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RE-UNION
OF THE
DESCENDANTS OF JOHN LEE,
OF FARMINGTON.

HELD AT FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT, ON WEDNESDAY AND
THURSDAY, AUGUST 12 AND 13, 1896.

EDITED FROM MINUTES OF THE MEETING
BY LEONARD LEE.

Published by the Lee Association.

MERIDEN, CONN.:
REPUBLICAN PUBLISHING CO.
1896.

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OF THE 2025036
LEE ASSOCIATION.

(Elected at Farmington, Conn., August 13, 1896.)

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THE
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EDITION
OF

1880

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LEE FAMILY RE-UNION,

1896.

In the summer of 1895 several of the officials of the "LEE ASSOCIATION," met at Meriden, Conn., to confer upon the project of holding a re-union during the following summer. The subject had been frequently mentioned in correspondence by kindred in different States, and a growing sentiment in its favor appeared to be generally prevalent. It seemed desirable to keep alive the association, and to cultivate a better acquaintance among the descendants of their common ancestor, John Lee.

It was decided to issue a circular to several of those deeply interested, soliciting their opinion on the subject, the result of which was to encourage the project.

On the first of March, 1896, a second circular was issued, inviting all the posterity of John Lee to meet in re-union at Farmington, Conn., on the 12th and 13th of August, 1896. As the kindred were scattered through many States, the question was asked, "why not hold the re-union in a more central location, in some western city?" The reply was, "that no place was so appropriate as the old home of our ancestor—that all who could, should avail themselves of the occasion to become familiar with the ancestral home—that it would afford them an opportunity to learn more of the early life of our ancestor than they would be likely to obtain from any other source, and that no other place would inspire any particular interest in regard to the object of our meeting, and that at the old homestead was the only proper place to rally. The journey from a distance would afford a delightful excursion to those who had never visited the home of their ancestors, and would prove a most interesting event of a lifetime," and large numbers in the Southern and Western States, and the Canadas, approved the selection of location.

As most of those from a distance would intend to visit Hartford, and hotel accommodations at Farmington were limited, it was decided to make our headquarters at the United States hotel in Hartford, and proceed to Farmington by trolley cars—a charming ride of nine miles—and return at night.

Farmington is a romantic old town, the population consisting largely of the descendants of those who were contemporaries of our ancestors in early life, who greeted us kindly, and generously granted the use of their beautiful town hall for our use.

The appointed time arrived. Large numbers from a distance and citizens of the city assembled in the parlors of the hotel at Hartford, on the evening of the 11th, and enjoyed a delightful and sociable interview. Many new acquaintances were formed, and many old acquaintances renewed among those who had not met since the gathering of 1884.

On the morning of the 12th, the crowd took its departure for Farmington by trolley line. It was a charming ride, and those who were absent may never know what they missed. At the end of the route, a few minutes' walk through the shady streets, for which the town is noted, brought them to the place of meeting—lingering by the way a few moments, as they passed the site of the ancient homestead, now occupied by the stately edifice of the Miss Porter School for Girls, to take in the scene and surroundings, and let their imagination carry them back two and a half centuries, to the time of their ancestor's domestic life.

No better place for meeting could have been selected than the Farmington town hall, a tasteful edifice of which the town may well feel proud. The auditorium, on the second floor, light and airy, seemed befitting the occasion. The large rostrum, or stage had been tastefully decorated with the stars and stripes, and the janitor was untiring in his attentions.

Many kindred living within a few miles, had driven in with their carriages, and were equally enthusiastic with their kindred from other States, whom they had never met. The intense heat which had prevailed for a week, detained many who had expressed their intention to be present, and numerous regrets were received from those who deemed it unwise to attempt a long journey under such circumstances. We must not omit to mention, however, the names of several who persevered under ad-

verse conditions: Mrs. Francis Lee and daughter, Mrs. G. W. Allen, of Clinton, Iowa;—Mrs. Mary Lee Anderson, of Chicago, aged 77, who traveled alone—Mr. Squire Lee, aged 89, and granddaughter, Miss Jennie S. Lee, of Bristol, Indiana, and Miss Kittie L. Davidson, of Montgomery, Ala., who attended the gathering of 1884, as a little girl eight years of age, and others from Ontario, Ohio and Montreal.

A general feeling of sociability prevailed in the hall, in the midst of which the assemblage was called to order by Leonard Lee of Kenosha, Wis., one of the vice-presidents of the association, who addressed them in a few words of greeting.

FRIENDS AND KINDRED:—To say that I am happy to meet you, but feebly expresses my feelings on this occasion. I am more than happy, but as I look over this assemblage I miss many familiar faces which were to be seen in our midst at the gathering twelve years since. Of more than 30 whom I could name, who were prominent on that occasion, more than one-half have passed away, and among them our honored president, and others who expressed their anticipation of a happy meeting with us to-day, have been providentially detained.

It is becoming us, as descendants of one common ancestor, to meet and rally around the old homestead, and to familiarize ourselves with the surroundings of that old home—to join in social converse—to become better acquainted, and to brighten the links of that chain which should bind our interests as one common kindred. Let us then improve the present occasion to become more interested in each other, and to strengthen our desire to know more of those who have been, and gone, before us. There are many interesting episodes of our ancestors yet to be learned, if we will but awaken a proper desire to learn them.

Widely separated as we have been, and personally unknown to each other, it is not singular that we have felt an indifference, but may this occasion awaken an interest which shall go with us through life, and teach us to venerate the memory of our ancestors.

That man is not to be envied who says, "I care nothing for my ancestors"—he may feel assured that his posterity will care nothing for him. To die and be forgotten, is repugnant to the instincts of the human heart. Wealth or family pride may erect a proud monument, and inscribe thereon a few laudatory but unmerited,

words of praise, the sentiment of which, to those who knew the subject in life, will appear as cold as the granite or marble on which they are engraved.

It was a custom of our fathers when assembled for deliberation to open their proceedings with prayer, and, in imitation of their example, Prof. King of Ohio will invoke the divine blessing.

Following the invocation, and "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," came an original hymn, written for the occasion, Mrs. Jeannette Lee Coe of Winsted, presiding at the piano.

INVOCATION.

(*Tune.*—HEBRON.)

1.

Our fathers' God, to Thee we raise
With voice united, grateful praise;
For all the blessings Thou hast given,
The joys of life, the hope of heaven.

2.

To Thee our fathers' voice in prayer,
Rose sweetly on the morning air;
To Thee it rose at noontide sun—
At close of day when work was done.

3.

So here to-day we raise our voice,
While in Thy bounty we rejoice;
With thanks for all Thou hast bestowed,
While traveling o'er life's weary road.

4.

Be with us now in this glad hour;
Here may we feel and know Thy power,
Thy blessings share, Thy dealings see,
And find acceptance, Lord, with Thee.

5.

So while we of our fathers learn,
May kindly thoughts within us burn,
And all we do, and all we say,
Make this for each a joyous day.

W. W. L.

The temporary chairman then appointed a committee to nominate permanent officers of the meeting, consisting of Wm. Wallace Lee of Meriden, H. H. Osgood of Norwich, Sarah F. Lee of New Hampshire, and Irving H. Lee of New York, who reported as follows :

For President, REV. FRANK T. LEE, of Chicago.

For Secretary, JOHN R. BRYNING, of Niagara Falls, Ontario.

For Register, MISS SUSAN A. PECK, Plainville, Conn.

For Assistant Register, WILBUR E. LEE, Cambridgeport, Mass.

The President was escorted to the chair by Wm. Wallace Lee, and introduced to the assemblage, and was received with applause.

The following hymn was then sung, accompanied by the piano, the whole audience joining :

INVITATION.

(Tune.—MADRID.)

1.

Come ye of one common kindred,
In your veins the blood of Lee,
Gather at the ancient homestead
Dear to all in memory ;
Though you dwell in distant regions,
Or however far you roam,
Gather here with all the legions,
Visit once the ancestral home.

2.

Come from western lofty mountains,
From Pacific's golden shores ;
Come from eastern springing fountains,
Where Atlantic loudly roars ;
Come from northern hill and valley,
Come from southern land of pine ;
Ye of common kindred rally,
Rally at our fathers' shrine.

3.

Where the Tunxis current flowing
And Pequabuck's waters meet,
In a vale with beauty glowing,
There we find our fathers' seat—
Where the light of morn is shining,
Through the trees so grand and old,
And the sun at his declining
Crowneth all their tops with gold.

4.

Sing the song, and tell the story,
 Of our patriot sires of old ;
 Sing of all their deeds of glory,
 Though the tale has oft been told ;
 Sing, too, of the saintly mothers,
 With their voices sweet and low,
 Sing of loving sisters, brothers,
 In the days of long ago.

5.

Come and help us swell the chorus
 In our song of jubilee ;
 Here, our country's banner o'er us
 Waves, the ensign of the free ;
 Come and join in our re-union,
 All ye kindred far or near,
 Share with us in fond communion—
 Each and all are welcome here.

—W W. L.

An address was then delivered by Hon. James L. Cowles, a native of Farmington, and a descendant of a contemporary of John Lee, who, in well chosen words, welcomed the returning pilgrims to the home of their ancestor, which was responded to by Wm. Wallace Lee, on behalf of the kindred.

Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer of the association were next in order, and were presented as follows :

TO THE LEE ASSOCIATION,

DESCENDANTS OF JOHN LEE, FARMINGTON.

In submitting a report of what has been done by me as secretary, it seems fitting to refer somewhat to matters existing before our first meeting, and the formation of this association.

To those who have the book, published 1885, this may seem unnecessary, but it must be remembered that there is quite a number, and in some cases, whole families, who have never seen the book, even if they know of its existence.

The preliminary work which became necessary to secure a gathering of our widely scattered family, was performed almost entirely by myself, but the project, when presented, evoked a general and very cordial response. Money was contributed by several of the friends with words of cheer and encouragement, sufficient to meet the necessary expenses, or nearly so. The deficiency was less than \$5. Of course, no charge was made for service—only for money actually ex-

pended. At the first gathering, money enough was raised to meet all bills, of whatever nature, and there was left an even \$100, which I deposited in the Meriden City Savings bank.

It will be remembered that, at the formation of our association, Rev. Mr. Loveland was elected treasurer. Within a few weeks thereafter, Sept. 22, he died at his home in Granby. Soon as practicable, I sent out a circular to the officers of the association, informing them of his death, at the same time asking them by vote to select some one to fill the vacancy. By a large majority I was chosen to fill the position and thus my report as secretary carries with it also my report as treasurer.

The desire was earnestly expressed by many who were present, that the proceedings should be published in book form, as soon as could be, and to keep alive the interest which was such a prominent feature of the first family gathering.

Various causes operated to prevent its early publication, as explained in the book, so that it is unnecessary to repeat them here.

Had I known in advance the amount of labor, time, patience, and the pecuniary difficulties that would follow, I should have shrunk from the task. But I was encouraged by our president, and some others to persevere, and the result, you know. Money in various ways was advanced by William H. Lee, Leonard Lee, Francis Lee and Henry Lee of Aledo, Ill., each of whom advanced \$25.00 to \$50.00 and upwards. I found it necessary to draw the \$100 which I had deposited in bank to meet the bills, and also to advance much more than I could afford, but all bills were paid leaving our treasury without a cent.

Five hundred copies of the work were printed and bound. Being very desirous to place it within the reach of all, the price was made \$1.00 per copy, postage extra. I deposited copies in several public libraries, gave away quite a number to parties, whom I thought worthy and unable to pay for them—sold a goodly number (in some cases have never received any pay)—and all told have disposed of 425 copies.

As before intimated, we have no money on hand. The lack of sufficient means has been a great hindrance, so that I have been unable to prosecute my investigations for the "lost tribes," as I had hoped to do. Something in that line has been accomplished which will be told later on.

The large number that was elected as officers of our Association, at our first meeting, was with the hope and expectation that the services of many might be secured and so arouse a good degree of enthusiasm in matters pertaining to our family. This idea, if not a flat failure, was successful only to a very limited degree.

From quite a number I have found it impossible to obtain a reply to the most courteous and friendly letter that I could indite. Some of the board of officers, we have since learned, are not of our family of Lees. Fully one-fourth of them have died,—(their names will be mentioned in another paper)—so that it becomes necessary to re-organize, and I would recommend that the Board be composed only

of those who have shown by their acts, that they care something about a matter in which a goodly number of our kindred take a deep interest.

It was earnestly hoped, and with a good degree of confidence, expected, that we should be able to have a family gathering at Chicago, during the World's fair in that city, but financial disaster swept over the land and so completely prostrated business of all kinds that it was found after a great deal of correspondence, that the project could not be carried out, and the same causes have operated to postpone it until this time—and right here, justice demands the statement, that had it not been for Leonard Lee, it would not have been done now. I was so situated that I could not and would not have taken it up. He has done a greater part of the preliminary work, that was necessary for calling this meeting. With a persistency untiring, with an ardor that has never cooled, and a zeal that has not abated, he has pushed the matter, and that we have a meeting to-day, is owing mostly to his efforts, and to him belongs the credit.

The expenses attendant upon this meeting, postage, stationery, printing, correspondence, and miscellaneous matters, amount to about fifty (50) dollars, the largest part of which has been advanced by him, and we have received all told fifty (50) cents in stamps. It is obvious to any one that some means should be devised to meet these bills, and not leave a few to bear the entire burden, even if they are willing.

During the past two years, Leonard Lee and Sarah Fisk Lee have devoted a great deal of time, labor and patience to gathering and arranging the material for a new edition of the family history, that was issued by Sarah Marsh Lee in 1878.

This work is now well advanced, and, with a little detail work, can be ready for publication within a few weeks, provided the means can be raised, necessary for advance expenses. If the necessary funds can be secured or pledged, I think we should push the work earnestly to its completion, but for myself, much as I desire it, I am not willing, and will not, incur a debt to do it. I have had enough in that line of experience. If the work is to be published, to-day is the time to determine when, and how the money is to be raised.

That our present meeting may be in all respects a success, and be to each participant a source of pleasure through all the coming years, is the wish of your kinsman.

WM. WALLACE LEE.

Secretary and Treasurer.

REPORT ON CORRESPONDENCE.

In addition to what I have done as secretary and treasurer of the association, I have, for the past 12 years, and even prior to that time, carried on correspondence with a vast number of Lees in various localities, and only in a small proportion of such correspondence, have I been able to connect them with our family. I have, on the whole, had rather meager results. One instance I may mention to show the result in many cases. I knew we had lost a Zebulon Lee. I found that

name on an old pension roll, as once living in Ohio. I wrote 14 letters to various places, inclosing stamps, and after three months became satisfied that he was of another family—(Scotch).

Finding myself unable to make any headway in disposing of the mass of letters which I had accumulated—numbering over 1,500—four years ago, I requested Leonard Lee to come and stay with me, and assort, classify and arrange the material which I had in hand, and his services have been of great value, and, I may here add, this work was the commencement of a new edition of our family genealogy, which will be mentioned hereafter.

I have now out fully one hundred letters, to which I have never received any answer. It does not require great ability to answer a civil question, and say either *yes* or *no*, but some are so uncivil that they will not do that.

There are a large number of the descendants of Hezekiah Lee, the soldier, living in eastern New York and in Vermont, along the borders of Lake Champlain. Since the death of Ashbill Lee at Willsboro', in Essex county, New York, in 1887, I have written ten or twelve letters to as many different parties, but have never received any response, except from Mrs. Phelps, a daughter of Ashbill Lee. Mainly at my request, Leonard Lee made a visit there last year, at his own expense, to collect their family records, and succeeded in collecting one hundred names, which could have been obtained in no other way, and also to endeavor to arouse some interest in what was being done, but to all the circulars, letters and appeals this year there has been no response.

Hezekiah Lee, the soldier, had three sons, viz.: William, Daniel and Hezekiah third, whose posterity has nearly all been located. William had six sons. First, William, Jr., we may call him, who is said by some to have been murdered—by others, to have been drowned in Lake Ontario. All trace of his posterity is lost, if he had any. Second, Ashbill, had five sons. Most of his descendants have been found. Third, Benjamin, a soldier of 1812, killed by a falling bridge about 1826. Some of his posterity are living in Kent, Conn. Fourth, Asahel, who went to Port Hope, Ontario. Fifth, Samuel, a soldier of 1812—died in Vermont. Sixth, James, a soldier of 1812—said by some to have settled at or near DeKalb, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y. I have written many letters but have never been able to obtain the slightest clue.

Daniel, second son of Hezekiah the soldier, was killed in battle at Chippewa in 1814—had two sons, William and Daniel, Jr. The only trace I have found of either was that about 1831 this William was engaged in steam-boating on Lake Champlain. On page 108 of the book of 1885, is a list of those of whom at that time we had no further knowledge. Seth Lee, in his manuscript, says that Ashbel Lee, son of Stephen Jr., died in 1793—all I have been able to learn about that family.

Moses Lee, eldest son of Dr. Ebenezer, who grew to manhood, settled at or near Mt. Vernon, Ohio. I have learned that he made return of property and paid taxes there in 1822, and that is all.

Riverius, second son, is said to have settled in Ohio, and died,

leaving no posterity. After a long search, the posterity of Simeon Lee, the youngest son of Dr. Ebenezer, has been found, and his descendants traced more thoroughly than in almost any other Lee family, by Maj. Edwin Lee Heath, (one of them,) of Brantford, Ontario, numbering nearly or quite three hundred.

