

**COLONEL JEREMIAH LEE,
PATRIOT. DEPRINTED FROM THE
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ADDITIONS**

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THOMAS AMORY LEE

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COL. JEREMIAH LEE.

From the portrait by Copley now owned by Thomas Amory Lee.

Colonel Jeremiah Lee, Patriot

By Thomas Amory Lee, A.M., LL.B.

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THE ANCESTRY OF COL. JEREMIAH LEE.

Col. Jeremiah Lee, "the illustrious patriot of the Revolution," was descended from Henry and Mary Lee, who settled in Manchester, Mass., in 1650. The ancestry of Henry Lee is unknown, but it is said that he came from Cheshire, England, and that he brought with him the coat of arms of the ancient family of Lee, of Lea or Dern Hall, Cheshire, of which Gen. Charles Lee, of the American Revolution, Sir Harry Lee, Knight of the Garter, and the various Earls of Litchfield (Quarrendon Lees) were members. The family tradition that Henry Lee was a cadet of the Lees of Lee Hall established itself very early in Massachusetts, and is substantiated by a number of circumstances, among them being the fact that various members of the family now own old coats of arms of that family, and also a parchment pedigree tracing the descent of the first Earl of Litchfield from Sir Walter Lee, of Lee Hall (*temp.* Edward III). If this be true, his line of descent from that family is not known, though it has been suggested that he might be the Henry Lee who was the third son of George Lee, of Highgate, Middlesex, who died in June, 1637, and was younger brother to Sir Henry Lee, the first Baronet, of Ditchley, Oxon, both being sons of Sir Robert Lee, Knight, of Huls-cote, Bucks. It has also been suggested that Henry Lee may have been the Dr. Henry Lee, who was a brother of Col. Richard Lee, of York County, Va., the ancestor of the Lees of Virginia.

Henry Lee died in Manchester, Mass., in 1675, after having served as town selectman, and after having been elected by the County Court as constable. He was survived by his wife, Mary, sons John, 1661-1744, a Justice of the Peace and prominent citizen, Samuel, of whom later, and Thomas, who took part in the Canadian Expedition of 1690, Capt. William Raymond's Company, and never returned, and daughters Hanna and Sarah. Deacon

Samuel Lee, 1667-1754, was a well known merchant of his time, owned slaves in 1690, owned the largest vessels of his town, among them the "Swallow" in 1692, was town clerk, 1725-38, selectman about fifteen years, one of the two first deacons of the first church of Manchester, 1716-1754, was a Justice of the Peace, and was called Samuel Leo, Esq., in the records. He married Rebecca Masters, daughter of Nathaniel and Ruth (Pickworth) Masters, and granddaughter of the "Worshipful Mr. John Masters" of Cambridge, 1639. Deacon Samuel Lee had nine children, including Lieut. Nathaniel Lee, an officer of the militia, and Justice Samuel Lee, who was the father of Col. Jeremiah Lee.

Justice Samuel Lee, 1693-1753, was a celebrated architect and builder, and one of the most prominent merchants of the Province of Massachusetts. He removed to Marblehead, Mass., about 1740, and in 1745 he is spoken of as "Justice Samuel Lee, Esq.", a "very wealthy merchant and owner of many warehouses". He held various town offices, such as town treasurer, town clerk and selectman, was a Justice of the Peace for many years, and in 1732 was appointed commissioner to make a report to the General Court in regard to the well known Dog Town or Gloucester dispute. He owned six houses in Manchester and Marblehead, many slaves and many ships, silver, at least two portraits, and a really good library for the time. He made a number of journeys abroad, and on one of them brought back the parchment pedigree previously referred to. He was one of the richest merchants of his day in the Province, and seems to have exerted a decided influence on the community around him. He married, first, 1712, Mary Tarring, daughter of General John and Abigail (Abbott) Tarring; second, Hannah (Negus) Swett, widow of Dr. Joseph Swett, Jr., of Marblehead. His will is a remarkable document. He directs that, after an inventory to be taken by five men, all his ships and shop goods shall be sold, that the partnership between "my son, Jeremiah Lee, and myself" is to be dissolved, and "my business debts in foreign lands to be paid with the utmost care before the division of my estate". He then leaves a legacy of £100 for a free school

in Manchester, directs that no mourning is to be paid for or escutcheons put on his coffin, and divides his estate, valued at £11,333, among his children.

Justice Lee had thirteen children, including Capt. Samuel Lee, 1714-1779, Justice of the Peace and prominent merchant, whose issue is now extinct in the male line; Col. John Lee, of whom later; Col. Jeremiah Lee, the subject of this sketch; David Lee, who was a student at Harvard from 1744 to 1747, in the class of 1748, and died before his graduation. He ran off without leave of the faculty to go to the siege of Louisburg, in 1745, and was fined and degraded by the faculty; and Abigail, who married Col. John Gallison, Esq., 1731-1786, a very prominent merchant and citizen of Marblehead, being a selectman, 1762, Justice of the Peace, 1766, Representative to the General Court, 1769, 1774 and 1775, and Colonel of the 5th Essex Regiment in 1772. The late Henry Hammond Gallison, artist, of Boston, was a descendant. By his second wife, Col. John Gallison was the grandfather of John Gallison, Harvard College, 1807, a noted lawyer; and of Charlotte, who married, 1794, Silvanus Gray, Esq., of Boston, nephew of the Hon. William Gray, Lieutenant Governor of Massachusetts. (See *The Gallison Family of Marblehead*, by Thomas Amory Lee.)

