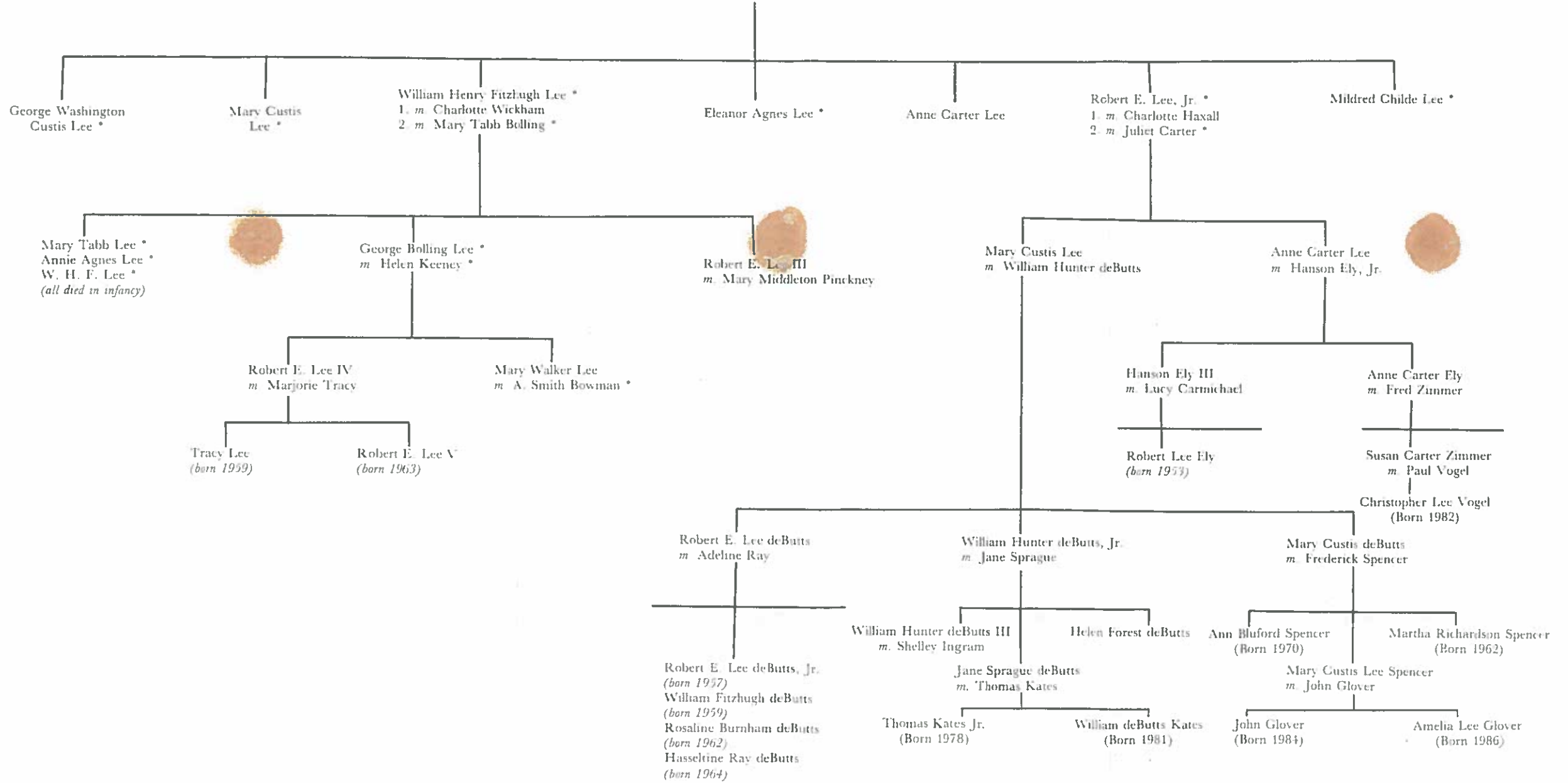


ROBERT EDWARD LEE *
 m. MARY ANNA RANDOLPH CUSTIS *



*Buried in Lee Family Crypt, Lee Chapel

WASHINGTON-LEE FAMILY CONNECTION

Besides giving their names to this university, there is a family connection between the Washingtons and the Lees. Martha Dandridge married Daniel Parke Custis when she was nineteen years old. They had two surviving children, John Parke and Martha. Widowed at the age of twenty-six in 1757, Martha married George Washington eighteen months later. Shortly after Martha's son died of camp fever at the siege of Yorktown, General Washington, having no children of his own, adopted John Parke Custis' two youngest children. The son, George Washington Parke Custis, married Mary Lee Fitzhugh. Their daughter, Mary Randolph, married Robert E. Lee at Arlington House in June 1831. In sum, there is a blood line through Martha Washington. Her grandson, the adopted son of George Washington, was the father-in-law of Robert E. Lee.

GENERAL LEE'S DEFINITION OF A GENTLEMAN

“The forbearing use of power does not only form a touchstone; but the manner in which an individual enjoys certain advantages over others, is a test of a true gentleman. The power which the strong have over the weak, the magistrate over the citizen, the employer over the employed, the educated over the unlettered, the experienced over the confiding, even the clever over the silly; the forbearing and inoffensive use of all this power or authority, or a total abstinence from it when the case admits it, will show the gentleman in a plain light. The gentleman does not needlessly and unnecessarily remind an offender of a wrong he may have committed against him. He cannot only forgive, he can forget; and he strives for that nobleness of self and mildness of character, which imparts sufficient strength to let the past be but the past. A true man of honor feels humbled himself when he cannot help humbling others.”

The original is in the Virginia Historical Museum, Richmond, Virginia

SOME QUOTES FROM GENERAL LEE

My experience of men has neither disposed me to think worse of them, or indisposed me to serve them; nor in spite of failures, which I lament, of errors which I now see and acknowledge; or of the present aspect of affairs; do I despair of the future. The truth is this. The march of Providence is so slow, and our desires so impatient; the work of progress is so immense and our means of aiding it so feeble; the life of humanity is so long & are thus discouraged. It is history that teaches us to hope.

My experience through life has convinced me that, while moderation and temperance in all things are commendable, abstinence from spirituous liquors is the best safeguard of morals and health.

It is well that war is so terrible—we should grow too fond of it.