Charles, son of William, the soldier, of Bristol, died in North Carolina, leaving no posterity.

David, third son of the David branch, has been traced to Manchester, Vt., where he was a judge in 1782, and some of the family were living there between 1812 and 1820, and then all trace is lost. The only thing I could get was, "All moved to the west." Concerning any of the others named on that page, I have not been able to obtain the least information.

It seems almost incredible that the six sons of the first Jedediah—Elias, Josiah, Jedediah, Jr., Oliver, Zebulon and Simon—should have all died leaving no descendants, but thus far I have been able to find no one who knows any such names in his ancestral line.

That I have had so little success is no fault of mine. What I have gathered is the result of much time, patience, pen-pushing and burning of the "midnight oil." One great cause of perplexity and confusion is in the fact that the same names are repeated and duplicated over, and over, and over again, in other families, as well as ours. Among the descendants of John Lee, Jr., are six generations of Johns, and five generations of Hezekiahs. In the Stephen branch are six generations of Isaacs, in the Thomas branch are five generations of Thomas, and in the David branch are five generations of Davids. There are six different Samuel Lees, if not more, who served in the war of the Revolution in Connecticut, three Williams, two Jonathan, two Thomases and two Timothy's—all told, about sixty Lees, of whom more than one-third were of our family.

There were five separate Lee families in Connecticut between 1635 and 1712 of no degree of kin, so far as can be learned. I have corresponded with representatives of all of them. I think there are, at least, ten distinct families of Lees in New England who ante-date the Revolution, aside from several families of English, Scotch and Irish since that date.

I yet have strong faith that, if we had the means to pay for the labor, most of our lost families could be traced, but I am not able to do it. (The necessity of daily toil is upon me, so that it is out of my power.) I have done my best under the circumstances. This work should be pushed *now*; the farther we recede from the early days, the more difficult the task. Many of those who in the early part of this work rendered assistance and information of great value have finished their life work.

It may seem invidious to particularize, but justice requires that I make special mention of Leonard Lee, Sarah F. Lee and Major Edwin Lee Heath, who have always been ready and have rendered valuable service. To several of the kindred, who have by help, advice and counsel rendered me service, I tender my sincere thanks. This long correspondence with friends and kindred whom I have never met, and probably never shall, has cheered me in many weary hours,

and I flatter myself that I have added somewhat to the pleasure of others. Some younger man, with a more ready pen, must take up the work. When one carries nearly 70 years and more than 200 avoirdupois, he cannot by any play of fancy or stretch of imagination, convince himself that he is a young man. "Old men for counsel, young men for war" is an old maxim and it applies here as well as in other fields of labor. Although Farmington is the home of our Lees, but a few remain in Connecticut. All told, there are not so many men in Connecticut bearing the Lee name belonging to our family as served in the army of the Revolution, from this town, still there are enough younger men than myself to take hold of this work and carry it along. Most of the gray heads at our former meeting twelve years ago are seen of men no more. Should there be another meeting 12 years hence, most of us who are gray, will have joined the silent majority, but I firmly hope that those who care to preserve the memory of our ancestors, will keep alive this Association, and that as often as circumstances will permit they will assemble as we have to-day - will keep bright the chain that binds us in ties of kindred and prove themselves worthy descendants of Stephen Hart, whose blood we inherit as well as of John Lee, original proprietors of Farmington, Conn.

WM. WALLACE LEE,

Secretary.

Brief comments followed the reading of these reports, but action pertaining to them was deferred to a later hour.

On motion of Leonard Lee, and seconded by Major E. L. Heath of Ontario, a committee on reorganization was appointed to report at some later hour, consisting of Leonard Lee, Major E. L. Heath and Wm. Wallace Lee.

In response to a call from the President, Miss Ella E. Lee of Lewis, N. Y., was escorted to the rostrum by Leonard Lee and introduced as the great-granddaughter of Deacon Seth Lee of Farmington, who removed to Ludlow, Vt., just 100 years ago, and died there in 1803. She then read a paper of which the following is an abstract. It was read in a clear and distinct voice, and was listened to with great interest, and at the close received many flattering comments.

MR. PRESIDENT, KINDRED, FRIENDS:

Some writers, in presenting an article to the public, write a preface to their work. Cicero acknowledges he kept in his desk a collection of prefaces, which he could, at any time, attach to anything he wanted to publish for himself or others; so to you, dear kindred, I give as a preface to my humble paper; my ancestral links in the "Lee chain," and the reason I am before you.

It may be a stale subject, to some of you, to talk about our early ancestors, but to others, it will be like the "Old, Old Story," ever new.

Our common ancestor, John Lee, came to this country, from England, in 1634. He married Mary, daughter of Stephen Hart, in 1658, and four sons and two daughters were given to them. John, Mary, Stephen, Thomas David and Tabitha.

Thomas married Mary Camp of Hartford, Conn., September 11, 1707. Nine children were given to them to bless their union. Lydia, Mary, Jared, Joseph, Mary, John, Thomas, James and Ebenezer.

Jared married Rhoda Judd of Farmington, Conn., January 5th, 1735. Six children were given them. Seth, Amos, Timothy, Noah, Rhoda and Louis.

Seth was born, March 31, 1736, at Farmington, Conn. He graduated at Yale college in 1759 and was tutor there four years. One class gave him, "as a token of their respect, a gold ring," and I am happy to say, I am the owner of that much prized ring given to my great-grandfather.

The ring has the letters, "S. L." upon it. I came into possession of this ring through Miss Sylvia Lee, aged 78 years, (who expected to be present, until last Sunday, but was detained by sickness) a granddaughter of Deacon Seth and daughter of Seth Jr. Aside from other testimonials of their love and respect he received a "morning gown" made of the finest material of the day. I am sorry to say, that this gown, to my knowledge, is not to be found, but the ring, some books, a punch bowl, also other relics of his are here on exhibition, together with some things that belonged to his wife.

He studied theology; was a licensed preacher; received a number of "calls" but never accepted a charge. Some of his sermons were burned about twenty-two years ago, when his son Timothy's house was destroyed by fire in Lewis, N. Y.

He began a diary in 1766 from which many facts are taken to aid in the revised Genealogy.

He married Sarah Ingersoll of Ridgefield, Conn., for his first wife. They had one child, Sarah Ingersoll. For his second wife, he married Joanna Johnson of Wallingford, Conn., September 9, 1771. Nine children were given to them all born at Farmington. Charles Johnson, Anna, Samuel, Noah, Abigail, Seth, Rhoda, George W. and Timothy Pitkin.

Deacon Seth kept a "tavern" and an apothecary store here, but in June 1796, he, with his family, moved to Ludlow, Vt., where he and his wife used their influence and talents to establish a moral and religious state of society.

Among the twenty-four original members of the Congregational church organized there 1806, is found the name of Joanna Lee.

Deacon Seth Lee died at Ludlow, and the following inscription is found upon the table-stone, 5½ by 3 feet square and four inches thick, which rests upon boulders, about six inches from the ground, that marks his last resting place

"Here lieth interred the body of Deacon Seth Lee, A. M., a gentleman of good understanding, solid learning and calm temper, a faithful friend, and exemplary christian, liv'd, belov'd and died lamented, on the 17th of February, 1803 in the 67th year of his age."

"THE MEMORY OF THE JUST IS BLESSED."

There has been some talk of moving the stone bearing this inscription, together with the ashes of our ancestor, to the cemetery in Lewis, N. Y., and placing them beside his wife, Joanna, whose plain marble slab bears the following:

"In memory of Joanna, wife of Deacon Seth Lee, died September 8, 1818, in her 76th year."

"All you that read with little care,
And go away, and leave me here,
Don't you forget, than you must die,
And be entombed, as well as I."

Noah, the fourth child by Joanna, married Clarissa Nicholson, of New Hartford, Conn., May 1, 1806. Their children were Clarissa, Sarah Ann, Julia Bertha, Ralza Morse, and Chauncey. Only one of this family is living, Mrs. Julia Bertha Wescott, of New Lisbon, Wisconsin, aged 81 years, and Squier Lee of Bristol, Indiana, a husband of Clarissa, in his 89th year, who is of Scotch descent, and is present.

Noah, with some of his brothers, came to the State of New York, early in the 19th century, and not far from the beautiful Lake Champlain, in the town of Lewis, Essex Co., cleared the ground and built their "log-cabins;" then returned for their wives. All the children of my father's family, were born in the log-house, but my father, who had the honor of being "the baby," in the new house which still stands in a good state of preservation, but repaired by my father in 1859, also additional repairs by my brother, who, with his wife, now occupy the old homestead.

Noah, with a number of his brothers served in the war of 1812. He was "justice of the peace" for nearly thirty years, and was a shoe-maker by trade.

My father, Chauncey, was born August 25th, 1820, married Amanda M. Wells of Oak Center, Wisconsin, January 10, 1860, both deceased. They had three children, Irvin Elmer, Clara, deceased, and myself. Thus the links in my chain are: Chauncey, Noah, Seth, Jared, Thomas, John 1st.

In the winter of 1893, we received a letter from Leonard Lee, addressed to my father, who died November 5, 1891, asking about the descendants of Deacon Seth Lee. I answered the letter, giving all the data I could get at that time. In the summer of 1895 our kinsman, and one of the moving spirits of this gathering, Leonard Lee, came up into the Adirondack Mountains of New York and visited our home. He then urged me to prepare a paper for this gathering, and suggested for my text, "The Importance of Keeping Genealogical Records."

Like many another of the weaker sex, I pleaded my inability to prepare an article suitable to present to such a learned assemblage as this, but as usual, the stronger sex prevailed, and I am here and will endeavor to fulfil my promise to the best of my ability, trusting that you, in your kindness of heart, which is ever a characteristic of our race, will not harshly criticise the numerous errors made by a "country-school ma'am."

How many of us, present, really know our fathers and our mothers? Some of you may think, "why! know my parents, certainly I do," or did, as the case may be, but I fear there are but few of us who really know them as we ought. Are we not oftener strangers, except in name? We have too little in common. Perhaps diversity of employment may be one reason, but would it not be well and serviceable to search the family tree, even to its roots and the nature of its soil, that we may ascertain what forces, spiritual, moral or physical, and what habits, pursuits and beliefs had to do with the origin, and shaping of our bodies and our minds?

Certainly a parent should familiarize himself with the personal traits and peculiarities of his child, and ought not the child to study closely the temperaments and habits of his parents? Yes! his ancestors?

For my part I do not care to undertake to prove the "Darwinian theory," or on the other hand, trace my ancestral line back to the garden of Eden, but I do think we ought to know more of our ancestors, than most of us do, for the reality of heredity is beyond question, though, perhaps, there is no other law, apparently, subject to as many exceptions and variations. Ambitions and aptitudes, talents and traits, virtues and vices often continue in the line of descent from remotest times, as well as from voice and carriage, but if we are conversant with the personal traits of our ancestors, some of us may be able to counteract and reverse the disagreeable traits of our ancestors, by the use of a strong will and the power of God. We have many such examples as Henry Wilson, once vice-president of the United States, George Stephenson and others.

What is the extent of a parent's influence? If we look into the prisons, the reformatories, or upon the gallows, we see the result of the influence of one kind, but can we as easily measure the result of a good influence? We see some of it when we look at our orphan homes, schools, colleges, and churches. Surely, something is due to a pious ancestry, for "The hand that rocks the cradle, is the hand that rules the world."

In the second beautiful letter Paul wrote to Timothy, his young co-laborer in the Lord's vineyard, we find he calls Timothy's attention to his worthy ancestors—his grand-mother Lois and his mother Eunice, and urges him to remember their religious teachings. Let us try and make religion an heirloom from generation to generation. Oh! for even one generation of holy men and women. Can you picture the result?

Good or bad influence may skip one or two generations, but it may appear in the third or fourth, just as the "Ten Commandments," speaking of the visitation of God on the families, says nothing about the second generation, but speaks only of the third and fourth, "Visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments."

Do we know the extent of the influence of our good Mrs. Pickett, in our line of John 2nd, who was ever a friend and benefactor of the

feeble and unfortunate? or the interest created in our genealogical records, by our faithful Sarah Marsh Lee? or the result of such lives as our Rev. Samuel and Dr. Thomas Goodrich Lee? Their influence will be felt in the 20th century.

While we look at our Marthas and our Marys, or at our Johns and our Lukes, let us not forget the material that characterized our "mighty men of valor,"—our Joshuas and our Davids, for we can justly be proud of our representatives on the battle fields in every war since John Lee made America his home.

We had our Captain Stephen Lee, who died in 1753, and our Colonel Isaac Lee, who died in 1802, both took a prominent part in church, local and military affairs of their day, and among the names of many others, the name of Captain Noah Lee, who was afterwards Colonel, stands out prominently in our military records, of the latter part of the 18th century. I have visited the historical grounds at Crown Point and Ticonderoga—where our Captain Noah held command—and in a feeble voice, I demanded the surrender of the now fast decaying forts. The spoils I brought away with me were some rocks from those historical places.

War is not romance, but a stern reality; and a man whose brave ancestors have carried the name he bears, far and wide and made it a synonym for courage and honor is rightly proud of his descent and gets from it a new impulse, to bear as brave a part in his own day. No man can be truly patriotic, who does not know something of the nation to which he belongs, and the country in which he lives. But how can he become acquainted with these? By studying the histories of the nation, or country, for history is but a systematic account of facts and events, and the work of noble men and women.

Some may find such a study dry and uninteresting. To those, I say, they ought to belong to some of the nations of antiquity, where it was the custom to repeat to each succeeding generation the noble deeds of their ancestors, thus making history, only a great oral tradition and turning it from the dead records, which some considered it to be, into a bright and attractive romance. I feel very much in regard to this, like the gentleman, who dined at a country hotel, when asked which he would have, "apple or mince pie," replied: "a large piece of each, please."

Some seem to forget that a family history, or genealogy, bears the same relation to the family, as a State history, does to a State.

Some may "scout" the idea of keeping a family record, or history, but those who do, we can generally place as properly belonging to a jealous and querulous race, who find no pleasure in other people, and not even in themselves.

There are multitudes, who scarcely know the meaning of the word genealogy, and the extent the work is being carried on.

One may gain a faint idea of the work by visiting the Genealogical rooms at Hartford, which contain over six hundred volumes, or the Genealogical rooms in New York, which contain over nine hundred volumes, or the New England Historic Genealogical rooms at Boston, Mass., which possess a library of 20,770 volumes and 60,000 pamphlets.

I had the pleasure of spending a little time in the rooms at Boston during the summer of '95, and it was there I first realized the extent of this important work.

A new interest has been created in this line, within the past few years, by the organization of such societies as "The Sons of the Revolution," "The Daughters of the Revolution," "Children of the American Revolution," "Colonial Dames," etc., and many who might be eligible to become members of these societies will be unable to give satisfactory evidence as to their eligibility, as no genealogical records of their ancestors have been kept, and the testimony of these worthy people cannot be obtained from the country they now inhabit.

Some know, comparatively, nothing of their ancestors, only, perhaps, a few names with birth and death found in some old family Bible. I know of an earnest worker in the Y. M. C. A., who has tried to trace his line back and find to what great family he belongs, but has been unable, because his parents, who have passed away, did not realize the importance of informing their son, as he once asked his father what he was, and his father burst into immoderate laughter, which continued for some time, then, recovering himself, replied: "Well, you know that on your mother's side you are of German descent. My father was an Englishman, my mother an Irish woman, so that you are one-half German, one-fourth English and one-fourth Irish; or, in other words, you are a mongrel," followed by another prolonged fit of laughter.

And, too, there are many, who have not considered the time, labor and money expended in the revision of our Genealogy, by our faithful workers, Wm. Wallace and Leonard Lee, and others, as many of their letters, asking for information have remained unanswered, for months. Yes! some never answered, and yet when these people come to examine our new book, they will feel almost indignant to find an incomplete record, or no record of their family there. Who will be to blame?

We are all familiar, with the reply Michael Angelo gave to a friend who called on him while finishing a statue; sometime afterward he called again; the sculptor was still at work; his friend, looking at the picture exclaimed: "You have been idle since I saw you last," "By no means," replied the sculptor; I have retouched this part and polished that; I have softened this feature and brought out this muscle; I have given more expression to this lip, and more energy to that limb,"—"Well, well," said his friend, "but they are trifles"—"It may be so," replied Angelo, "but recollect that trifles make perfection and perfection is no trifle," so with our Genealogy, they have retouched the lives of some; brought to our notice others of whom we knew little, and they have brought the records down to the present time, as complete as possible, and I think we ought to show our appreciation of their work.

We find by carefully examining our Bibles, that it was considered important to keep genealogical records; we find in the book of Genesis the records of the institution of the first family,—that of Adam and Eve,—also of their family. The books of Chronicles are largely

given up to such records.' The beautiful book of Ruth gives a connecting link in the life of Christ, and in the first chapter of Matthew we find the genealogy of Christ from Abraham to Joseph.

The Jews, in particular, regarded such records of extreme importance, and they are all placed in the Scriptures for our instruction.

Thus we have the early example of "keeping sacred the memory of our ancestors," and of keeping their genealogy for the interest of future generations.

An opinion prevails somewhat among our kindred, that there is somewhere a vast fortune that we are heirs to, if we can only trace our connection to certain families in England, but, I trust, dear friends, we all are joint heirs to "that inheritance, incorruptible, undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you," and that we may all meet on that "Beautiful shore."