Col. John Lee, 1716-1789, elder brother of Col. Jeremiah Lee, was a very prominent merchant, owned many ships, five or six houses, a number of slaves, much silver, etc. He frequently held the town offices of clerk, selectman and moderator, "for many years was a representative to the Legislature, and one of the Municipal Magistrates of the county," and a Justice of the Peace for many years. He was chairman of the local committee of Inspection, 1774, of the committee to raise money to support the Minute Men, 1775, of the local committee of correspondence, 1775, of the delegates to the Essex County Convention, 1774 and 1776, was appointed in 1775 by the Provincial Congress to swear the soldiers in the county of Essex, was elected Colonel of the 6th Essex Regiment, January 27, 1775, marched to Salem to defend munitions of war from Col. Leslie, and also to the relief

of Beverly when the British sloop of war "Falcon" fired upon that town. He was a zealous patriot and took an active part in the perilous efforts which were made by citizens of Massachusetts to obtain a redress of wrongs they had endured as colonists of Great Britain. Col. Lee married, 1737, Joanna Raymond, 1715-1811, daughter of Captain Ebenezer and Joanna (Herrick) Raymond, granddaughter of Captain William Raymond, the Indian fighter, and of Captain Herrick, of Beverly. Col. Lee was the father of twelve children, including Captain John Lee, 1738-1812, who was a daring sailor of the Revolution, and was finally smuggled out of prison in England by Major General Lord Burgoyne, who had been befriended by Captain Lee's brother, Col. William Raymond Lee, when the latter was in command of the captured Burgoyne and his army; Joanna, who married, 1756, Captain Benjamin Kimball, Harvard, 1753, an officer of the Revolution; Mary, who married, first, Major Joshua Orne, Jr., Esq., 1747-1785, Harvard College, 1764, Justice of the Peace, deputy to the General Court, member of the Provincial Congress, 1775, chairman of the Committee of Correspondence, 1775 and 1776, a very prominent merchant and leading patriot of the Revolution, and married, second, Major Orne's half brother, Hon. Major General Azor Orne, Esq., of Marblehead, 1731-96, Justice of the Peace, Special Judge of Common Pleas, Deputy to the General Court, Councilor, and delegate to the Essex County Congress and the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, elected delegate to the old Continental Congress of 1774, member of the famous Committee of Safety and Supplies, Colonel of the Marblehead Regiment before the Revolution, and elected Second Major General of the Massachusetts Militia by the General Court of 1775; he was one of the most prominent patriots of the Revolution (See the Orne Family of Marblehead, by Thomas Amory Lee); Annis, who married Major John Pulling, Jr., of the Revolution, who hung the lanterns in Christ Church belfry for Col. Paul Revere's famous ride. Their granddaughter, Annis, married Rev. William Henry Furness, D. D., LL. D., father of Horace Howard Furness, Ph. D., L.H.D., LL. D., Litt. D., the great Shakespearian

scholar; Col. William Raymond Lee, of whom later; Betsy, who married the Rev. Daniel Johnston, Harvard College, 1767, one of the fighting chaplains of the Continental Army; Nabby, who married Captain Stephen Sewall, merchant of Marblehead and Boston, and close relative of Chief Justice Samuel Sewall, LL. D., and of the Hon. Jonathan Mitchell Sewall; Martha, who may have been engaged to Major General William Alexander, Lord Sterling, of the Continental Army, and who married, first, 1776, Captain Jeremiah Hibbert, of Marblehead, a noted sailor of the Revolution, and married, second, Major General John Fiske of Salem, a famous sailor of the Revolution, rich merchant, Major General of Militia, and member of the Committee of Safety (The late Frederick Ward Putnam, A. M., Sc. D., the distinguished scientist, was a descendant); Fanny, who married, first, Captain John Glover, Jr., of the Revolution, eldest son of Brig. Genl. John Glover, of the Continental Army, and who married, second, Elkanah Watson, Esq., of Freetown; Lucy, who married Col. Marston Watson, Esq., grandson of the "Honorable Col. Judge Benj. Marston, Esq.," an officer of the Revolution, a great merchant of Boston, and one of the first members of the Massachusetts Historical Society, father of the Rev. John Lee Watson, S. T. D., D. D.

Col. William Raymond Lee, 1745-1824, nephew of Col. Jeremiah Lee, was a well known merchant of Marblehead before the Revolution, in business with his uncle Jeremiah Lee, and later as the head of the firm of Will. R. Lee & Co., which did an immense business for that day. He formed an artillery company in 1775, was senior Captain of Glover's famous marine regiment, later Major, then Brigade Major, September 4, 1776, and was commissioned Colonel of Lee's Additional Regiment, January 1, 1777. He was personally in charge of the crossing of the Delaware, was chief in command of Lord Burgoyne and prisoners of his army, invented a new kind of cartridge box, and was recommended by the Continental Congress to General Washington, September 26, 1776, for the office of Adjutant General of the Continental Army. Col. Lee, however, declined the office. General Wash-