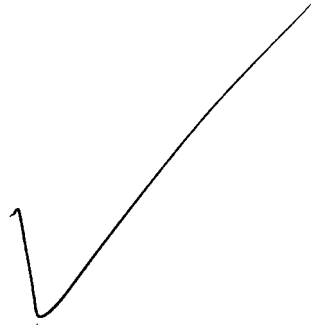
General Lee's character has been an example to succeeding generations, making the restoration of his citizenship an event in which every American can take pride.

In approving this Joint Resolution, the Congress removed the legal obstacle to citizenship which resulted from General Lee's Civil War service. Although more than a century late, I am delighted to sign this Resolution and to complete the full restoration of General Lee's citizenship.

END (AT 2:17 P.M. EDT)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 7, 1975



JACK,

As you will recall, I asked John Ratchford to provide us with 50 facsimile copies of S. J. Res. 23 (the Robert E. Lee document). The facsimile will contain everything with the exception of the President's signature, and the certification on the back of the document. We should receive the facsimiles within ten days. At ~~the~~^{that} juncture a determination will be made as to whether or not the President signs each of these documents personally or whether we have it done by machine. Both Bill and Charlie will add any names they can come up with to our basic list, which already includes the Virginia Congressional delegation, Governor Godwin and living ex-Governors of Virginia, and also a list of special invitees to the August 5 ceremony (requested of Red Cavaney's Office).

R
RUSS

cc: BKendall
CLEppert



August 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: DICK CHENEY
FROM: JACK MARSH

Dick, I spoke with the President about reproducing the Lee citizenship bill, which has been done in 50 copies, but without the President's signature in order that he can personally sign them.

My suggestion, which he concurred, was to send them to selected people, and I would recommend the following:

Virginia Congressional delegation
Governors and former living Governors of Virginia
Speaker of the Virginia House
Immediate members of the Lee family who attended the ceremony
Lee Chapel Museum at Washington & Lee Museum
U. S. Military Academy
The VMI Civil War Museum
House and Senate sponsors of the bill
Governors of the southern states
Battle Abbey (Confederate Art Gallery - Richmond)
White House of the Confederacy (now Museum - Richmond)
Stratford Hall (Lee's birthplace)
President of the United Daughters of the Confederacy
Ted Marrs

As he returns, I would prepare letters to the above along the lines of the attached proposed letter to Senator Harry Byrd.



Dear Harry:

As you are aware, I recently signed into law the legislation which restored the citizenship of General Robert E. Lee.

This was legislation that properly recognized a great American: I was honored that I could participate in remedying this historical oversight.

I requested a limited number of copies of this legislation be reproduced, and I have signed for you a copy of the original bill. I am sending it to you as a reminder of the signing ceremony at the Custis-Lee Mansion.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

The Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.
GRF:JOM:cb



[9/75?]

Dear Harry:

As you are aware, I recently signed into law the legislation which restored the citizenship of General Robert E. Lee.

This was legislation that properly recognized a great American. I was honored that I could participate in remedying this historical oversight.

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With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,

The Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.
GRF:JOM:cb



September 12, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR:

AGNES WALDRON

FROM:

JACK MARSH

We are going to send copies of the Lee Citizenship Legislation to the individuals noted in the attached memo. For these purposes, we will require the precise names and addresses of the individuals noted there.

Would you be good enough to have such a list prepared? Anything you can do to expedite this request will be deeply appreciated.

Many thanks.

Attachment

JOM/RAR/dl .



see: Lee, Robt. S

August 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO:

DICK CHENEY

FROM:

JACK MARSH

Dick, I spoke with the President about reproducing the Lee citizenship bill, which has been done in 50 copies, but without the President's signature in order that he can personally sign them.

My suggestion, which he concurred, was to send them to selected people, and I would recommend the following:

- Virginia Congressional delegation
- Governors and former living Governors of Virginia
- Speaker of the Virginia House
- Immediate members of the Lee family who attended the ceremony
- Lee Chapel Museum at Washington & Lee Museum
- U. S. Military Academy
- The VMI Civil War Museum
- House and Senate sponsors of the bill
- Governors of the southern states
- Battle Abbey (Confederate Art Gallery - Richmond)
- White House of the Confederacy (new Museum - Richmond)
- Stratford Hall (Lee's birthplace)
- President of the United Daughters of the Confederacy
- Ted Marrs

As he returns, I would prepare letters to the above along the lines of the attached proposed letter to Senator Harry Byrd.