The poet says:

"Two things there are we have no voice in choosing,
Our ancestors, nor our existence here;
Fate's mandates here admit of no refusing,
From prince, or beggar, sinner, saint or seer."

At the noon hour the company adjourned to another room in which had been provided a sumptuous collation by Mrs. H. L. Crandall.

It was an hour of sociability and complimentary remarks on the several papers which had been read, and the pleasant aspect of the gathering, notwithstanding the extreme heat of the day. Coming from various parts of the country but few had ever before met. Little ceremony, however, was required to form an acquaintance, and a general feeling prevailed, that they were the scattered children of one family, who had returned to rally around the old hearthstone.

At 1:30 the assemblage was again called to order, the exercises commencing by singing the following:

COME YE ALL.

(Arranged for the Occasion.)

Air—AMERICA.

1.

Farmington, 'tis of thee,
 Home of our ancestry,
 Of thee we sing;
 Land where our fathers dwelt,
 Altars at which they knelt,
 Joys which their children felt,
 In chorus ring.

2.

To ancient Farmington,
 Come every scattered son
 Of our John Lee;
 Come from the prairies wide,
 Come from the mountain side,
 And from Pacific's tide,
 In jubilee.

3.

Come from the cottage home,
 Come from the palace dome,
 And kindred meet;
 Let hillsides once again
 Echo a grand refrain
 Kindred prolong the strain,
 And songs repeat.

4.

From where the orange grows,
 From where the zephyr blows,
 Come swell the throng;
 Come from old England's shore,
 The mother land of yore,
 Come from the wide world o'er,
 A thousand strong.

5.

Canadians from the north—
 Confed'rates from the south,—
 One common band;
 Your kindred here extend
 A welcome to each friend,
 And kindly greeting send
 To every land.

6.

No strife shall here be found,
 Our hearts with joy abound,
 Good-will display,
 Remission let it be
 Souls joined in harmony,
 And spirits all set free,
 To bless the day.

7.

Countless as grains of sand,
 Bleaching on ocean strand,
 Though numbers be ;
 Let joy triumphant spring,
 Let the wide welkin ring,
 Ev'ry Lee shout and sing,
 A jubilee.

L. L.

The old familiar air was rendered with a hearty good will, following which, Miss Sarah Fiske Lee of New Hampshire, daughter of Rev. Samuel Lee, a well known clergyman and author, was escorted to the platform and introduced by Wm. Wallace Lee, in a few appropriate remarks. A historical paper, prepared with much care was read by her, which gave rise to many complimentary remarks, and awakened a deep interest in the project of a new family genealogy which it was intended soon to publish. An abstract only has been furnished by her, as follows:

"Pride of ancestry is a natural and ennobling sentiment," and we, as a people, are, in these later years, awaking to an appreciation of the grandeur and strength of the lives and characters of those who have lived here before us, and also of the debt we owe to them. "Our ancestors paid too great a price to be forgotten or ignored." Their "plain living and high thinking," and "their only luxury doing good" show their character, and it stands out in bold relief against the background of bigotry and intolerance, which attempted to follow them across the sea.

One of the favorite pursuits of the present day is that of genealogical research, and it is now most unfashionable not to know the name of one's great grandfather, at the very least, and, once in the outer circle of the whirlpool of such research, one is borne onward in ever narrowing and deepening circles toward the Maelstrom, from which there is no escape.

We have high authority for thinking that the record of our lineage is worthy our attention. The first book mentioned in the Bible is a genealogy, "The book of the generations of Adam," and six chapters of Genesis are devoted to a genealogical record. We all

<http://stores.ebay.com/Ancestry-Found>

private circulation, and it is familiar to many of you. This was a fine nucleus for a larger genealogy, and aroused interest in the work in many of our clan. Miss Sarah Marsh was urged to complete the work, for which so much material had been collected. At first, she was reluctant to do so, but the persuasion and encouragement of many friends, and, most of all, her filial love led her to undertake this work, and she compiled, with almost infinite painstaking, the book which was published in 1878. It was as complete as material which could then be obtained would permit. Many branches were omitted, others given only in part, but everything possible to accuracy and unwearyed industry was done. In accuracy, clearness and felicity of general arrangement, this book stands in the first rank among kindred works, and has been taken as a sample by later genealogical writers.

From this book was made out the list of names of Lees who were invited to the Family Reunion of 1884. That Reunion was to us an event of the greatest importance. Previously, we had almost entirely been to each other mythical beings, having indeed names and local habitations, but otherwise being only "airy nothings." Friendships were formed, and the tie of kinship there first recognized has strengthened, and the circle has widened. The result we see to-day in the meeting of the kindred, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Canada to our southern boundaries.

At the meeting in 1884, a permanent organization was effected, and William Wallace Lee was chosen Secretary. He at once began a search for those missing branches of our family tree, and his perseverance has been rewarded by the discovery of, not only families, but tribes of our Lees, who have been dispersed throughout the land. Years were spent in this labor and a mountain of names and dates accumulated. Mr. Lee, busied day by day in his chosen calling, could not arrange these letters and he called for help. Leonard Lee of Kenosha, Wis., was the first to answer the call. He found among these letters so much that was valuable in the way of records that, with Wallace, he decided that it was desirable to put it in print, that it might be saved for those to whom in the future it would be of priceless value. Not content with this, Mr. Leonard Lee took many journeys, on genealogical errands bent, visited families in their homes, copied records from family Bibles,—the truest records in the world, except possibly those found in cemeteries—collected data and traditions from aged persons, searched newspaper files of the last century, and in a different way, did quite as much work as had been done, in his way by Wallace Lee.

On reaching Meriden, Conn., Leonard Lee patiently reduced the chaotic mass of records and papers to a degree of order, and papers relating to the different branches were classified. At this stage of affairs, Miss Sarah Fiske, daughter of Rev. Samuel Lee, consented to take charge of the John branch, and later of the Stephen branch, also, in the latter, receiving most efficient aid from Mrs. Jeannette Lee Coe of Winsted, Conn. Letters of inquiry beyond computation have been written by these compilers. Names and dates have been

sought by repeated questionings and sometimes found, then arranged, doubted, contradicted and re-arranged, only finally to be "sifted as wheat." Records have been searched, cemeteries visited, contemporary genealogies consulted, and now the book is nearly written and everything done that has come within the power or scope of the workers.

Would you like to know something of the work and what it would tell you? You will find it in the work about to be published.

As the remainder of this article consisted only of an outline of the Lee Genealogy, not then published, it is not given here.

It seemed becoming that some proper recognition should be observed of the kindred who were with us in 1884, and had since passed away. The President called upon Wm. Wallace Lee, who had kept a record of deaths, as far as he had been able to obtain them. Few of those present were aware of the mortality which had occurred among those who were with us in 1884, and his remarks were listened to with profound interest.

MORTUARY.

The grand procession that is moving onward to the unseen shore, is composed of the young, as well as the old, the robust as well as the feeble. It is doubtful if there was ever assembled a group of one hundred, composed of the same individuals, on two separate occasions. The prediction which was made at the close of our first gathering (found on page 70 of the book published in 1885) has been more than verified.

Of those who were present at our first meeting, I have a list of thirty who have died, and very likely the number would exceed that if I had full returns from all the families that were represented there. Of those from whom responses were received, with words of encouragement, and yet, from various causes were unable to attend, I have a list of thirty-four that have died, and I feel quite certain that the number would exceed that, if I had the names of all. In only a small number of cases has any one taken pains to inform me of any deaths among the kindred, so that I have been compelled to obtain what I have in a fragmentary way. All the information that I have gathered in this line will appear in the new edition of our family history when published. I feel it is meet and proper to mention the names of our officers, who have by words of encouragement and material assistance, helped to promote the work in which we have been engaged.

The death of Gad Henry Lee, the week following our meeting, was a shock to us all, soon followed by the death of Rev. A.

L. Loveland of Granby. Worthy tributes were furnished, which can be found in the book, pages 84, 85 and 86. I cannot give them in chronological order, but they include Sarah Marsh Lee of Norwich, Ct., Dr. Mary Victoria Lee of Oswego, N. Y., Willard O. Lee of Springfield, Mass., William Wallace Lee of Bristol, Ind. He removed to Snohomish, Wash., and died there. At the time of our meeting it was thought he was one of our family, but subsequent information did not confirm the opinion. Augustin N. Lee, Chicago; Francis Lee, Clinton, Iowa; Richard Henry Lee of Spring Hill, Kas., who enjoyed our meeting so much; Henry V. B. Lee, Long Island City, L. I.; Nathaniel Smith Lee, Oneida, N. Y., both of them soldiers; John R. Lee, Buffalo, N. Y., who took a very deep interest in family matters; Andrew Frink Lee, Buffalo. All who were at our first meeting remember his genial, hearty way. Thomas Lee, Westmoreland, N. Y., who rendered valuable information; Luther Clark Lee, Aurora, captain in an Illinois regiment, and Benjamin F. Lee, Oakland, Cal., brother of Richard Henry, Kansas. With very few exceptions, all of those here named were ready and willing to assist in all that I had attempted to do to promote the objects of our association.

On April 9, 1895, our President, William Henry Lee, died at his home (for later years) in Hartford. Perhaps it is because as a principal officer of our association, I was brought more closely in contact with him, that I have felt the loss so keenly, but his death is a loss which can but be severely felt by us all. I say frankly to you that, had it not been for his kind words of cheer and encouragement, coupled with material assistance, always so generously rendered, I should have been strongly tempted many times to lay aside the work I had undertaken and abandon it forever. But I came to feel that I had his confidence, and the more I knew him the more I admired him. I was many times invited to his home and shared his hospitality on several occasions. To him we are all indebted for the handsome stone that marks the burial place of our common ancestor, and also for the deep interest which he took in all pertaining to our common family history.

Were he living, I would not be permitted to say these words of eulogy. His modesty was so marked a trait of his character, he would not have allowed it. To whom shall we look to fill his place? I fear we shall find it a very difficult matter to carry on the work which he was so anxious to see completed, *i. e.*, a more full and complete record of our common family. I earnestly hope some way can be devised. His worth as a man, as a citizen, loyal to his church and his convictions, we all know, and we may name our kinsman with a feeling of pride and tenderness combined.

This list which I have read, impresses us all with the fact that our ranks are being continually broken, and is even more forcibly brought to our attention when I say of all the gray-haired men who sat upon the platform at our first meeting, Deacon William Lee, of Marysville, O., alone survives. Looking out toward that unknown land to which

we are all hastening with the faith our fathers held, we can say "it is well," for I have no doubt that all of us, no matter what our faith, creed or sect, hope for something brighter and better beyond, but,

"We may not know its soft and balmy air,
How bright and fair its flowers.
We may not hear the songs that echo there,
Through those celestial bowers."

The mortuary exercises concluded by singing an appropriate selection, commencing: "Thou art gone to the grave, but we will not deplore thee," after which the assemblage adjourned to visit the old church and cemetery.

The old church, built in 1771, on the site of the edifice in which our ancestors worshipped, and in which many of the earlier generations were christened, was an object of great interest. Its quaint furnishings, though much modernized, and its broad galleries, still showed the antique style, and were particularly novel to those from the Western States. Seth Lee was for many years, deacon of this church, and in it his children were all baptized.

The ancient cemetery in which our ancestor, John Lee was buried in 1690—a few minutes walk south of the church, was next visited. On the height of ground the modern monument of John Lee—erected by the munificence of William H. Lee in 1876, is a conspicuous object. Standing by its side, in a substantial base, is the rude headstone of two hundred years ago. It was looked upon with veneration, and by most of those present, for the first time. A few yards distant, and apparently wrought by the same hand, may be seen the headstone of Stephen Hart, Jr.,—brother of Mary Hart Lee—who died in 1689.

When the company had assembled about the monument, the President, Rev. F. T. Lee, made a few remarks, speaking substantially as follows:

Few words are necessary at a time like this. The occasion itself speaks far more impressively than human language could do, and it is for us, simply to interpret and to apply its lessons. To me the hour seems sacred. Many and interesting are the associations which

cluster about the name of our common ancestor. The details of his life which have come down to us are exceedingly meager, and imagination naturally seeks to supply what history fails to give. Since my attention has been turned to the subject of our ancestry, I have often wondered in regard to the early home and surroundings of the boy who came to this new and wilderness land over 260 years ago—the motives which prompted him, the object which he hoped to achieve. I have thought of the “breaking of the home-ties,” which proved to be final so far as we know, there being nothing to show that he ever re-visited his native land, or that his parents came later to this country. I have followed him in imagination as he made the long and tedious voyage, devoid of the comforts of modern ocean travel; have tried to put myself in his place, and to imagine the sense of strangeness with which he must have regarded everything in the new land; the lonely hours he must have spent; the homesickness, perhaps, which he may have experienced; for a boy of only fourteen years must frequently have thoughts of the home and the parents he had left, and, however considerate his guardians may have been, must often have longed for the mother’s kindly sympathy and tender love.

I wonder, too, how deeply, as he grew to maturer years, he entered into the real spirit of the movement of his time, which prompted so many to come to this land, sacrificing much, enduring hardships, frequently suffering great loss. I wonder, also, if his thought was ever turned reflectively to the future,—of the nation then in the earliest beginnings; of its institutions then in their incipency; of his own posterity, destined to be so numerous and influential. Little, doubtless, did he dream of an occasion like this, generations later, when his descendants from all over this broad land, should come together to do honor to his memory. Most likely his thoughts were occupied chiefly, as ours are to-day, with the present, little realizing the great things which the future had in store for this country. If he did, if any of us indeed were to dwell upon what the years may bring, we should all, I apprehend, feel constrained to do as the lady who always, in her prayers, remembered, not only her children then living, but all her posterity as well.

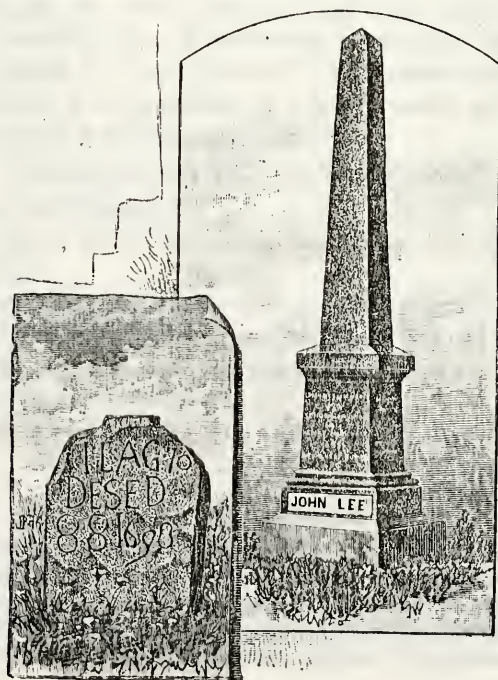
I am impressed with one thought in particular as I stand here beside the grave of our ancestor, this afternoon. It is the significance, the worth, the dignity of the individual. John Lee, as a boy in the immigrating company, was little noticed or thought of, probably, save as simply a boy among other boys, and he himself, I presume, had no unusual consciousness of importance. And yet, see what results have flowed from his coming—the long line of descendants, the relations they have sustained to the development of this State and other States, the record they have made, of which we have been hearing to-day. He was a link in a chain, the beginning of a new line of succession, as it were. Great interests for the years to come centered in him.

So with us all, my friends, each one is a link. Important interests center in us for the future, if not for to-day. What we need is to realize this more than we sometimes do, and realizing it, to recognize

that life is real and earnest, seek to act well our part in the living present, that those of the years to come, our descendants, may take pride in recalling us—rejoice to do us honor, and gather inspiration from our example and spirit, to greater fidelity and to nobler lives for themselves.

An appropriate selection was sung at the close, but the overpowering heat of the sun shortened the time which would have been most interestingly spent among the headstones of more than two centuries ago.

The day was now far spent, and those who had come by carriages returned to their home, while others enjoyed a refreshing ride by trolley, to Hartford, and spent another pleasant evening in the hotel parlors. Thus passed the first day.



“THE JOHN LEE MONUMENT” FARMINGTON, CONN.

SECOND DAY.—AUGUST 13.

Called to order at 10 o'clock and meeting opened by prayer by Prof. H. C. King, and singing of Coronation.

All seemed refreshed by a cooler breeze, and several new arrivals were noted.

A Roll of Honor was now read, comprising a list of soldiers furnished by the family, in the various wars of the country, commencing with Stephen Hart who, accompanied Captain John Mason in the Pequot war of 1637. Names were given of seventeen who served in the French war, 49 in the Revolutionary war, 19 in the War of 1812-15, two Canadians in the British army, and 94 in the War of 1861-65, and five Confederates. The list had been compiled by Leonard Lee, as the result of much research through the State archives, and from other sources of information, and still the roll is deemed incomplete, especially of those who served in the Civil war. The paper was read by William Wallace Lee, preceded by a few remarks, and followed by the singing of a selection, commencing,

“Though far and wide our heroes sleep,”

to the tune of Old Hundred.

A verbal report from the committee on re-organization was next listened to.

It was recommended that the officers of the “Lee Association” consist of five vice-presidents, one of whom should be chosen as president, besides one secretary and treasurer and one assistant secretary and treasurer.

The report was adopted, and choice made of the following officers :

VICE PRESIDENTS.

MISS SARAH F. LEE, of New Ipswich, N. H., of the “John” branch.

