

**THE
HEART OF LEE**

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The Heart of Lee by Wayne Whipple

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WAYNE WHIPPLE

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By
WAYNE WHIPPLE

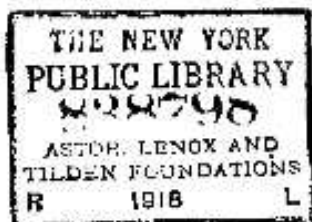
*Author of "The Story-Life of Washington,"
"The Heart of Lincoln," "The Heart of
Washington," etc.*



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THE HEART OF LEE

I

THE HEART OF CHIVALRY

Fair Land of Chivalry, the Old Do-
main! . . .
Yet hast thou scenes of beauty richly
fraught
With all that wakes the glow of lofty
thought.

—*Mrs. Hemans.*

INTO the great stone house at "Stratford" in Westmoreland, the Virginia county in which Washington was born, an infant came on the 19th of January, 1807. He appeared in no way different from nearly every other white baby boy born in the Old Dominion, but his antecedents and surroundings were unique—for an American child, at least.

"Stratford House," in whose spacious chambers this boy, named Robert

THE HEART OF LEE

Edward Lee, first saw the light, was a combination of mansion, palace, castle and stockade. Built with the thick stone walls of a fortress, it served as a sort of palatial block-house to protect its inmates—and all the people for many miles around, if sufficient warning were given—in case of attack.

The first house, named for the ancestral estate of the Lees in England, and built by Richard, the first Lee who emigrated to Virginia, had been burned to the ground. His grandson Thomas determined to build a mansion which would “endure unto many generations.” To help in doing this, Queen Caroline of England sent him, as to an absent knight, a handsome largess from her private purse. The Lees had been friends at the English court for five or six centuries. Here are a few of the noble names in the annals of chivalry:

Launcelot fought under William the