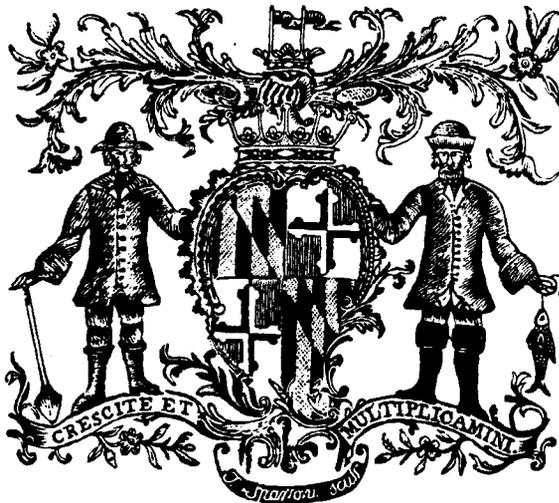


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LEE, THOMAS SIM (1745–1819). BORN: on October 29, 1745, either in Upper Marlboro, Prince George's County, where his father had a home, or at "Blenheim," his grandfather's estate in Charles County, which Thomas's father had recently inherited. NATIVE: third generation. RESIDED: probably spent his childhood in Upper Marlboro; except for two years in Bath, England, in 1769 and 1770, he spent his early adult years in Upper Marlboro or at "Melwood Park," Prince George's County, until he became governor in 1779; lived in Frederick County from 1784 until his second term as governor from 1792 until 1794; moved to Georgetown, D.C., in 1795, and finally back to Frederick County in 1811, where he lived until his death. FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER: Col. Thomas Lee (?–1749), son of *Philip Lee* (ca. 1681–1744) and wife Sarah Brooke, who was the widow of *William Dent* (ca. 1660–1704). STEPFATHER: Walter Smith of Calvert County. MOTHER: Christian (Christiana, Catherine) Sim (?–1762), daughter of Dr. Patrick Sim and wife Mary Brooke. ADDITIONAL COMMENT: Thomas's parents were first cousins. UNCLES: *Arthur Lee* (?–1760); *Richard Lee* (ca. 1707–1787); and *Francis Lee* (?–1749). HALF UNCLES: *Corbin Lee* (?–1774); *George Lee* (1736–1807). STEPUNCLE: *Nicholas Lewis Sewell* (ca. 1721–1800). HALF AUNT: Hannah Lee (ca. 1736–by 1781), who married second, *Joseph*

Sprigg (1736–1800). SISTER: Sarah Brooke (?–1811), who married first, Archibald Buchanan (1768–?), son of *George Buchanan* (ca. 1697–1750), and second, (first name unknown) Turnbull. HALF SISTER: Eleanor Addison Smith, who married by 1779 John Robert Hollyday, half brother of *Charles Ridgely* (1755–1824). FIRST COUSINS: *Patrick Sim Smith* (1749–ca. 1793); *Richard Potts* (1753–1808); Sarah Eleanor Potts, who married *Thomas Gantt, Jr.* (?–1808); Rebecca Potts, who married *Benjamin Mackall IV* (1745–by 1810); *Philip Thomas Lee* (1738–1778); Sarah Lettice Lee (?–1761), who married her first cousin *Philip Richard Fendall* (?–?); Hannah Lee (?–ca. 1763), who married *George Plater* (1735–1792); Alice Lee (?–1789), who married *John Weems* (1737–1813); and Sarah Fendall (ca. 1732–1793), who married ca. 1755 *Thomas Contee* (ca. 1729–1811). OTHER KINSHIP: great-grandfather, *Thomas Brooke* (ca. 1659–1730/31); great uncle, *Thomas Brooke* (1683–1744); great aunt, Priscilla Brooke, who married *Thomas Gantt* (?–1765). MARRIED on October 27, 1771, at "Melwood Park," Prince George's County, Mary (1745–1805), only child of Ignatius Digges (?–1785), a well-to-do landowner in Prince George's County, and wife Elizabeth Parnham Craycroft. Mary was the stepdaughter of Mary Carroll (1733–?); granddaughter of William Digges and wife Elinor Brooke; and stepgranddaughter of Daniel Carroll (?–1734), of Duddington Manor, Prince George's County. OTHER KINSHIP: great-grandfathers, *William Digges* (ca. 1650–1697); *Thomas Brooke* (1632–1676). CHILDREN. SONS: Ignatius (Nacy) Digges (?–ca. 1789), never married, who was educated in Liege, Flanders, and died before he could return to Maryland; Archibald (1778–1781); Archibald (Archey) (1781–1839), of Montgomery County, never married, who was the godson of John Carroll, first archbishop of Baltimore; Thomas, of Anne Arundel County, who married Eleanor, daughter of Richard Cromwell, and whose grandson was John Lee Carroll, governor of Maryland from 1876 to 1880; William, of Cecil County, who married Mary Holliday; and John (1788–1871), who was educated at Harvard College, and who was elected as a Democrat to the 18th U.S. Congress, 1823–1825. DAUGHTERS: Mary (Molly) Christian, who married Tench Ringgold of Louisiana; Elizabeth Digges (1783–1862), who married Outerbridge Horsey, a U.S. Senator from Delaware. PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION: completed preparatory studies, and may have been educated in Europe. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION: an