JAMES T. LEE, of New Britain, Conn., of the “Stephen” branch.

LEONARD LEE, of Kenosha, Wis., of the “Thomas” branch.

GEORGE H. LEE, of Bridgeport, Conn., of the “David” branch.

EDWIN LEE HEATH, of Brantford, Ont., of the “Canadians.”

SECRETARY AND TREASURER.

WILLIAM WALLACE LEE, Meriden, Conn.

LEONARD LEE, Kenosha, Wis., Assistant.

JAMES T. LEE of New Britain, was chosen President, and accepted the office in a few becoming remarks.

A publishing committee was also appointed consisting of William Wallace Lee, Miss Sarah F. Lee and Leonard Lee, to which was added the President, James T. Lee.

A consideration of the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer, which were read in the morning, came next in order.

The subject of providing funds to defray the expense of publishing a new genealogy which was nearly ready for the press, was freely discussed. It was stated that it would be unbecoming to the Lee family to contract a debt for the purpose—that the compilers had already expended several hundred dollars on their own account, and that not less than \$500 in hand, would warrant them to take any preliminary steps in that direction. This amount, with advance subscriptions for the work in prospect, would enable them to proceed.

The discussion was abruptly terminated by Mr. H. H. Osgood of Norwich, Conn., who generously pledged \$100, which was received with applause. (Mr. Osgood is not of the Lee blood, but from childhood has been associated with the Lees, and made choice of a Lee girl for a wife.)

Mrs. Osgood promptly supplemented her husband's generous donation by the addition of \$25 from her own resources; Wilbur E. Lee of Cambridge, Mass., added \$25; Mrs. William H. Lee, Hartford, \$50; and subsequently D. Bradley Lee of St. Louis, sent in his check for \$75. Several subscriptions in advance were received, with the cash or pledged for 30 days—quite a number being for two copies or more; \$350 being paid or pledged within a few minutes. This business was disposed of in less time than is required to write it, and farther business left in the hands of a committee.

Letters received from the kindred in various parts of the country were read, regretting their inability to be present, but expressing their sympathy in the re-union,

Then followed an address by Professor H. C. King of Oberlin College. Professor King is a graduate of Yale and is widely known. His address was a scholarly effort, and delivered without notes, in a style which commanded attention. His subject was,

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE STUDY OF FAMILY HISTORY.

You will see from the subject assigned me by the committee, that it falls to me really to tell you what you are here for. What reasons are there for the importance of the study of family history? Certain semi-serious considerations present themselves at once. In the first

place, the student of family history is quite certain to gain a new sense of the meaning of genealogy. The papers already heard show how warm is the appreciation of the ardent genealogist for portions of the Bible not counted the juiciest. Even Genesis i and x, and 1st. Chronicles i to ix stir his enthusiasm. He is prepared to understand how much lies behind the mere record of names. Nor is our ardent genealogist far wrong. The books of Chronicles were meant to rouse the generation to whom they were addressed to renewed devotion to to the nation and its mission; and the recounting of the more notable of the names in each tribe was a most potent appeal. These names were a direct incitement to be worthy of their ancestors and to be true to their inheritance.

And then the study of your genealogy ministers to a proper self-esteem. When I was studying in Harvard University, there was a student known as Thomas Jefferson Coolidge, a direct descendant of Thomas Jefferson. I noticed that his name always appeared in full, and I suppose it would have been a near approach to deadly insult to refer to him at any time as plain "T. J. Coolidge." In my wanderings around Boston, I used to see on the door-plate of a physician, "Dr. Miles Standish." The wildest effort of my imagination has not enabled me to picture the doctor signing even the most hurried prescription simply "M. Standish." I imagine the past was an absolutely necessary part of self, of each of these men. They were more to themselves because of it. Nor is this all delusion. It is worth something to get your bearings in this old world of ours: to find out your definite connections in this universe of relations. You are not so mere an atom. One must be sorry for the man without a grandfather.

And it may well be that the study of family history has a moral value. Family pride may prove a real moral restraint. If the State counts the simply married man a distinctly safer citizen, and reckons every new tie a fresh pledge of good conduct, what shall be said of the assured moral steadiness of the man with his genealogy of eight generations and a family history of five hundred pages?

And if I am reminded here of Jeremy Taylor's humbling remark, that family pride is only being proud that your ancestors were better than you are, I have to reply that just here lies the solace for us Lees (and many another family besides), that we have not ancestors of exceptional distinction. Evidently they were true to their Connecticut tradition and training, and believed in local independence and individuality, and meant to give us, their descendants, a chance. Fortunately, therefore, we are without the one distinguished ancestor who would have doomed us all to being merely his distant imitators. We are rescued from the oblivion of Juniors, Seconds, Thirds, and allowed to be ourselves. And this leads me to add that I am thankful for another feature of the Lee genealogy: the originality of our beginnings in this country. The Lees emigrated from England as a boy. We thus escaped forever the "three brothers" who came over in the same boat. That fourteen year old boy, I take it, must have had sturdiness and independence. And this origin

may have something to do with the reputed liveliness and originality of the Lees. This boy origin seems to me also, to come the nearest possible to solving the problem of how to get a simon-pure American ancestry, which should not be Indian. John Lee ought to have been a particularly good Democrat. At his age he must have had few monarchial prejudices to adjure; and from his first day's landing on these shores, he belonged to the community which was the very cradle of American Democracy. That origin seems to me, to be sufficiently American.

To speak a little more seriously of my subject, I mention as a further reason for the importance of the study of family history, the widening sense of kinship which is certain to result. The first motive to genealogical study seems often to be rather exclusive,—perhaps a desire to join the Sons of the Revolution. But in the end I believe its tendency to be altruistic. We are not merely “barking back to a physical fact,” but rather only using our common origin as an excuse for further mental acquaintance, based on a family psychological resemblance. A genealogical tree with its endless ramifications, is a kind of graphic illustration of the kinship of the race. Our hearts warm, as we study it, toward many who had seemed wholly strange. Our connections with the mother countries become real. As individuals and as patriots we are less narrow and selfish than we were.

Recognition of the importance of the study of family history, moreover, is quite in harmony with the modern method of beginning from the home in the teaching of history, and with the modern emphasis on biography. To feel a personal connection with even the merest bit of history adds reality to all history. No Lee, I am sure, can have followed, in imagination, John Lee in his connection with Thomas Hooker's Company, and later under the long ministry of Hooker's son at Farmington, and not found all the beginnings of American History more alive for him. The study of family history has thus one of the chief gains of travel.

And simply for the better understanding of ourselves, the study of family history is important. Many a puzzle in one's psychological make-up would be far easier of solution if we knew our ancestors better. It is of value to know the family characteristics, in their strength and their weakness. Nor is this a consideration of merely curious or prudential value. Every motive of love and respect urges that one know the entire lives of at least his father and mother well. I wish I might persuade every person to whom is still granted the presence of father or mother, to secure from them carefully written accounts of their lives. Those accounts would be priceless documents, and they would grow in preciousness with one's years.

A still deeper, and for me the chief reason, for the cultivation of family history lies in a national characteristic. We Americans need to cultivate the *historical sense*, personally, practically. No thoughtful American living for even a brief time among any European people can fail to be impressed, as by a novel sensation, with the evidence, everywhere present, of a sense of constant connection with the past. The German's “*Es ist immer so*” seems the one reason for every ques-

tioned institution. A nation has always, Lotze says, two duties, in seeming opposition: on the one hand, the duty of keeping faith with the past, of preserving some living community with those gone, the conservative tendency, the recognition of historical right; on the other hand, the duty of fidelity to the interests of the present, of revolt against the "dead hand:" the radical tendency, the recognition of abstract right. One need hardly go further than the opening sentences of the Declaration of Independence to see that the latter tendency is much stronger in Americans. Our history and our circumstances have increased this tendency. The so-called practical American mind tends in fact in these relations to become very theoretical. We are profoundly and unduly influenced by theories, by abstract considerations, and greatly lack what older countries have—the historical brake. And yet so called abstract justice may often be the rankest injustice; for it is likely to be mere arbitrary classing, with no recognition of individual differences, and doing away with all distinctions.

Its mood, as Professor James reminds us, is essentially that of the Shah of Persia, who declined when in England to take any interest in the Derby; for he said it was already known to him that one horse could run faster than another. Which horse was the faster was no matter. And yet it is the individual who is the reality, and not the class. The real is concrete always. One must, therefore, freely grant Professor James' contention that "the obstinate insisting that tweedle-dum is not tweedle-dee is the bone and marrow of life." So far, then, as the radical and abstract tendency is dominant in us, we need to cultivate the historical sense. We need to recognize that our roots are in the past, and to keep our faith with the past. Our country is too new, and our history too short to make very real any sense of obligation to the generations gone. There is little to remind us of them. We are always ready to begin anew. Few of us live even in the same town in which our fathers lived. Not a Lee, for example, remains here in Farmington, in this original home of our ancestors; and other families with a record as old, are similarly scattered. Almost the only ancient thing many of us have is our ancestry. It becomes us to make the most of that.

Closely connected with this need of the sense of community with the past is the need of the spiritual possession of our surroundings. Both enlarge self. The self needs to express itself in its surroundings. There is great loss here for our wandering population. Our whole people are too much like city renters, who have no real home, and have never put an atom of themselves into their places of abode. The mere conveniences of a flat can never make a home. This tramp life makes us vastly poorer, and lessens greatly the sense of responsibility, civic and moral. The mere renter, or the frequent mover, has not expressed himself in anything that abides. Therefore all ties set more lightly on him. The American, to be sure, often has a rarely high spiritual appreciation of the home; but he is greatly hampered by his surroundings in this regard. The literal possession of the paternal homestead is not possible to many of us; the spiritual posses-

sion of the family kinship is ; and this may do much to make up for that.

And, after all, the only really sacred thing is a person. The Chinese reverence for ancestors has a much better philosophic basis than the more common reverence for places. The sacredness of all places and things is borrowed from persons. We do well to recall in filial affection the names and lives of those who have gone before us, from whom we have come. Every name in the most skeleton like genealogy still stands for a life history; and a little loving imagination re-clothes the barren name with the beauty and fragrance of a life passionately loved, - loved as we love life. They, too, lived and loved, hoped and aspired ; they, too were disappointed and defeated, and had their moments of achievement and conquest. And from the study of their lives we turn with chastened ambition and a more tender sympathy, to take up our allotted task, with its inherited limitations, glad of our living connection with the lives of years gone by.

And we may illustrate these general considerations from our own historical connections. Is it of no value to remind ourselves that we belong to the great Puritan stock of whom John Fiske can write : "Had it not been for the Puritans political liberty would probably have disappeared from the world? So that "the moment of Cromwell's triumph was the most critical moment in history." Is it of no value to know that we belong to the great Puritan exodus to America, which Fiske thinks gave the final assurance that the English idea of nation making was to prevail over the Roman idea? so that the Puritan migration "marks most decisively the dawning of a new era," and the end of the Roman Empire. For this exodus was directly connected with the English struggle for liberty. In the twenty years between 1620 and 1640, 26,000 came to New England; but of that number scarcely 500 before 1629. The rest came between 1629 and 1640, - exactly the period when Charles the First was trying to rule England without a Parliament. Does it mean nothing to us that we belong to the Connecticut Secession; to the great Democratic towns of Dorchester, Newtown, and Watertown, with their dignified protest for the independence of the town, and with their unique "movements of organic communities?" Does it mean nothing that we belong to Connecticut, which Goldwin Smith rightly calls "the cradle of American Democracy;" to the State upon which Johnston tells us lay "for a time almost the entire burden of the Revolution;" the State that received and deserved the warmest praise given by Washington in that struggle, to any State; the State whose clear plan and one hundred and fifty years of experience of genuine Democracy made clearly dominant in the critical constitutional convention of the Union? Does it mean nothing that on both paternal and maternal sides, we belong to the Company of Thomas Hooker, the father of American Democracy, whose hand is clearly to be seen in the original Connecticut Constitution, according to John Fiske, "the first written constitution known to history that created a government;" a Constitution that applied politically the ecclesiastical principle of the Pilgrims before they themselves had done it?

On the coat of arms of the Lees—to which I know not if they have any valid title—appears the head of a reined-up horse. Whether there by right or not, it typifies not illy the reputed Lee characteristics,—vigorous, spirited, and with something more than a trace of wilfulness, yet commonly held in hand. For if we care to claim the device at all, the reining must come from within, not from without. We must not be wholly unworthy of Plato's noble figure of the soul as charioteer, having its steeds in hand. Certainly we must not fall below even pleasure-loving Aristippus: "I hold, I am not held."—I master my pleasures; my pleasures do not master me. If we are true to our inheritance, with breadth of view *and* self-control, in some high sense, we must be able to say with one of the world's greatest fighters, "All things are lawful, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

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Following this address, Rev. Dr. Bacchus of Plainville, Conn., offered a few remarks on "Widening of Kinship."

The President then called on Wm. Wallace Lee to take the chair, who then introduced the reverend gentleman, as not only a genuine Lee, but, through his mother, a lineal descendant of William Westwood, the guardian of John Lee, when, as a strippling, he immigrated to the American shores. He was the only descendant of Westwood, known to be present. He then proceeded to deliver an address on "Characteristic Traits of the Lee Family," which as he stated in preliminary remarks, had cost him a vast amount of labor, from the fact that he had known few Lees outside of the paternal home circle, and therefore knew little of their characteristics, and had taken little interest in family history. Being strongly urged, however, he reluctantly attempted the task, and found that the more he investigated the subject, the more he became interested, and presumed the experience of others would be the same, by a similar investigation.

CHARACTERISTIC TRAITS OF THE LEE FAMILY.

Mr. President, Kindred, and Friends :—

The responsibility is laid upon me of introducing you to your ancestors. I am to indicate some of their characteristic traits, that you may know the sort of people with whom your names and history have been irrevocably linked, and thus be enabled intelligently to determine whether you care to continue the relationship for the future; especially that you may the better understand yourselves, the inherited tendencies of your own nature, and the more fully come into posses-

NOTES

1. The author is indebted to the following persons for their assistance in the preparation of this paper: Mr. J. H. ...

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sion of the heritage which they, by their spirit and example, have left for their successors.

The task imposed has not been an easy one. From limited personal acquaintance among the generations preceeding, it has involved almost endless investigation, the ransacking of old and musty records, delving into the mazes of genealogical research, and particularly a study of the living, in whom, according to the well known laws of heredity, the traits of those of other days are wont to reappear. For we are not simply ourselves, we are also the products of the years gone by; and just as the various strata in geology have their significance to the student, so hereditary traits, as they appear in the living, have their story to tell of those who have gone before. With all its difficulties, however, the study has been interesting, even fascinating. It has brought to me a new sense of how varied the forces from the generations past which are at work in the present. I have also been led almost to stand in awe of myself, as I have realized that all these ancestors are, in a sense, looking down upon me, are living in me, are speaking through me, and that their influence is going on increasingly beyond me. And when I reflect upon all that such a theme involves, its practical significance to those in whose veins there flows the blood of a common ancestry, and the many thoughts which press for utterance at such a time, I am constrained to sympathize with a certain Congressman, who, when making a plea for the location of the World's Fair at Chicago, said: "When I think of the greatness of the city and the limited time I have in which to speak of it, I feel like the boy who was set down in the midst of a sugar barrel and exclaimed: 'O for time, and a thousand tongues to do this thing justice.'"

PRELIMINARY.

Before coming to the subject proper, a few preliminary observations may help to throw light upon it.

The movement of emigration to New England, which was begun by the Pilgrim Fathers from religious considerations in 1620, was continued from similar motives by the Puritans during the years succeeding. The former settled at Plymouth, the latter at Boston and vicinity; many, however, pushing westward and establishing themselves in the wilderness of Connecticut. They were from a great and growing party in Old England, of all classes, men of intelligence, piety and culture, who were tired of religious intolerance and oppression, and came to this soil, not as needy adventurers, but seeking religious liberty, and for the sake of institutions which they wished to perpetuate, and which were rendered doubly dear by sufferings undergone in their behalf. To this end, they were willing, if necessary, to go to distant regions and to inhospitable shores. The Pilgrims were more radical and pronounced in their religious and political opinions, but the Puritans were not far behind them, especially after they had breathed the free air of the new world for a season, and together they laid the foundations of New England, giving to her and to the nation their noblest and best institutions.

JOHN LEE.

It was in the midst of such environments as these, such opinions, such influences in general, that our common ancestor was reared. Born in the year of the Pilgrim exodus, in Colchester, Essex county, England—a place which had long been noted as a hot-bed of the new ideas and spirit—John Lee, a boy of fourteen years, came to America, under the care of William Westwood, a man of prominence and member of the first “General Court,” landing at Boston in 1634.

The following year, he settled in Connecticut, making Hartford, then in its beginnings, his home until 1641. He then joined a second company, which settled in Farmington, nine miles distant, a first company having located there the year before. His name appears among those of the first proprietors of the town. Here, in this frontier settlement, he grew to manhood; was married at the age of thirty-eight to Mary, daughter of Stephen Hart, leader of the colony; reared his family of six children; passed through all the vicissitudes of those early and trying years; died at length in 1690, at the age of seventy, and was buried in the old Farmington cemetery, where, twenty years since, a handsome monument was erected to his memory, replacing the original stone, with its rudely chiseled inscription, and which now finds a place beside it.