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 25, 1975

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR:

JACK MARSH

FROM:

JIM CONNOR 

The President has reviewed your memorandum of August 15 to Dick Cheney concerning the reproducing of the Lee Citizenship Bill. The suggestions contained in the above mentioned memorandum have been approved and you are requested to prepare letters along the lines of the attached signed letter to Senator Harry Byrd.

cc: Don Rumsfeld

~~Brenda~~

Staff Secretary

This was in the filing. It doesn't look as though it went to the President, but perhaps Mr. Rumsfeld took it in. Can you tell from your notes? Otherwise, we should see that it gets into the system somehow.

Lee 8/21

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 5, 1975 a

My dear Mr. President:-

You were so gracious to come to Virginia to sign the Robert E. Lee legislation. Not only do I appreciate it, but, I am sure, all of Virginia does. What a wonderful gesture to a great Virginian to sign the legislation in his home.

In my long years in politics, never have I met a nicer, finer person in public office than Jerry Ford.

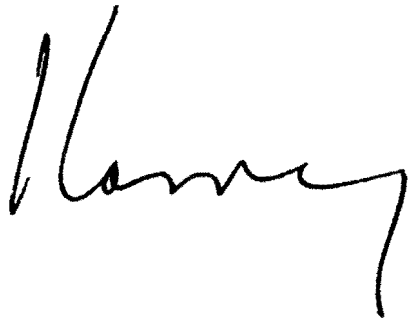
To change the subject, may I, as a friend, urge that you take care not to overwork. It is a long horse race, and fifteen months is a long time to be keeping up the pace at which you have been going.

Again, my thanks for being in Virginia today.

Your friend,

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

DELIVERED PERSONALLY



Connie -

Please check
current Super-
intendent of
VMI on attached;
also check
May re
Maggoli; then
send list to
Elliott w/

request to
type all ltrs.
just like the
ltr. to Byrd
I have them
auto-signatured.

Then ask JOM
to take appropriate
number of bills

to it for his
personal signa-
ture or ask
him if he
wants them
to be sent in
they Jim Connor.
R.




THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

1. Max -

Central files -

Nov. 10

FIRST yr. in office?

Aug. 9  July 1, 1975

1. GOP LORE. - 16

2. BIPART -

3. Other. 190

1. Will KEEP NOTES

from 2nd request forward

MAX will include

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 18, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE *R*

Jack, we now have the attached list of names and addresses for all of the people who will be getting a copy of the Lee Citizenship bill. Prior to having the letters themselves typed by Roland Elliott's Office, it will be necessary for the President to indicate the salutations he desires for each name. If I recall correctly, the letters will be signed by autopen, however, the copies of the bill will be signed individually by the President.

See attached
Rourke
M

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Robt

E.

Lee

A/M

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Dear Harry:

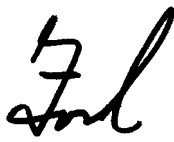
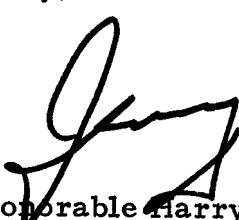
As you are aware, I recently signed into law the legislation which restored the citizenship of General Robert E. Lee.

This was legislation that properly recognized a great American. I was honored that I could participate in remedying this historical oversight.

I requested a limited number of copies of this legislation be reproduced, and I have signed for you a copy of the original bill. I am sending it to you as a reminder of the signing ceremony at the Custis-Lee Mansion.

With kindest personal regards, I remain,

Sincerely,



The Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

THE WHITE HOUSE

The Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

September 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE
FROM: JACK MARSH
SUBJECT: Caldwell Butler

Congressman Caldwell Butler wants to deliver personally the signed Robert E. Lee citizenship to Washington and Lee University.