Anglican who converted to Catholicism after his marriage to a Catholic; in a premarital agreement, he promised his future father-in-law to educate his children as Catholics and to allow any slaves that his wife might bring to the marriage the freedom of Catholic worship. In his will, Lee left \$1,000 to build a "Roman Catholic Church in the vicinity of my farm Needwood," and \$1,000 to support said church (now St. Mary's Church, Petersville, Frederick County). **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Gent., by 1767; Esq., by 1786. **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** officeholder; planter; one of the directors of the Potomac Company in 1785, which was formed to open navigation on the Potomac River; land speculator in Georgetown, D.C., after his retirement from public office in 1794; developed an interest during his retirement years in agriculture and raising livestock, becoming a judge of sheep and fleece. **PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Conventions, Prince George's County, 4th, 1775, 5th, 1775, 9th, 1776 (election voided on August 15, 1776, because the freemen of Prince George's County illegally appointed election judges after the ones officially appointed failed to act); Lower House, Frederick County, 1787-1788 (elected, but did not attend; resigned on May 17, 1788); Senate, Western Shore, Term of 1791-1796: 1794 (elected on November 21, 1794, to fill vacancy; declined to serve on December 11, 1794). **OTHER STATE OFFICES:** Executive Council, 1777 (elected on March 26, 1777, to fill vacancy), 1777-1778, 1778-1779; governor, 1779-1782, 1792-1794, 1798 (elected on November 12, 1798; declined to accept on November 14, 1798); Maryland Senate elector, Frederick County, 1786; Constitution Ratification Convention, Frederick County, 1788. **LOCAL OFFICES:** clerk, Court of Oyer, Terminer, and Gaol Delivery, Prince George's County, 1766-1772; clerk, Prince George's County Court, 1767-1776; chairman of a large public meeting in Frederick Town on February 14, 1787, which passed resolutions opposing the emission of paper money by the State of Maryland. **MILITARY SERVICE:** organized a local militia unit in Prince George's County and served as its colonel at the beginning of the Revolution; continued as colonel of the Lower Battalion of Militia in Prince George's County until his election to the governor's Council. **OUT OF STATE SERVICE:** delegate, Continental Congress, 1782-1783 (elected in November 1782, but did not attend until March 1783); delegate, Federal Convention which framed the Constitution, 1787 (elected, but declined to serve); pres-

idential elector on the Federalist ticket of Washington and Adams, 1792. **STANDS ON PUBLIC/PRIVATE ISSUES:** his home in Georgetown, D.C., became the gathering place of leaders of the Federalist Party, 1795; manumitted a female slave and her children in Frederick County in 1818 so that she could be with her husband who was a slave in Washington, D.C.; manumitted 10 more slaves in his will; contributed to the founding of Georgetown Academy (later College); directed in his will that \$100.00 be distributed among the poor of the neighborhood. **WEALTH DURING LIFETIME. PERSONAL PROPERTY:** assessed value £610.0.0, including 29 slaves in Montgomery County, 1793; assessed value £1,370.0.0, including 51 slaves, 2 carpenters, and 174 oz. plate in Montgomery County and D.C., 1798; assessed value \$6,726.00 in Frederick County, 1815. **LAND AT FIRST ELECTION:** 1,835 acres in Prince George's and Frederick counties, plus a lot in Upper Marlboro containing a tobacco inspection house (purchased 395 acres in Prince George's County, which he probably leased out, and 1,440 acres in Frederick County, called the "Maryland tract"). He also purchased 2 parcels of land in Upper Marlboro which he sold before his election. **SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN LAND BETWEEN FIRST ELECTION AND DEATH:** sold the 395 acres in Prince George's County in 1776, and the lot in Upper Marlboro in 1779; purchased 2,141 acres in Frederick and Montgomery counties between 1776 and 1799, as well as 70 acres in Montgomery County jointly with four friends in 1787; acquired 91 acres in Charles County, date unknown, which he sold in 1802; his wife Mary inherited 953 acres in Charles and Prince George's counties, ca. 1785; sold 41 acres in Charles County in 1787; sold his remaining 912 acres in Prince George's County in 1802; sold at least 1,400 acres of the "Maryland tract" in individual lots beginning in 1786, but mostly from 1804 to 1811; by 1798 he had purchased at least 30 lots in Georgetown, D.C., as a speculative venture, and had doubled that number by 1819. **WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED:** on October 9, 1819, at "Needwood," his farm in Middletown Valley, Frederick County. He was buried at "Melwood Park" in Prince George's County, but was removed in 1888 to Mt. Carmel Roman Catholic Cemetery near Upper Marlboro. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** TEV, at least \$13,325.79 (including 109 slaves and books); FB, estate overpaid \$1,672.20. **LAND:** ca. 2,100 acres in Frederick and Montgomery counties, plus at least 61 lots in Georgetown, D.C.