THE EARLY TIMES.

We may imagine something of the simple life and industries of those sturdy pioneers. Their homes were near together in Farmington. Settlements in the region were few, and communication between them was rare. Wild beasts prowled in the forests adjacent, while the country about was occupied by various tribes of roving Indians, their huts dotting the land, and their canoes frequently appearing upon the rivers. The relations of the Indians to the whites were usually amicable, although occasionally they raided the settlements, murdering the people and plundering their homes. There was thus constant necessity of being upon guard against surprises, and houses were often fortified and stores of ammunition were provided. Even as late as 1691, a year after John Lee's death, it is upon record that a committee was chosen to designate certain houses for this purpose.

On the Sabbath day, the great central day of the week, the inhabitants went armed, to the church which had early been erected upon the same, or nearly the same, site as the present one, gathering from several miles around, the women carrying their infants, which they dared not leave behind, and a guard being stationed at the door while the services were in progress. A drum served as a bell to summon the people together. This drum, by the way, was still preserved in 1840, and is referred to in the address which was delivered at that time—by Noah Porter, Jr., afterwards President of Yale College—in celebrating the 200th anniversary of the settlement of the town.

Next to the church, in the estimation of the fathers, ranked the school, which was also provided at an early day. Reverence for religion and education, together with zeal in their promotion, has

ever been a marked characteristic of the posterity of these hardy pioneers. Town meetings, too, were held,—another New England institution which has exerted a moulding influence upon the nation. Here public matters were freely discussed, and important questions were settled by the votes of the people.

Thus we gain a glimpse into the life and times of that community in the wilderness, among whom our ancestor lived, and in whose activities he participated. There is every reason to believe that he was an intelligent, substantial, upright citizen, interested in whatever pertained to the public welfare, respected by his neighbors, and imbued with the lofty sentiments which were characteristic of those early and sturdy times in which his wife heartily shared, and in which their children were trained.

HIS DESCENDANTS.

In the years succeeding, as colonies multiplied, those bearing the common name were found in the various settlements of the State. Later still, they scattered more widely, until now they are to be found in almost every commonwealth of this great land and in the provinces to the north of us. How has it been with these descendants, what sort of people have they been through the generations? This is the question which concerns us at this time. What part have they borne in the unfolding life of the nation, as its laws have been framed, as States have been carved out of our wide domain, as the institutions of education and religion have been planted, as movements of thought and of progress in all lines have developed, as wars have arisen to secure or to preserve our independence, or to maintain the nation's integrity and honor? Have they been worthy descendants of those whose names they have borne, or have the ancestral spirit and the ancestral traits been gradually fading out? What kind of fruitage has our family tree, with its wide-spreading branches in this land, been bearing through the years—a tree whose roots reach far back into English history, even, to the Normans under William the Conqueror, with various ranks and titles appended from that time down?

These inquiries come close home to us all, and what more fitting time in which to consider them,—for our instruction, our inspiration, for our warning, perhaps,—then when we have assembled about the family hearthstone from all over the continent, to gather up the scattered threads of our history, to do honor to the memory of those who have gone before us, and to strew flowers of tender and grateful recognition upon the grave of him whose name we revere as the common father of us all.

OCCUPATIONS AND TRAITS.

First, let us inquire into their occupations and the qualities they have manifested in connection with them.

Among the earlier generations agricultural pursuits predominated. At first and for a long time this was the common occupation of the

pioneers. There was little else, in fact, to be done for a livelihood. The migratory spirit among them was not marked, at least for several generations no one moved for permanent abode—so the records state—more than twelve miles from the ancestral home. As years advanced and the needs of the growing population developed, trade and business of various kinds and manufactures were taken up, until at the present time it is difficult to name an industry or profession in which some of them are not engaged. There are builders and bankers, merchants and mechanics, manufacturers of all sorts, wholesalers and retailers, farmers, lumbermen, weavers, blacksmiths and druggists, teachers, physicians, surgeons, clergymen, professors, lawyers, legislators, and so on almost *ad infinitum*. In the professions, physicians have been most numerous, then clergymen, professors, teachers, with members of the bar the fewest in number of them all. Why this latter should be the case when so many of the more ambitious youth seem to gravitate in that direction, is not altogether clear.

In all these callings, many have risen to positions of usefulness and honor, a few perhaps to pre-eminence. Among the physicians, the following are some of the conspicuous names. Representative men of other callings will be referred to later.

Dr. Ebenezer Lee of Farmington (b. 1727) was in his day, a physician of large and successful practice. After the close of the Revolutionary war, he and his family crossed over into Canada; undergoing many severe hardships incident to settling in a new country. It is noteworthy how many of his descendants have adopted the same profession and have been respected far and wide.

Then there was Dr. Samuel Lee of Windham, (b. 1743,) a man of attractive social qualities, skillful in his profession, and of very extensive practice. He held a position as surgeon in the Revolutionary army. One or two items of interest in regard to him will bear reproducing. He was the originator of the "Genuine Lee's Windham Bilious Pills and Family Physic," a remedy which is still somewhat in use for bilious affections.

This was the first medicine of the kind patented in this country. The patent was secured by his son, Dr. Samuel Lee, Jr., and was signed "G. Washington." Physically he was possessed of great strength and agility. Among other feats it is related that he would "hop forty feet at three bounds, and throw a stone a good distance with the precision of the ancient slingers."

Another was Dr. Thomas Lee, born in New Britain in 1808. He was a man of unusual promise, but died at the early age of twenty-eight. He was remarkably successful in the treatment of mental disorders. In other respects he is spoken of as an ideal man, social, cultured, and devoutly religious.

Dr. Charles Alfred Lee (born in Salisbury, Conn., in 1801, died at Peekskill, N. Y., 1872) became widely known as a teacher and writer. He held professorships at different times in a number of leading medical institutions, and was the author and editor of several important medical works. His son, Dr. Charles Alfred Lee, Jr., (b. 1829) served as a surgeon, mostly in hospital service, owing to ill health, in

the Civil War. Afterward he moved to California, where he died at Oakland in 1888, aged 59. He was never married.

Another, whose name should not be omitted is Dr. Mary Victoria Lee, who was a graduate of Michigan University. After practicing for awhile, she taught for a number of years in various institutions, but latterly in the State Normal School at Oswego, N. Y., where she died a few years since. She was highly respected and beloved, and is spoken of as having been mentally very bright.

Among the Canadian Lees, Dr. William Hooker Lee and Dr. Hiram Davis Lee might be mentioned, and indeed many others.

Among the members of the bar were Elisha Lee and Thomas Allen of the last century, William P. Curtiss of Fulton, N. Y., of more recent years, to say nothing of others of the present day.

But in the main the Lee descendants have devoted themselves to business pursuits, adapting themselves readily to any branch which they have taken up. Whether or not as manufacturers they ever utilized wood in the production of such commodities as nutmegs, hams, pumpkin seeds, and even of oats by sharpening the other end of shoe pegs which had accumulated upon their hands,—a phase of manufacturing industry which has been popularly attributed to Connecticut—I have been unable to determine from the records.

With slight exceptions, they have been noted for their industrious habits, for their careful attention to details, for their frugality, for their patient perseverance, and for their general efficiency. With such characteristics they have naturally achieved a fair measure of success. While few, perhaps, have attained to such wealth as to be classed among the millionaires, a goodly number have accumulated a liberal competency, most have been "above board," while but few could be called "poor relations." Only a very limited number have been known to seek a living by mere speculation or in any other discreditable way. Such a thing as dishonesty or trickery has been exceedingly rare. They have, as an almost universal rule, been straightforward, honest, and honorable in their dealings. Among business men the name of Wm. H. Lee should be mentioned as a prominent and successful dry goods merchant, for forty years in New York city. He was present at the Re-union in 1884, and presented a valuable paper upon "Our English Origin." It was through his generosity that the fine monument to John Lee was erected in the Farmington cemetery. He died last year at about 77 years of age.

But perhaps the most notable trait of all, and which has been characteristic of the great majority of the Lees, has been their indomitable energy, their push and perseverance, their ability to bring things to pass in spite of obstructing difficulties. This trait might be illustrated almost indefinitely. Time will admit of only one instance.

It is related of a well-known druggist of our name, whose home was on the western bank of the "Father of Waters," and who was widely respected and loved for his genuine worth of character, that, being always in a hurry, as the Lees generally seem to be, whenever he started down street to go to his store, all that could be seen of him

was his coat-tails flying around the corner in a cloud of dust! In this respect he might be said to be a typical Lee.

II. CIVIL RELATIONS, EDUCATION, PATRIOTISM.

Notice next the Lee ancestry in respect to citizenship and its various relations. In general they have been intelligent, law-abiding, and ready always to bear their portion of the burdens of society, in which they have usually occupied what might be termed the upper middle stations, with exceptions both up and down. Though characteristically unobtrusive they have nevertheless been a positive force in the communities wherein they have resided, making their influence felt in behalf of righteousness and the general welfare.

It is noticeable how frequently they have been selected for positions of trust in civil life. The office of magistrate, for instance, was one of great local significance in former New England times, and not unfrequently some Lee would be summoned to it and be continued in it for many years in succession. Often they have been called to legislative responsibilities, Colonial or State. An aggregate of fifty-eight years of such service by native Lees in Connecticut is certainly a pretty fair record. Col. Isaac Lee, Jr., of New Britain was a member of the Legislature for twenty-four years, Captain Samuel Lee of Salisbury for eleven years, Captain Jared Lee of Southington, for several terms, and many others for longer or shorter periods. Hon. Wm. Wallace Lee of Meriden, one of the most active promoters of the Re-union of 1881, and of the present gathering, as well as of all efforts to secure accurate genealogical records of the family, has several times been chosen to the same position. Occasionally one has been elected to Congress, and one, Judge William Strong of Philadelphia, of the Tabitha branch, (John Lee's youngest daughter) was appointed Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. There have been several prominent characters of that name. Then there were Judge William G. Sterling of Northampton who was judge in New York city, and others. All these men have filled various positions with fidelity and honor.

As a rule, however, they have never manifested any marked ambition for political distinction. The pursuits of private and domestic life have predominated with them. Whenever there has been public preferment, the office has rather sought *them*, than they the office, which is as it should be. So that if they have failed of gaining specially wide repute in the civil realm, it has not been from lack of fitness for exalted station, but because, rather, of indifference to office for its own sake, and of the absence of a spirit of aggressive self-assertion, which now, at least, seems to be requisite in order to conspicuous political success. Yet they have ever been good citizens, supporters of good government, generally public spirited, while integrity, reliability, and conscientious fidelity to trusts committed to them, have been characteristic traits. Exceptional cases there doubtless always have been among the thousands who have lived in this country

since 1634, but a confirmed criminal or vagrant has been a rarity in the family, and I have never heard of any member of our clan who was hung, although some may have deserved hanging!

Among the more notable citizens of the years past, one or two should receive special mention.

Jared Lee, grandson of John Lee, was born in Farmington in 1712. Settling in Southington when a young man, he was for many years a distinguished character. He held the office of Justice of the Peace, or Magistrate, for over a quarter of a century, and was a terror to evil doers. Although often arbitrary, his decisions were seldom reversed. He seems to have been particularly jealous of all violations of the rigid Sunday laws which then prevailed, and frequently parties were fined for whispering and laughing in the public services, or for neglecting to attend them. What preacher to day would not rejoice in similar laws and penalties enforced with similar fidelity?

So many were the offices of honor and trust which he was called upon to fill that the people named him "all Southington." For thirty years he was deacon in the Congregational church. It is said of him that he was stern and unyielding in his orthodoxy, that he usually carried his point, and that he was never known to acknowledge an error. He is also said to have been a very silent and a very homely man. He died in 1780, in his 69th year.

Col. Isaac Lee, Jr., of New Britain (1716—1802) was another celebrity of his time. In many respects he was the counterpart of Jared Lee, with whom he was contemporary. Like him, he was tall and commanding, strong and muscular, proverbially dignified, and honored in church and town. For thirty years he was the principal Magistrate, and the office was administered with wisdom and impartiality. For twenty-four years out of the thirty from 1761 to 1791, he was member of the Colonial and General Assembly of the State, always active and influential. During the Revolutionary period he held relations of friendship and intimacy with the leading patriots. He was a constant attendant upon the sanctuary, and was for many years a faithful deacon. He died in 1802 in the eighty-seventh year of his age. His funeral was attended by a large concourse of people.

EDUCATIONAL SPHERE.

As to education, the Lees have always been loyal to the early sentiments which would place the school as an institution next in importance to the church. They have generally been fairly educated themselves, and have always favored a generous provision for the education of others. An illustration of this spirit, which I am sure is not an isolated instance, may be in point here. In a country school district in the West some years ago, there resided a Lee with a family of five children. Desirous of giving them as good advantages as possible, and interested in the cause of education in general, he became active in behalf of the school, and was soon the recognized leader in this respect. Through his influence the very best available teachers were secured for a number of years in succession, while the school

itself was gradually equipped with helpful appliances, including a large and carefully selected library, far beyond the average of country schools. Soon it gained a reputation second to none in the county or the counties around, while the good effects of the start which the children and youth of the neighborhood then received have been apparent ever since. Not a few were led to seek a college training afterward, and the proportion of those who have made a mark in their several spheres is larger than from any similar school I have ever known. The credit of all is mainly due to one who is well known among the Lees for his active interest, with others, in pushing forward this Re-union and the forth-coming genealogical work, and the mere fact of a somewhat near relationship affords no sufficient reason, I am sure, in this presence, for refraining from giving honor to whom honor is due. I refer to my immediate progenitor Mr. Leonard Lee of Kenosha, Wis. (I might say in this connection that I was privately instructed by him to omit this section, but I became of age some years since!)

Nor has the higher education been neglected. There have been numerous graduates in the family from our best colleges and universities. It is difficult to secure reliable statistics, but there is reason to believe that the percentage of liberally educated men and of those filling high educational positions will compare favorably with most families of corresponding numbers. These graduates have gone largely into the various professions. Not a few have held chairs in the leading institutions, especially medical, and occasionally one has been called to the position of college president. Rev. Wm. Allen Lee, a graduate of Harvard of 1802, became President of Dartmouth College in 1816 and of Bowdoin in 1819. While it might not be strictly accurate to say that the Lees have generally been so given to literary pursuits as to warrant us in claiming this as characteristic of them, it is nevertheless true that some have been eminent as scholars, and a considerable number of very creditable medical, theological and other works have from time to time been produced by them. Occasionally one has given special attention to music and to musical composition, while the poetic instinct has not been entirely lacking. Upon the whole, the educational record of the family and their part in the promotion of this most important interest, have been greatly to their credit.

PATRIOTISM.

Under this general head of citizenship it remains for me to say something with regard to their patriotic spirit. There is no reason to be ashamed of their record in this respect. They have ever been ready to respond to the call of their country, in its hour of need. There has not been a war since John Lee came to manhood in which the Lees have not been represented, and many a battlefield has been reddened by their blood. There were differences among some of them in the Revolutionary period, a few remaining loyal to the mother country, and a few were also found in the ranks of the Confederates

in the Civil War; but these were conscientious in their attitude, as they viewed the struggle, and we honor them for their honesty of purpose, while as soldiers all were full of bravery and daring. Indeed, from their characteristic energy and push in other relations, the courage and enthusiasm of the Lees in action can well be imagined. In connection with the recent war, it is related of a raw recruit, who if he did not bear the name of Lee, might have done so, that in taking part in the attempt to storm one of the Vicksburg batteries, the Confederate fire was so destructive that the Union forces recoiled; but he did not see the backward movement and kept going ahead until he came up to one of the guns, caught a gunner by the collar, and brought him within our lines saying, "Boys, why didn't you come on? Every fellow might have got one."

In military as in civil life, their fitness for responsible position has been repeatedly recognized, and we frequently find the name in the lists of officers from Captain upward to Colonel and General.

Gen. Kirby Smith on the Confederate side was a descendant of the Connecticut Lees, his grandmother having been Chloe Lee, born in New Britain. If we were considering the family in the broadest sense instead of the John Lee branch alone, I suppose we might speak with no little confidence of the soldiers in the various wars from the Virginia line of Lees, of whom Gen. Robert E. Lee was the most distinguished.

Going back to the pre-Revolutionary period, Stephen Hart, father of our maternal ancestor, took part in the Pequot war of 1637, under Captain John Mason. Daniel Lee of Farmington was a commissioned officer in the French war, leaving Farmington, with his company, July 12, 1759. He was wounded in battle at St. John's by a tomahawk thrown at him, taken prisoner by the Indians, and tortured to death in the most cruel manner. A fellow prisoner, who was intended for the next victim, but who happily made his escape, was an eye witness of the fearful scene, and brought tidings of his death to his family at Goshen, Conn. The name of Captain Samuel Lee appears frequently in the history of the town of Salisbury. He was prominent in church and civil relations, and commanded a company of Light Horse in the Revolutionary war.

Then there was Noah Lee, who served all through the Revolutionary struggle, as a commissioned officer, raising and equipping a company of Green Mountain boys at his own expense, acting for a time in concert with Colonel Ethan Allen, a man of remarkable efficiency as a soldier and a leader.

But as many of the records of military service are missing, it has been impossible to collect a full list of those who have served in the army from time to time. In some cases, family traditions are confirmed by the possession of heir-looms, which have been preserved, such as guns, pistols, or sabres; but, beyond these, there are no absolute proofs. The following Roll of Honor, however, which is likely to be increased, as further facts are discovered, will show beyond question that there is abundant ground for claiming a marked patriotic spirit as a characteristic family trait:

ROLL OF HONOR.