JOM/dl



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 24, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE

FROM: JACK MARSH *JM*

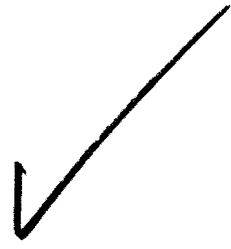
SUBJECT: Caldwell Butler

Congressman Caldwell Butler wants to deliver personally the signed Robert E. Lee citizenship to Washington and Lee University.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 3, 1975



MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE

FROM: JACK MARSH

~~Where are the Robert E. Lee signature documents?~~

JACK:

Roland Elliott is presently having the letters typed. After typing they will be signed by a auto-pen. When the letters are ready, as per your instruction, you will have the President sign the documents individually.

R
RUSS

October 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: RUSS ROURKE

FROM: JACK MARSH

Where are the Robert E. Lee signature documents?

JOM/d1



Robert E. Lee

October 3, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: ROLAND ELLIOTT

FROM: JACK MARSH

I would appreciate your seeing that letters are prepared for those on the attached list. Please have them auto-penned when they are ready. I am attaching a sample of the letter to be used.

Many thanks.

cb



October 16, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: JIM CONNOR

FROM: JACK MARSH

Attached are enlarged copies of S. J. Res. 23, a joint resolution restoring full rights of citizenship to General Robert E. Lee.

You will also find attached letters being sent to those people who were somehow involved with this bill. You'll note that these letters have already been auto-penned with the President's signature. The bills are being sent along with the letters.

The President and I discussed this personally signing all of the enlarged bills, and he agreed to do this once the letters were prepared.

cb



October 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE

Romano Mazzoli received one of the signed copies of the Lee Citizenship bills because he was a co-sponsor of the legislation.

For your information the co-sponsors are as follows:

SENATE

Gravel
Helms
Humphrey
Thurmond
Tower
Mathias
Byrd

HOUSE

Heckler
Bowen
Mazzoli

cb



House

1. Sonny Montgomery Asks that, in developing a budget for fiscal year 1977, the President consider a funding level that would permit the completion of the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway by its established schedule.
2. John J. Flynt Joins with the University Union of the University of Georgia in extending an invitation to the President to visit the University on Nov 14.
3. Bill Archer Supports the request of Mr. Hull Youngblood that he be invited to the public forum on domestic policy to be held in Austin, Texas on Nov 11.
4. James Hanley Asks that Presidential birthday greetings be sent to Mrs. Esther Perkins Anderson.
5. Romano Mazzoli Thanks President for the signed copy of the Lee Citizenship Bill.
6. Bo Ginn Hopes the President will be able to accept invitation to visit the University of Georgia on November 14.

R -

Why did he
get one?

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 28, 1975

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH

FROM: RUSS ROURKE *R*

Romano Mazzoli received one of the signed copies of the Lee Citizenship bills because he was a co-sponsor of the legislation.

For your information the co-sponsors are as follows:

SENATE

Gravel
Helms
Humphrey
Thurmond
Tower
Mathias
Byrd

HOUSE

Heckler
Bowen
Mazzoli

~ all of the above received copies!

Rouke

OCT 27 1975

President's mail - October 24, 1975

Senate

1. S Strom Thurmond Feels that any grain sales to Russia should be for cash, at full market prices, and that we should continue to seek strategic raw materials (such as oil) in return.
2. S Stuart Symington Recommends that Deryl Schuster be appointed as Administrator of the SBA.
3. S Richard Schweiker Hopes the President will be able to accept invitation to attend the presentation of The Baker General at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Washington, D. C. on November 9.
4. S Strom Thurmond Thanks President for the signed copy of the legislation which restored citizenship to General Robert E. Lee.



House

1. Sonny Montgomery Asks that, in developing a budget for fiscal year 1977, the President consider a funding level that would permit the completion of the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway by its established schedule.
2. John J. Flynt Joins with the University Union of the University of Georgia in extending an invitation to the President to visit the University on Nov 14.
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R -

Why did he
get one?



April 16, 1976

MEMORANDUM TO: JACK MARSH
FROM: RUSS ROURKE

Jack, I am sure that you will want to send Milt your own list of individuals to whom copies of the signed Proclamations should be sent. For your reference is a copy of individuals who received the Robert E. Lee Proclamation.

RAR:cb