Pequot War, 1637,	1
French War, 1756-63:	
Lees,	14
Other names (descendants of daughters),	3
	— 17
Six of these Lees were born in Farmington.	
Revolution, 1775-83:	
Lees,	27
Other names,	28
	— 55
Of these, sixteen Lees were born within the limits of ancient Farmington, five of them on Main street.	
War of 1812-15:	
Lees,	19
Native Canadians in British service, (Lees)	2
	— 21
Mexican War:	
One Colonel died at Vera Cruz in 1848,	1
One Colonel of New Orleans,	1
One, an artisan or mechanic in the Army,	1
	— 3
Civil War, 1861-65:	
Lees, Union Army,	48
Other names,	46
	— 94
In Confederate Army,	8
	— 102
Killed, or mortally wounded,	15
Died of disease,	9
Wounded,	10
	— 34
Counting Mexican War, total in these Wars approximate;	199

Not all of these are of the Lee name, but all are of the Lee blood. Surgeons and chaplains are included. Certainly a creditable list.

In the latter part of the last century, Dr. Ebenezer Lee, a noted physician and a native of Farmington, removed to Canada and became a British subject. A large majority of his descendants are now citizens of the United States, but those who are residents of the Dominion are distinguished for loyalty to their adopted country, and several of them are holding important positions of trust.

III. MORAL AND RELIGIOUS.

In inquiring, in the third and last place, into the moral and religious traits of the family, we come to that which is deepest and most vital. That they have, generally speaking, been upright in character, straightforward and honorable in their various relations, we have already seen. Now we may advance a step and say that from the first

they have been characterized by a deep conscientiousness, by reverence for God, by love of justice, and by a strong sense of duty. Our fathers were men of profound convictions, their religion was a thing of principle, and they were intensely loyal to the truth as they saw it. No doubt some of their views, judged by the more liberal sentiments and standards which now prevail, were unduly narrow and severe, but no great reform movement of lasting value has ever been free from more or less of extremes, and when we recall their moral earnestness, the great principles to which they were devoted, and the tremendous results which, in spite of all their shortcomings, they were instrumental in achieving for all time, we can certainly afford to be very charitable in regard to things which were merely the incidents or excrescences of character.

Going back to our ancestor, John Lee, he was associated with good men, and all the influences about him were of a nature to give a serious and earnest trend to his thoughts. It is upon record that he embraced the Christian religion, connected himself with the church of which his father-in-law was one of the original and leading members and a deacon, presented his children in baptism, and lived a consistent Christian life. His children were trained in the same way, and the records further show that for several generations, at least, in all branches of the descendants, connection with the church was common, that the observance of religious rites and duties prevailed among them, and that they were respected and honored for their Christian and manly virtues.

Their religious life has rather been deep and quiet than emotional and demonstrative, while their religious activities, if not always of the more conspicuous sort, have been none the less real. The same practical bent of mind and matter-of-factness which have been noted of them in other relations, have characterized them here. In some branches or subdivisions of the family more or less of religious apathy has prevailed, and in none, perhaps, has there been any excess of piety or zeal; but while the Spiritual side of their nature might have been toned up somewhat to advantage, which is by no means an exclusive peculiarity of this family,—generally speaking the Lees have shown a profound respect for things religious, and have been a church-going and a church-supporting people. While they have been strong in their prejudices, conservative in their tendencies, and firm in the maintenance of their opinions, they have at the same time been candid, open-minded to the truth, progressive in spirit, with faces ever turned toward the rising sun, and they have generally been found on the right side in the great moral issues which have from time to time arisen.

DEACONS.

It is noteworthy how many have been chosen deacons and how long they have been continued in office. Whether any of those qualities which, in deacons, sometimes render a minister's life miserable have

been characteristic of them I am unable to say. Probably not, if the ministers have always been in the right—as the deacon regarded it!

Spurgeon says, that if any one resists the devil, he will flee from him, while if a minister resists a deacon he will fly at him. This is unquestionably true in the case of some deacons, and under such circumstances it is no doubt the part of wisdom for the minister to subside at once. Just as it was with a certain traveler who met a pack-mule in a narrow pass in the Rockies. He inquired of the attendant frontiersman if the animal was vicious. "O no," was the reply, "he ain't vicious, but he's a little versatile with his off hind leg." And the traveler climbed up the side of the canon. I do not know whether any of the Lee deacons have been of this versatile sort or not, although I can imagine that if one had a strong conviction upon any point it might be exceedingly difficult to dislodge it. Still, upon the whole, I am inclined to think that they have made pretty good, serious minded, consistent and conscientious deacons.

Among these numerous deacons of the past there have been some notable instances of Christian zeal. One of these was Deacon Charles Lee of Norwich, Conn. (b. 1790, d. 1865) to whose researches, together with the indefatigable labors of his daughter after him, Miss Sarah Marsh Lee who died in Feb. 1892, we are so largely indebted for the first publication of our genealogical records. He was the founder of the pleasant village of Willimantic, Conn., and the pioneer manufacturer in it. He led in all public improvements and was warmly interested in all that pertained to the general good of society. As a business man, he was upright, methodical, clear-headed, and of excellent judgment. After the work of the day in superintending his large business, he was ready for every religious meeting, in which he always took part. He was very active in organizing a Congregational church in Willimantic, throwing all his energies into it. Soon a congregation was gathered, a building was erected upon land which he donated and for which he gave a generous subscription. Two years of labor and self-sacrifice resulted in the establishment of a church of fifty members, a flourishing Sunday school, and a large congregation, with himself for the first deacon. Afterward he gave up his business there and moved to Norwich, where he died. As a Christian, he was revered and honored in all the churches with which he was at different times connected.

CLERGYMEN.

Of clergymen there have been a goodly number in the family. Some have risen to distinction as preachers or evangelists, some have been authors, all have been faithful. Their preaching has been practical, and they have been tactful in their dealings with men, whether in public address or in personal relations, more-so at least in the former, I suspect, than in the case of the young divine at the West in addressing a congregation of cowboys, taking the parable of the prodigal son for his theme. After presenting a graphic picture of the wandering away, the return, the warm reception by the father, and the killing of the fatted calf, he turned to one of the cowboys in front

of him and said: "What would you have done had you been in the father's place?" "Wa'al," said he, deliberately, "I think I should have shot the boy and raised the calf." After such a rejoinder it was useless to proceed. I am safe in saying that no one of the name of Lee would have been guilty of risking such an appeal before such an audience.

One of the notable divines of our name was Rev. Jonathan Lee, born in 1718 and graduating from Yale in 1742. In January, 1744, he accepted a call to a small church made up of eighteen families in the little New England town of Salisbury, Conn., at a salary of £40 per annum, or about \$200, which was never increased above \$225. Here he remained for forty-four years, viz.: until his death. He was a man of sagacity, of intellectual power, and was famous for his knowledge of Latin. He was of commanding presence and pleasing address, and the church prospered under his care. In 1749 a new meeting house was erected, and as showing the different sentiment which then prevailed upon the temperance question, the town had previously voted to procure sixteen gallons of rum, also eight bushels of wheat to be made into cakes, for the raising. In 1766 he preached the election sermon before the Governor and General Court of the colony. He was married just before accepting his call, and in the *American Monthly Magazine* for July, 1895, is to be found a copy of an address which he prepared and gave at his wedding. It is stately, very religious, and includes reflections upon the occasion, very gushing and complimentary words to his wife-elect, rehearsing her virtues, an address to her parents, also to her brothers and sisters, and closes with appropriate exhortations.

The log house parsonage at Salisbury not being finished, for several months they pioneered it, spending their honeymoon happily in the back end of a blacksmith shop. Unable to keep a horse, he frequently trudged down to the mill at Lime Rock with his bag of grain on his back and drew his wood home on a hand sled. In bringing up his family of six sons and four daughters, he gave every other son an education and every other one a farm. To have accomplished all that upon his meager salary, he must have been a man of unusual skill at financiering. His descendants may be said to be noted for the number among them who became clergymen, a considerable number of whom were Episcopalians. He died in 1788 and was buried in the Salisbury cemetery. His monument is a broad marble slab upon which is an appropriate inscription, together with a representation of himself in wig and gown in an old-fashioned pulpit, preaching to his people. His life is preaching still.

Mention should be made of Rev. Chauncey Lee, his son, who graduated from Yale in 1774, studied law for a time, then gave it up, and, entering upon a religious life, studied theology. He settled at Colebrook, was a ready writer, a sound reasoner, an earnest speaker, a thorough scholar, dignified in his bearing, and eminent for his social qualities. He was the author of a volume of "Revival Sermons" and other works, including school books, and also a composer of music.

Among many others who might be mentioned, did time permit, was Rev. Samuel Lee, born in Kensington in 1803, about whom a word should be said. He graduated at Yale in 1827, then studied theology. He was noted for his power of easy and compact extemporaneous preaching. As a consequence his services were extensively sought after in revival work. Perhaps no pastor in New England did so much work of the sort, and this was in addition to the care of his own large church and parish at New Ipswich, N. H. These labors were often attended with marked success. It is said that forty persons were once hopefully converted under a single sermon. Worn out with his incessant labors, he finally retired from the active ministry, and gave himself much to writing. For a time, he was a frequent contributor to the periodical press and to religious quarterlies. Later, he published two volumes, one upon "Eschatology," which was afterward used as a text book in Yale College, the other upon, "The Bible Regained." He died in 1881. His daughter, Sarah Fiske Lee, who was an efficient aid to her father in his literary work as an author, has also rendered invaluable service in connection with the preparation of the genealogical work about to be issued, compiling the John and Stephen branches. She has been enthusiastic and persevering in her efforts.

MISSIONARIES.

A few have devoted themselves to missionary work and they should receive recognition here, as still further exemplifying some of the characteristic traits of the family. Julia Lee married Rev. Hubert P. Herriek and went out to the Gaboon Mission in West Africa under the American Board, which, by the way, was organized at Farmington in 1810. Rev. Graham Lee of Rock Island, Ill., is now a missionary in Corea. He was a graduate of the McCormick Theological Seminary, (Pres.) Chicago. Laura Elizabeth Lee, wife of Rev. John F. Smith, D. D., went to Marsovia, Turkey, where she died during the seventies. He died a few months since. At last accounts the family was still there. Rev. Lucius O. Lee of Kenosha, Wis., oldest son of Leonard Lee, after a successful pastorate of a few years at Owosso, Mich., accepted an appointment under the American Board to the Theological Seminary at Marash, Turkey, of which he is now President, and where he and his family and fellow laborers nobly stood at their posts through the terrible ordeal of the recent massacre of Armenian Christians there, by which nearly a thousand, perished, their own lives being meanwhile in imminent peril.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATIONS.

As to the denominational preferences of the family, the majority have been Congregationalists, Episcopalians coming next. John Lee was a Congregationalist, which was the prevailing denomination in early New England, as it has been ever since. His descendants for a number of generations were mainly of the same order. Later, as his posterity increased, went out from the old home, spread over the land,

came in contact with other religious bodies, or married into them, they became connected with various denominations, so that now they are to be found in all the leading Christian organizations of the country. Hardly a sect, in fact, can be named in which some representative may not be found.

SUMMARY.

Having now called attention to some of the leading traits of the family, as they have been manifested in their occupations and various relations and stations in life, and as they have appeared in the sketches given of representative characters, let us attempt briefly to summarize them. Some, of course, have manifested more of these traits, some less, and they have appeared in greater or less degree in different ones. Still they have been sufficiently general, I think, to warrant us in speaking of them as family characteristics.

As a whole, they have been an eminently respectable people. Hardy, wiry and enduring, many have lived to an advanced age, some attaining even to ninety years and upwards. While not a few have entered professional life, their chief occupation has been business, in which they have been industrious, painstaking, and generally successful. Especially have they been noted for their managerial talent, and for their energy, push and perseverance. In their dealings, they have been straightforward and honest.

As citizens, they have been peaceable, law-abiding, lovers and promoters of good order, and interested in the general welfare. Black sheep have been rare among them. They have been intelligent, self-respecting, fairly educated, and not a few have sought the advantages of college training in the best institutions. Though not given to office-seeking, they have been frequently sought out for positions of trust. In these positions, they have discharged their responsibilities with conscientious fidelity, and have shown themselves to be possessed of large efficiency and executive ability. They have been pre-eminently patriotic, responding promptly when their country has called, and making a record for high soldierly qualities on many a battlefield in the wars of our history. Politically, they have mainly been identified with the Republican party.

Religiously they have been noted for the depth and strength of their convictions, and for their persistency in them. With some exceptions they have generally been church goers and a good proportion have been church members. Although as a class they have not been over-zealous, they have ever been lovers of justice and fair play, and many of them individually have been exceptionally active and earnest. Infidels have been few, and out-and-out opposers of religion have been rare. Upon great moral questions they have usually given forth no uncertain sound.

In domestic life they have been warm in their affections though not unduly demonstrative, strong in their attachments to kindred and friends, and devoted to their homes. They have also been social, genial, and hospitable in their relations with others, and while far

from stern and puritanic in their ideas, they have been less given to frivolities than many. No doubt they have indulged more or less in the bicycle craze with the rest of the world, but it would hardly seem in keeping with the traditions and spirit of the family to find the "new woman" of the more advanced type, who would, among other things, abolish the usual distinctions of sex in costume, largely represented in the feminine portion of it.

In family life their quiver has been full to an unusual degree. There were six children in the family of John Lee, while the aggregate of children in the families of these six was forty-nine. The genealogical records show that the Scriptural injunction to "be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth" has not been disregarded by succeeding generations.

In general it may be said that as a family they have dwelt upon a high table land in character, in natural ability, and in commendable qualities in many lines. If there have been few towering mountain peaks, there have also been correspondingly few depressions and valleys.

What shall we say in view of all this, what lessons may we draw, what inspirations may we gather?

For one thing, it can hardly fail to lead us to a better understanding of ourselves and the deep currents of our own being. Streams of tendency have been flowing down through the generations, and these at length, in greater or less degree and with more or less of modification, have appeared in our nature. Such a review is calculated to throw light upon them, to show where they have come from, and to help to explain them. But such a study is important also because of its relation to the most intelligent training of our children. The influence of ancestry upon the living is freely acknowledged by nearly all great educators and religious teachers. The virtues and vices of those who have lived in other days affect those who come after them. So that the education of children may really be said to begin with their forefathers.

Again, we will, I am sure, henceforth be conscious of a new thrill of interest in whatever pertains to the history of the family—a kind of Gulf Stream to us in the great ocean of humanity about us; in the forthcoming work of our genealogy, a subject which ought to have, and doubtless will, a deeper significance than ever before; in future re-unions, which should come oftener and be looked forward to with something of the enthusiasm of the ancient Israelites as they made their periodical pilgrimages to the Holy City; and in cultivating the personal acquaintance of one and all who sustain to us these relations of kinship, near or remote. For myself I can truthfully say that as I have pursued these investigations, my respect for the family has steadily increased. I have come to feel a real pride in its record, and also to feel that the stock is a good one from which to be descended.

But, especially, should such a review as this be of value in the rich

heritage it discloses—richer far than any imaginary English fortune which is popularly supposed to be awaiting most American families upon the presentation of adequate proof—to which we are heirs, if we will but avail ourselves of it; in the mental and moral traits which our ancestors possessed, the tendencies to which operate deeply within our own natures; in the pure and lofty principles which they espoused at the beginning, and to which their descendants have with greater or less zeal been devoted; in the wholesome example which has been set for our emulation, in the results which they have achieved, the institutions which they have helped to establish, and into the benefits of which we have entered; above all in the high qualities of character which they have displayed, in their indomitable energy, in their earnest spirit, in their consecration to exalted ends, so that all along the pages of our history there are glowing examples of exalted character and of lives well spent.

What shall we do with this heritage? Shall it be as nothing to us, or shall we not, rather, lay hold of it and utilize it for highest ends, going forward in life with a new and augmented self-respect in consequence of it, quickened in all our noblest impulses and aims, and then, recognizing our responsibility, hand it down unimpaired to those who come after us? For my own part, in regard to this latter, it is my deep desire that my little boy, with the blood of the Puritans from his father's side, and of the Pilgrims from his mother's, flowing in his veins, may, as he grows up, know these facts of his ancestry on both sides, go forward under their inspiration, and be animated by similar lofty aims in everything pertaining to a noble manhood and a useful life.

It is said that the pious Swiss herdsman of the Alps, when the sun is gone out of sight, takes his Alpine horn and shouts through it aloud, "Praise ye the Lord." Then a brother herdsman on some distant slope takes up the echo, "Praise ye the Lord." Soon another answers still higher up in the mountains, till hill shouts to hill and peak to peak, the sublime anthem of praise to God. So, let us, dear kindred and friends, cherish and keep sacred the memory of our ancestors, consecrate ourselves to the same great principles and lofty aims which inspired their lives, be filled with the same hopeful, praiseful spirit, and then seek to live such earnest, sweet and fruitful lives, that those who succeed us may catch our spirit, and others still catch theirs in turn, this in ever renewed succession down the generations, until a universal anthem shall ascend on high to join the Hallelujah chorus of the redeemed in everlasting praises "to Him that sitteth upon the throne, the chief among ten thousand and thousands of thousands."

This paper, though more lengthy than those preceding it, was listened to with profound attention, and called forth many flattering comments at its close.

CLOSING SESSION.

From 12:30 to 1:30 another social hour was enjoyed, while all partook of a generous collation.

On re-assembling in the hall, the exercises were opened by all joining in *Auld Lang Syne*, which was rendered with a hearty good will and which everyone appreciated.

Resolutions were then offered by Prof. H. C. King, and unanimously adopted with a cheer, expressing thanks to the people of Farmington for the hearty proffer of the use of their town hall, which made possible the holding of our re-union at the ancestral home, and the kind greeting generally received.

Also thanking those who had prepared papers for the occasion, and stating that the representatives of the Farmington Lees present desired to particularly recognize the untiring and enthusiastic research among old records of William Wallace Lee, Leonard Lee and Miss Sarah Fiske Lee.

William Wallace Lee now stepped to the front, holding in his hand what proved to be the diploma of Seth Lee, granted by Yale College, which had been in his possession several years. It was written in Latin on parchment, with seal attached, and dated September 22, 1759, signed by "Thomas Clap, Prest." and others of the faculty.

Mr. Lee wanted to present it to a younger Lee as a hereditary relic, to be perpetuated in the family, and had chosen Miss Ella E. Lee as the recipient, she being the great grand-daughter of Deacon Seth. Her heartfelt thanks were expressed in a few well chosen words gracefully delivered. She had brought from her home and exhibited several relics, but this she prized more than all others. Among the relics exhibited was a gold ring, presented to the graduate by his class, when a tutor in the college in later years. Other family relics were also exhibited more than 125 years old.

* * * * *

Amid all the sociability, the time arrived when separation became necessary. The several sessions had not been a monotonous round of business and literary exercises, but frequent intervals had been devoted to cultivating a better acquaintance among the newly-found friends and kindred, which were well improved. So full of enjoyment had the meeting been that it was unanimously voted a *success*, and the feeling was freely expressed that the century might be rounded out by another re-

union, and that the proceedings of the meeting and papers read might be published in appropriate form for circulation. One more song, remained to be sung, and all joined in.

THE PARTING.

(*Tune-- BONNIE DOON.*)

1.

Adieu, a heart-warm, fond adieu,
Ye kindred of one common tie,
Ye favored'ones, ye happy few,
Who've met and shared our social joy;
The time has come for us to part
And each pursue a separate pa'.
With kindling eye and kindly heart
We'll think of each when far awa'.

2.

We've met and shared a happy hour,
In social joy, communion sweet;
Of common ties we know the power,
Have felt each heart responsive beat;
And though we part to meet no more,
As here we are assembled a',
We hope to meet on yon bright shore,
That shining shore so far awa'.

3.

May virtue, harmony and love
In each one's life e'er brighter shine,
Beneath th' all-seeing eye above
The glorious architect divine;
So may we keep the rule of right,
And, guided by God's holy law,
Be led unto that world of light,
Where dwell our sires so far awa'.

4.

And may the new friends we have made
Grow fonder as the years shall roll,
And be through all life's sun and shade,
A source of pleasure to each soul;
One fond request, we make it here,
Whenever ye shall gather a',
A kindly thought, perhaps a tear,
For all the kindred far awa'.

—W. W. L.

The piece was sung with much feeling, the last echo died away, and with much handshaking and many good wishes the company slowly separated, and the Lee re-union of 1896 was an event of the past.

Mrs. William H. Lee of Hartford, who had been detained at the hotel by indisposition, received a few friends after the adjournment, and the last lingering visitor retired.

The following paper, prepared by Julius Gay, Esq., by invitation, for reasons for which he was in no way responsible, was not delivered at the re-union, but he has kindly furnished it for publication.

Mr. Gay is a native of Farmington, as were his ancestors for several generations before him. No one is better acquainted with the history of the town, either ancient or modern, than himself. He is the acknowledged antiquarian of the county. He will please accept thanks of the Lee kindred for his valuable contribution.

Ladies and Gentlemen:—

A few days ago, I had the honor of an invitation to co-operate with other townsmen in extending a word of welcome to your association, assembled from many lands to visit the home of your forefathers. With the short time I have had for preparation, and in the few minutes I shall venture to detain you, I shall confine myself to a brief account of the location of the houses in which they were born, spent their useful lives, and in the fullness of time were carried one by one to the old cemetery which you have this day visited.

In January 1653, when this village had been settled thirteen years, John Lee records four acres of land with a dwelling house. This he had purchased of Joseph Kellogg, who bought it of John Andrews, and he of Thomas Upson,—transactions which show a great activity in real estate sales in those early times. Once, however, in the possession of the Lees, it remained in the family for three generations. Doctor Ebenezer Lee, grandson of John, sold it in 1767 to Seth Lee, successively a tutor in Yale College, a preacher and a tavern-keeper on the old homestead. He sold it in 1796 to John and Chauncey Deming, and then removed to Ludlow, Vermont. I presume you are all aware that the brick school house building of Miss Porter occupies the site of the house of John Lee and of the tavern of his great grandson Seth. If you desire to identify any of the present buildings as parts of the original tavern, you may compare the advertisement of Seth Lee in the *Connecticut Courant*, which describes a "house two stories high, 46 feet by 20, and a kitchen, 28 by 30 feet."

Thomas Lee, son of Thomas and grandson of John, was born December 17, 1717, and lived in a house on the south side of the road to Unionville, not far from the Catholic church, described as near the North Meadow Gate. It was sold by Miles Lee on the decease of his father in 1807. A tin shop stood on this land two years before. The site is now occupied by a new house, recently purchased by John D. Rourke.

Thomas Lee, son of Ensign Joseph, owned, and probably built,

between the years 1791 and 1795, the house fifty rods south of the meeting house, on the easterly side of the street, known to our grandfathers as the Little Back Lane. It is now owned by John Brady, and formerly by Selah Porter and his son, John C. Porter. You will easily recognize it as a small gambrel roofed house, just south of the large gambrel roofed house built by Timothy Pitkin, Esq., and now owned by Dr. Carrington.

Matthew Lee, who taught the South District School in the winters of 1797 and 1798, and died April 27, 1840, at the age of seventy-six, owned a house on the west side of the Main street, somewhat south of his school house, and, as the record says, one and one-quarter miles south of the meeting house, having land of Joseph Langdon to the north, and of Moses Hills to the south.

Capt. Hezekiah Lee lived in a house immediately north of that of his grandfather, John. He sold it in 1751 to John Hart, Jr., before he removed to Litchfield and Goshen.

The foregoing are all the localities which in a hurried search I have been able to identify as of interest to you as the homes of your ancestors. Members of the family early in its history removed to Berlin, Kensington, Litchfield, Goshen and all easily accessible towns. At the close of the Revolutionary war the more noted exodus to Vermont, and a little later, another to the far west, now central New York, lured away pretty much all the rest of the family, until now I believe there is no descendant of your family by the name of Lee in this village.

I have spoken only of places. Of men, your frequent gatherings and much research, must have made known about all that we can expect ever to learn. Nevertheless when we see thousands every year, guide books in hand, swarming over Europe to visit some noted shrine, surely you may properly feel some interest in the places where your ancestors lived and died. Nor among the localities deserving your regard must we forget the place where, in three successive sanctuaries they worshipped. In 1693 John Lee and Deacon Bull were appointed a committee to repair the meeting-house, and in 1697 Thomas Lee with four others were voted "liberty to build them a seat over the short girt at the easterly end of the gallery on the conditions that they do not damnify the other seats in the meeting-house." And fast of all you will not fail to visit that most interesting place of all, the old burying ground where many generations of your family were laid to rest. Here more than two centuries ago was placed by the pious regard of his children a humble slab marking the grave of your ancestor John Lee and inscribed 8. 8. 1690, fixing the date of his death as October 8th, 1690, not August as it is sometimes read. It was the fourth stone in age in the burying ground and much valued by all who venerated the past. Would it not be a fitting act for this association to restore it to its former place the stone which for two centuries marked the resting place of your venerable ancestor? *

*The old relic was carried to New Britain. In 1895 it was furnished with a substantial base by James T. Lee and Leonard Lee and restored to a place beside the monument, after an absence of 18 years.— *L. L.*

LETTERS FROM ABSENTEES.

We append a few extracts from letters received from various parts of the country as specimens of several hundreds. Few were the exceptions in which words of encouragement were not expressed, and regrets that circumstances would prevent their mingling with the kindred whom they had never met.

ELMHURST, Ill., June 7, 1896.

My attendance will be impossible on account of age and infirmities. I hope there will be a large gathering on an occasion so interesting to the widely scattered members of our family.

(84 years old.)

OLIVER H. LEE.

WATFORD, Ontario, July 3, 1896.

I regret that circumstances will not permit my attendance at the Lee re-union at Farmington, but I heartily wish you a happy gathering which may tend to a better acquaintance. THADDEUS D. LEE.

SPOKANE, Wash., June 14, 1896.

It will be impossible to attend, as it will be my busiest season of the year, (mining engineer,) but success to your enterprise.

CHESTER F. LEE.

MARASH, TURKEY, (Asia,) June 26, 1896.

In response to your kind invitation to join the Lee family re-union, and also to inquiries, I would say that I do not know whether there are other Lees in the mission field or not. I fear the Lees have not been so prolific in this line as in some others.

The object of missions is not only to educate and Christianize, but to civilize, and requires some sacrifice to effect the result. Turkish massacres may retard, but cannot long block the wheels of progress.

It may be thought the life of a missionary is monotonous, but when I mention that during my residence here of sixteen years I have been shipwrecked, earthquaked, massacred and married, you will perceive that life in Turkey is not wanting in variety.

The distance between us will, of course, preclude the idea of attending the Lee re-union, but you will please present to the kindred my congratulations that they are so highly favored in their social relations. Could the occasion have been deferred till 1898, I might have been able to join you. My wife, daughter of Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, thirty-five years a missionary in Constantinople, joins me in kind wishes.

Very sincerely yours,

(Rev.) LUCIUS O. LEE.

Rev. Mr. Lee and family were present at the Turkish massacre at Marash, November 19 and 20, 1895, and also at Constantinople in August following.

POPLAR, O., June 10, 1896.

I am proud to know that an ancestral record has been kept, and would like to be at the re-union but cannot.

(Miss) ABBIE OGDEN.

HARBORNE, Eng., July 3, 1896.

Would gladly be present, if able, but doubtful if I can arrange it.
A happy gathering is the wish of Yours truly,
(Dr.) F. R. L. STRATHY.

MARSHALLTOWN, Ia., July 18, 1898.

I am sorry to say that it will be impossible to be present at the Lee re-union, but I know it will be an enjoyable time.

JOHN P. WOODBURY.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., June 13, 1896.

I am greatly interested in the re-union, and if business should take me east of the Rocky Mountains, I will surely attend.

H. O. COLLINS.

Descendant of Mary Lee Upson.

PITTSFIELD, Mass., May 25, 1896.

My plans for the summer have been already arranged and it seems impracticable to change them. Be assured I shall be with you in Spirit.
(Miss) MARIA M. LEE.

WYCK, Iowa, July 1, 1896.

Nothing would please me more than to be present, but distance, ill-health and home cares will prevent. (Rev.) SAMUEL W. LEE.

LONDON, Ont., July 2, 1896.

My health will not permit. Be assured of my hearty sympathy.
(Mrs.) SARAH ROOTS.

STUART, Florida, July 14, 1896.

It would afford me great pleasure to attend the re-union, but the probabilities are against me. A happy greeting to all who assemble.
O. O. POPPLETON.

ORANGE, Cal., June 18, 1896.

It would be pleasant to attend the re-union, but the distance will prevent. A joyful time to all is the wish of

(MRS) FLORENCE S. WELLS.

LEWIS, Essex Co., N. Y., July 11, 1896

I am heartily in sympathy with the idea of a re-union, and it would afford me the greatest pleasure of my life to attend and visit the home of my grandfather, but I fear it will be impossible. A happy time to all.
(Miss) SYLVIA S. LEE.

Granddaughter of Deacon Seth Lee.

PORTERVILLE, Cal., June 10, 1896.

It will be very gratifying to hundreds of our kindred for many years. The gathering of '84 was an enjoyable occasion, but infirmities and distance will not permit me to enjoy another such time.

(Mrs.) HIRAM BAILEY.

TACOMA, Wash., July 5, 1896.

It would be the enjoyable occasion of my life to attend the re-union, but the distance is too great. I can never forget my visit to the grave of John Lee, April last, escorted by yourself and Leonard Lee. Many thanks for the courtesy.

HERBERT M. LEE.

ALBANY, Texas, June 29, 1896.

Would be happy to attend, but health will not permit. A happy time to all.

LEWIS H. LEE.

MARTINEZ, Cal., June 7, 1896.

Shall be happy to attend if possible, but the distance is great. A happy re-union to all.

(REV.) HAMILTON LEE.

CHICAGO, Ill., June 29, 1896.

Would be very happy to meet you all again, but,—very busy—dollars few—the miles are many and *very long*. A jolly time to the crowds.

CHARLES E. LEE.

SEATON, Ill., July 1, 1896.

I would be pleased to be present but fear it will be impossible. May it be a happy re-union.

(MRS.) FANNIE LEE CABEEN.

McMINNVILLE, Ore., June 4, 1896.

It would afford me the greatest pleasure, but distance forbids.

(MRS.) JULIA JOHNSON

PORT ROYAL, Ont., June 10, 1896.

I am 84 years old, and smart as can be expected at this age, but it will be impracticable to attempt the journey. A happy success is the wish of

Yours truly,

(MRS.) ADELIA BEAUPRE.

SPRINGFIELD, Ont., June 23, 1896.

I will encourage others to attend, but infirmities will prevent my own attendance.

SIMEON L. BRYNING.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., July 10, 1896.

It would give me the greatest pleasure of my life to be with you but it will be impossible.

WILLIAM P. LEE.

I remember with pleasure the gathering of 1884, but the burden of 86 years rests upon me and the journey is too much to attempt, but God bless the re-union.

WILLIAM LEE.

Marysville, O.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 17, 1896.

I regret that I cannot attend the Lee re-union on the 12th and 13th of August, for I would dearly love to visit the old family home. I am a Canadian girl visiting friends in this city, and I would like to know more of our American consins, for I am deeply interested in family history.

Very sincerely,

(MISS) PHEBE LEE.

OSHKOSH, Wis., July 20, 1896.

It would afford me great pleasure to attend the Lee family re-union, but my health will not permit. Be assured, however, that I shall be with you in spirit.

(MRS.) ANN C. BOWEN.

THE REGISTER AS KEPT BY MISS SUSAN A. PECK, OF
PLAINVILLE, CONN.

James T. Lee, New Britain, Conn.	Rev. Frank T. Lee, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. James T. Lee, New Britain, Conn.	Mrs. Frank T. Lee, Harold C. Lee, (6 years old,) Chicago, Ill.
Miss Theresa Lee, New Britain, Conn.	Mrs. Harriet J. Taylor, Glastonbury, Conn.
Miss Sarah Fiske Lee, New Ipswich, N. H.	Wm. E. Lee, Hebron, Conn.
Hugh H. Osgood, Norwich, Conn.	Mrs. Marvin A. Dean, Evanston, Ill.
Mrs. Mary R. Lee Osgood, Norwich, Conn.	Frances Dean, (7 years old,) Evanston, Ill.
Mrs. Mary Lee Anderson, Chicago, Ill.	Henry H. Dickinson, Roxbury, Conn.
Wm. Wallace Lee, Meriden, Conn.	Frederick R. Lee, Southington, Conn.
Mrs. Wm. Wallace Lee, Meriden, Conn.	Mrs. Wm. H. Lee, Hartford, Conn.
Mrs. Jennette T. Coe, Winsted, Conn.	Frederick T. Gladding, Danbury, Conn.
Leonard Lee, Kenosha, Wis.	Prof. Henry C. King, Oberlin, Ohio.
Mrs. Mary E. S. DeWint, Hempstead, L. I.	Benjamin F. Wightman, Bristol, Conn.
Mrs. Emily E. C. Lee, Southington, Conn.	Mrs. Benjamin F. Wightman, Bristol, Conn.
Wm. E. Goodwill, Southington, Conn.	Mrs. Martha A. Bradley, Bristol, Conn.
Mrs. Anna Lee Goodwill, Southington, Conn.	Edwin E. Smith, Meriden, Conn.
Mrs. Finette Lee Cook, New Haven, Conn.	Mrs. Jennie Lee Smith, Meriden, Conn.
Mrs. Francis Lee, Clinton, Iowa.	Miss Ella E. Lee, Lewis, N. Y.
Mrs. Lillian Lee Allen, Clinton, Iowa.	Miss Jennie S. Lee, Bristol, Ind.
Mrs. George Lee Spur, New Britain, Conn.	Squier Lee, (89,) Bristol, Ind.
Andrew J. Lee, Forestville, Conn.	William Paulman, Bristol, Conn.
Mrs. Andrew J. Lee, Forestville, Conn.	Mrs. William Paulman, Bristol, Conn.
Mrs. Huldah Lee, Farmington, Conn.	Mrs. Kate Lee Stevens, Montgomery, Ala.
Wm. E. Wood, New Hartford, Conn.	Miss Kittie S. Davidson, Montgomery, Ala.
Lee S. Dickinson, Bridgewater, Conn.	George C. Lee*, Albany, N. Y.
Miss Emily T. Wilcox, Meriden, Conn.	Mrs. Julia Finley, New Britain, Conn.
Irving H. Lee, New York, N. Y.	Major Edwin Lee Heath, Brantford, Ontario.
Mrs. Henry Sage, Berlin, Conn.	Mrs. Elvira Lee Folan, New York, N. Y.
Chester P. Loomis, Granby, Conn.	Miss Florence E. Folan, New York, N. Y.
James Farnham, Bristol, Conn.	John E. Cowles, Farmington, Conn.
Miss Alice E. Bronson, Hartford, Conn.	Mrs. Alexander S. Harrison, Hartford, Conn.
Alexander S. Harrison, Hartford, Conn.	

* Belongs to Saybrook Lees, Conn.

Stephen P. Engelke, West Hartford, Conn.	George L. Clark, Farmington, Conn.
George H. Lee, Bridgeport, Conn.	Rev. Dr. Backus, Farmington, Conn.
Mrs. George H. Lee, Bridgeport, Conn.	Mrs. Edgar E. Call, Pine Meadow, Conn.
Col. J. A. L. Strathly, Montreal, Ontario.	Mrs. Samuel E. Case, Pine Meadow, Conn.
Wm. Wallace Muzzy, Bristol, Conn.	Miss Maria M. Porter, Farmington, Conn.
Mrs. Wm. Wallace Muzzy, Bristol, Conn.	Lorenzo P. Lee, New Britain, Conn.
Wilbur E. Lee, Cambridgeport, Mass.	Mrs. Lorenzo P. Lee, New Britain, Conn.
Mrs. Lucy Lee Seymour, Bristol, Conn.	Robert P. Keep, Norwich, Conn.
Mrs. Lillian Lee S. Wilcox, Waterbury, Conn.	Miss Cora J. Hopkins, Bristol, Conn.
Miss Susan A. Peck, Plainville, Conn.	Mrs. Hannah Lee Flagler, New York, N. Y.
Miss Carrie De Merritt, Plainville, Conn.	Wm. E. Wood, New Hartford, Conn.
Mrs. Edwin De Merritt, Plainville, Conn.	Mrs. Harriet H. Engelke, New Hartford, Conn.
John R. Bryning, Niagara Falls, Ontario.	Miss Christina Engelke, New Hartford, Conn.
Mrs. Elizabeth Lee Farnham, Bristol, Conn.	Miss Ellen H. Harrison, Hartford, Conn.
Arthur Farnham, " "	Mrs. Martha Lee Haskins, Waterbury, Conn.
Rev. Joseph L. Wood, Nepaug, Conn.	Charles R. Newton, Middlebury, Conn.
Charles E. Wood, Bristol, Conn.	Mrs. Katie Hotchkiss, Farmington, Conn.
Mrs. Charles E. Wood, Bristol, Conn.	Miss Nellie Hotchkiss, Farmington, Conn.
Samuel Wood, Bristol, Conn.	Mrs. Maria A. Lee Wightman, Bristol, Conn.
Mrs. Daisy Finley, New Britain, Conn.	Frank A. Bowe, Forestville, Conn.
George S. Lee,† Hawthorne, N. J.	Albert T. Bishop, Southington, Conn.
Mrs. Rebecca Lee Shapleigh, Salem, Mass.	Mrs. Albert T. Bishop, Southington, Conn.
Frederick Yeomans, Bristol, Conn.	
Mrs. Frederick Yeomans, Bristol, Conn.	
Mrs. Etta H. Lee, Bridgeport, Conn.	

† Belongs to Ipswich Lees, Mass.

We append a partial list of those who expressed their interest in the re-union by letter, response to circulars or otherwise, although unable to attend. It includes none of those who were present. The list also shows how widely scattered are our kindred.

Included in this list are the names of several who had expressed their intention to be present, but were unexpectedly detained from various causes, almost at the last day. Among these may be named Judge William G. Sterling and party, and Miss Mary A. Allen and friends, of Northampton, Mass.; R. L. B. Hart and Miss Mary L. Hart of Barkhamsted; Frederick J. Lee and wife, Howell, Mich.; J. W. N. Lee and family, Duplex, Tenn.; William C. Lee and others, of Louisville, Ky.; Mrs. H. C. Davidson, Montgomery, Ala.; Prof. Thomas G. Lee, Minneapolis, Minn., and others, from whom letters were afterwards received.

Lewis H. Lee, Albany, Texas.	Mrs. N. Smith Lee, Oneida, N. Y.
Herbert M. Lee, Tacoma, Wash.	Mrs. Julia F. Pyncheon,
Mrs. Hiram Bailey,	Evanston, Ill.
Porterville, Cal.	Mrs. Emily Bolt, Kent, Conn.
Miss Sylvia S. Lee, Lewis, N. Y.	Thomas Welch, Binghamton, N. Y.
Mrs. Florence S. Wells,	Herbert M. Lee, Kansas City, Mo.
Orange, Cal.	Mrs. C. R. Stone,
O. O. Poppleton, Stuart, Fla.	Bull's Bridge, Conn.
Mrs. Sarah Roots, London, Ont.	Mrs. Lucy A. Wooster,
Rev. Samuel W. Lee, Wyck, Iowa.	Union Center, N. Y.
Miss Maria M. Lee,	Mrs. Rhoda J. Lee Adams,
Pittsfield, Mass.	Union Center, N. Y.
H. O. Collins, Los Angeles, Cal.	George Carleton Lee,
John P. Woodbury,	New York, N. Y.
Marshalltown, Iowa.	Samuel A. Lee, Quincy, Ill.
Dr. F. R. L. Strathy,	William H. Lee, Tewksbury, Mass.
Harborne, Eng.	Charles R. Lee, Omaha, Neb.
Chester F. Lee, Spokane, Wash.	Mrs. J. L. Dorrance, Attica, N. Y.
Miss Abbie Ogden, Poplar, Ohio.	Mrs. Mary E. Clapp,
Thaddeus D. Lee, Watford, Ont.	Raymond, S. D.
Rev. Lucius O. Lee,	Mrs. Alice Lee Wells,
Marash, Turkey, Asia.	Bridgeport, Conn.
Oliver H. Lee, Elmhurst, Ill.	Mrs. J. Edwards Lee,
Frank Lee, Chicago, Ill.	Salisbury, Conn.
Thomas M. Wells,	Mrs. Frances H. Brinson,
Negaunee, Mich.	Diamond Bluff, Wis.
Arthur L. Lee, Allegheny, Penn.	Mrs. Charles E. Folger,
Mrs. Ellen Jennings,	Cape Vincent, N. Y.
Belleville, N. Y.	William Lee, Marysville, Ohio.
Mrs. J. A. Johnson,	William C. Lee, Louisville, Ky.
Kansas City, Mo.	Frederick G. Lee,
Mrs. Olivia A. Judd, Ashland, Wis.	Cooperstown, N. Y.
Henry Lee, Bridgeport, Conn.	Mrs. William Seaton,
William C. Judd, Ashland, Wis.	Greenville, Iowa.
Mrs. Estelle Smith, Howell, Mich.	Mrs. Jane Dunage,
John W. Lee, Nilestown, Ont.	Green Spring, Ohio.
Charles E. Lee, Binghamton, N. Y.	Mrs. Arletta D. Lee,
Capt. Benj. F. Lee, Kent, Ohio.	Green Spring, Ohio.
Mrs. Mary A. Andrus,	George A. Kirk,
Southington, Conn.	Windham Center, Ont.

- Elnathan S. Judd, Ashland, Wis.
 Mrs. Olivia A. Judd, Ashland, Wis.
 William P. Lee, Louisville, Ky.
 Simeon L. Bryning, Springfield, Ont.
 Mrs. Amoret Pegg, St. Williams, Ont.
 Mrs. Emma Chadwick, Simcoe, Ont.
 Mrs. Julia Johnson, McMinnville, Oregon.
 Mrs. Francis L. Cabeen, Seaton, Ill.
 Rev. Hamilton Lee, Martinez, Cal.
 Mrs. Audelia Beaupre, Port Royal, Ont.
 Mrs. Rev. E. A. Candee, Toledo, Ohio.
 Mrs. Myra K. Phillips, Denver, Col.
 Mrs. Grace Lee Schmidt, New York, N. Y.
 Charles H. Lee, Junesville, Wis.
 Irvin E. Lee, Lewis, Essex Co., N. Y.
 Fayette L. Miller, Lewis, Essex Co., N. Y.
 Mrs. Harriet Lee Greene, Delaware, Ohio.
 Mrs. Hattie Trusdell, Kirwin, Kan.
 Mrs. Gilbert B. Cardwell, Little Falls, N. Y.
 Mrs. Mary B. Herrick, Chicago, Ill.
 Mrs. Mary Dickinson, Danbury, Conn.
 Mrs. George H. Howard, Chicago, Ill.
 Mrs. Emily H. Mason, Forest, Ont.
 Mrs. Lucy Lee Gregory, La Grangeville, N. Y.
 Mrs. Hiram Bailey, Jacksonville, Mich.
 Mrs. M. L. Pomeroy, Flint, Mich.
 Miss Phebe Lee, Southington, Conn.
 Miss Sarah Lee, Southington, Conn.
 Mrs. Lucinda Lee Woodruff, Southington, Conn.
 Frederick H. Woodruff, Southington, Conn.
 Mrs. Ersula L. Collver, Chicago, Ill.
 Rev. J. N. Lee, South McAllister, I. T.
 George H. Sage, Berlin, Conn.
- Graham Lee, Hamlet, Ill.
 Charles N. Lee, New York, N. Y.
 Dr. Hamlet-Hart, Eureka, Mich.
 Mrs. Ann H. Lee, Elbridge, N. Y.
 Mrs. Evelyn C. Hughes, Elbridge, N. Y.
 Mrs. Ann C. Bowen, Oshkosh, Wis.
 Mrs. Peter H. Sliter, Chatham, N. Y.
 Mrs. Flora Lee Hiatt, Chicago, Ill.
 Charles E. Lee, Chicago, Ill.
 Theodore L. Snow, Barre, Vt.
 Civilian S. Lee, Jackson, Mich.
 Harlan Lee, Garland, Kan.
 Mrs. Henry William Lee, Montgomery, Ala.
 Chester P. Loomis, Granby, Conn.
 Harry W. Lee, Liverpool, N. Y.
 William F. Lee, Liverpool, N. Y.
 Dr. S. G. Bryning, Fulton, Ill.
 Warren H. Lee, Garland, Kan.
 Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Roberts, Saranac Lake, N. Y.
 Mr. and Mrs. James L. R. Roberts, Westport, N. Y.
 Mrs. Ermina C. Dougan, Elizabethtown, N. Y.
 Mrs. Helen Lee Finch, Southington, Conn.
 Mrs. Charles P. Hobart, Southington, Conn.
 Foster M. Cardwell, West Pullman, Ill.
 Mrs. Edward Beebe, Capac, Mich.
 Prof. Irving P. Church, Ithica, N. Y.
 Mrs. Caroline A. Lee and Son, Southington, Conn.
 John Curtis, " " " "
 Mrs. L. H. Benson, Gray, Iowa.
 Mrs. Clara B. Shepherd, Milwaukee, Wis.
 Mrs. Ruth W. Brewster, New York.
 Mrs. Catherine Chapman, Echo, Minn.
 Mrs. E. L. Depew, Echo, Minn.
 Mrs. Thomas A. Lee, New Britain, Conn.
 Mrs. Eliza Lee Tichnor, Ithica, N. Y.
 Albert S. Lee, Philadelphia, Penn.
 Alvah Bushnell, Philadelphia, Penn.
 Miss Katherine W. Lee, Unionville, Conn.
 Mrs. Thomas Follanshee, Elmira, N. Y.

- Mrs. Charles Utley,
Williamantic, Conn.
Henry B. Lee, Ypsilanti, Mich.
Miss Amelia R. Lee,
Hamburg, N. Y.
Charles Lee, Kent, Conn.
Samuel B. Lee, Sr., Duplex, Tenn.
E. L. Eggleston, Picton, Ont.
Dr. Frank H. Lee, Canaan, Conn.
Henry A. Lee, Bellville, O.
Burton E. Lee, Placerville, Cal.
Mrs. L. W. Hodgkins,
Spring Hill, Kan.
Mrs. Sarah E. Mahan,
Arcadia, Kan.
Mrs. Annie R. Watrous,
Hartford, Conn.
W. R. Kirk, Stirling, Ill.
Channey W. Lee, Aurora, Ill.
Channey C. Lee,
Mrs. Ellen Lee Osgood,
Rutland, Vt.
Frederick C. Lee, New York, N. Y.
Mrs. Cornelia Lee Butts,
Maulius, N. Y.
Reuben L. Butts,
Dr. W. J. Wilcox, Oakland, Cal.
Mrs. F. F. Follett,
Waterford, N. Y.
James O. Lee, Woodland, Mich.
Mrs. F. E. Ingerson,
Nashville, Mich.
G. W. Rising, Woodland, Mich.
Hon. William G. Sterling,
Northampton, Mass.
Rev. Alvah Bushnell,
St. Joseph Mo.
Mrs. E. L. Hutchison,
Rockland Center, Wis.
Lucius H. Lee, Janesville, Wis.
Mrs. Amelia Van Valen,
Janesville, Wis.
Mrs. A. Osborn, Adrian, Mich.
Rev. Henry Bushnell,
Westerville, O.
James N. Lee, Bristol, Conn.
Miss May A. Smith, Boston, Mass.
Samuel B. Lee, Jr., Duplex, Tenn.
John W. N. Lee, Duplex, Tenn.
Mrs. Alfred J. Wheeler, New York.
Mrs. T. D. Bentley, Chicago, Ill.
Mrs. Grace L. Sturgis,
Philadelphia, Penn.
Miss Martha C. Ingersoll,
Amenia, N. Y.
Mrs. Henry Green, Fair Haven, Vt.
Milford L. Lee Lewis, New York.
- Dr. Charles Lee King,
La Manda Park, Cal.
Mrs. A. E. Hudson, Rockton, Ill.
George R. Lee, Aurora, Ill.
Samuel C. Lee, Baltimore, Md.
George F. Butts, Omaha, Neb.
Judson C. Ware,
North Ellba, N. Y.
Mrs. Eliza L. Sluyter,
Hartford, Conn.
Frederick J. Lee and wife,
Howell, Mich.
Mrs. Guilford Smith,
South Windham, Conn.
Charles Lee Judd, Alvin, Texas.
Charles P. Lee, Alvin, Texas.
Mrs. H. C. Davidson,
Montgomery, Ala.
R. Porter Lee,
Niagara Falls, N. Y.
J. Lee Cherry, Columbus, O.
Mrs. George T. Olmsted,
Detroit, Mich.
Mrs. Marion D. Howe,
Washington, D. C.
Wm. J. Lee, Rochester, N. Y.
Elisha S. Lee, Rochester, N. Y.
Miss Mary L. Hart,
Barkhamsted, Conn.
Rollin L. B. Hart,
Barkhamsted, Conn.
Mrs. Charles Sherwood,
Dover Plains, N. Y.
Mrs. Charles S. Landers,
New Britain, Conn.
Prof. Thomas G. Lee,
Minneapolis, Minn.
Robert A. Lee, Louisville, Ky.
William H. Lee, Woodland, Mich.
Henry B. Lee, New York, N. Y.
Mrs. E. M. Klise,
Nashville, Mich.
Mrs. Mary A. Allen,
Northampton, Mass.
William C. Lee, Louisville, Ky.
Miss Phebe M. T. Lee,
Nashville, Tenn.
Edgar J. Lee, Brooklyn, N. Y.
David C. Lee, St. Louis, Mo.
Miss Clara L. Bowman,
Bristol, Conn.
Dr. J. V. Bryning,
Atchison, Kan.
H. Harrison, Lee, Rutland, Vt.
Alfred C. Lee, Rutland, Vt.
Mrs. S. S. Randall, New York,
Simcoe Lee, Philadelphia, Penn.

CONCLUSION.

In concluding, we would say to our friends, that it is very desirable to keep alive the Lee Association and to look forward to a future re-union. The year 1900 has been suggested, that we might round out the century by such an event. But the future is uncertain. If the suggestion is carried out, it is evident that the burdens of management must be borne by younger shoulders.

A large attendance cannot be expected from distant States, but it is significant to note the feeling of kinship which is expressed, and which needs only to be cultivated by personal acquaintance to ripen into a general interest. Learn more of your ancestors, of their doings, and of their loyalty to their country, and you will feel more interested in their posterity. A deeper interest is manifested every time they are brought together.

Our kindred are earnestly requested to correspond freely with the secretary or assistant, and to communicate any changes, births, marriages, or deaths, with dates, or any other events of interest, that records may be kept with a view to future publication. Inquiries will also be cheerfully answered.

It will be borne in mind that there are still supposed to be the descendants of many families who have not yet been discovered. Among them may be named descendants of Jared Lee, second, son of Amos of the Thomas branch, and a large number of the David branch.

To those who are not familiar with the proceedings of the gathering of 1884, and the family information published soon after, we would state that the edition of the work is nearly exhausted. A few copies only may be had by application to the secretary.

Many letters of regret were received, expressing much interest in the re-union and heartily wishing it a success, although the writers were unable to be present from various causes. Some from old age, others from ill health, business matters, expense, etc.

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