

and

THE LEE MEMORIAL



A RECORD OF THE
CEREMONY OF THE
UNVEILING ~ THE
MEMORIAL STATUE
PRESENTED TO THE
CITY OF DALLAS BY
THE DALLAS SOUTHERN
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

PROPERTY PARK BOARD
CITY OF DALLAS



THE LEE MEMORIAL

DEDICATION OF

THE LEE MEMORIAL

AN HEROIC STATUE IN BRONZE
ERECTED IN LEE PARK
DALLAS, TEXAS

BY

THE DALLAS SOUTHERN
MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION

JUNE 12, 1936

Foreword

THIS heroic statue of General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate soldier, the product of the genius of A. Phimister Proctor, was unveiled by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in Lee Park, and presented to the City of Dallas, by the Dallas Southern Memorial Association, on June 12, 1936, in the presence of approximately twenty-five thousand spectators.

The memorial is in accordance with the object of the Association, which is, to honor the memory of those who served the Confederacy, and to preserve the traditions and history of the South. It is the hope of the Association that these inspiring figures will arouse the ambition in present and future generations of young men and women to emulate the virtues of the great American, Robert E. Lee, whose name continues to shine brighter on the pages of history, with the passing of the years.

Unveiling Ceremony

JUNE 12, 1936, AT 1:30 O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON

Mrs. Osce Goodwin

President Dallas Southern Memorial Association, Presiding

Concert--1:00 to 1:30 p. m. - - - - - 23rd Infantry Band
Conductor: Warrant Officer Muller

Invocation - - - - - Dr. Frank C. Brown
First Presbyterian Church, Dallas

Presentation of Monument to the City of Dallas - Mrs. Russell V. Rogers
Chairman Lee Memorial Committee

Unveiling of the Statue - - - - - Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt
President of the United States
Assisted by Robert E. Lee, IV

Address of Acceptance - - - - - Mr. George Sergeant
Mayor of Dallas

Introduction of Mr. A. Phimister Procter

Introduction of Dr. George Bolling Lee

Address - - - - - Honorable Jesse H. Jones
Chairman Reconstruction Finance Corporation
Introduced by Congressman Hatton W. Sumners

Music - - - - - 23rd Infantry Band

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Invocation

By Dr. Frank C. Brown

O God, our Help in ages past, our Hope for years to come, we invoke Thy blessing upon this company of people gathered to do honor to the memory of one who, as a great patriot, made a supreme sacrifice to serve his beloved Southland. We thank Thee that his greatest work was not in the destruction of men's lives and bloodshed, but in the development of the lives of young men and in Christian leadership.

Bless, we pray Thee, those within whose minds and hearts this beautiful memorial was conceived and their unselfish service in making it possible, and bless the one who shaped with his hands this work of art in the gift that God gave to him.

We plead Thy blessing upon our country, and that the faith and virtue of its past leadership and those who laid down their lives for a great cause may be enulated in our lives in the building up of a strong Christian nation.

God bless our President, who honors us with his presence today. We thank Thee that his God is the Lord and can guide and keep him in his vast responsibilities of this crisis.

Ascribing to Thee, O God, all honor and glory, we make our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen!

Introducing Mrs. Rogers

By Mrs. Osce Goodwin

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The Dallas Southern Memorial Association is very happy to have as our guests today the most distinguished citizens of our country, the President of the United States and the First Lady of the Land, the prominent officials from our national capital and from our state and city governments, and the many friends from our own Centennial city. To each of you we extend a most cordial welcome, and assure you of our pleasure in having you join us in honoring the memory of a great American.

We consider it an honor to have the President of our country assist in dedicating this memorial to a great Southern leader. It is my privilege to present to you now the chairman of the Lee Memorial Committee, whose enthusiastic and unselfish efforts have made possible the erection of this heroic memorial, Mrs. Russell Rogers.

Presentation Address

By Mrs. Russell V. Rogers,

Chairman, Lee Memorial Committee

Madame President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This day marks the fulfillment of a desire that has existed in the hearts of the members of the Dallas Southern Memorial Association for more than eight years.

During that time the members of the Lee Memorial Committee have worked unceasingly to bring about the culmination of this desire.

To the members of this committee I, as chairman, wish to extend my sincere gratitude, for their faithful devotion to the

task they set themselves to do; to the three hundred and fifty subscribers to the Lee Memorial Fund; to Mr. Mark Lemmon, who designed the beautiful base of the statue, and who has given freely of his time and talent toward its completion; to the members of the Dallas Park Board, Mr. Dan Sullivan, Mr. Harry Gordon, Mr. Robert T. Sheils, Mr. Martin Weiss and Mr. George Chestnut, who obtained Government funds that made the base possible; to Mr. A. L. Simpson, engineer; and to all others who contributed to the success of this day.

It has been our purpose as we worked towards this day of attainment, to perpetuate the memory of a great American, General Robert E. Lee, although we know that we cannot add to his honors, since history has placed his name so high in her annals that none can add to his fame, neither can any man detract therefrom. Perhaps a greater ideal than this, however, has been ours, during these years of labor, and that has been a desire to present to the City of Dallas a work of art that should, for many generations, hold before the eyes of the young men and women of this city a pattern of life toward which they might strive to mold their own lives. A pattern of life that emphasizes devotion to duty, service to one's fellow-man, and faith in a divine Providence—a pattern woven by the sixty-three years of the life of General Robert E. Lee.

It is with this hope that I, now, present to the City of Dallas this memorial, which will be unveiled by Honorable Franklin Delano Roosevelt, President of the United States of America, assisted by Robert E. Lee IV.

Unveiling Address by Franklin D. Roosevelt

President of the United States of America

I am happy to take part in the dedication of this memorial to General Robert E. Lee. All over the United States of America we recognize him as a great leader of men and a great general, but also all through the United States, I believe, that we recognize him as something even more important than that; we recognize Robert E. Lee as one of the greatest American Christians and one of our greatest American gentlemen.

The Unveiling

The unveiling and presentation ceremonies were graced by the presence of the following distinguished guests: Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mrs. Roosevelt; Dr. Bolling Lee of New York City, a grandson of General Lee; Robert E. Lee, IV., son of Dr. Bolling Lee; Honorable Jesse H. Jones, Chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, an honored citizen of Texas; Hon. Hatton W. Sumners, Congressman and a native son of Dallas County; Mr. A. Phimister Proctor and Mrs. Proctor; Mr. David W. Griffiths, producer of "The Birth of a Nation," and Mr. George Sergeant, Mayor of Dallas.

On the platform, at the base of the statue, were seated the members of the Lee Memorial Committee, officers of the Dallas Southern Memorial Association, members of the Dallas Park Board, members of the City Council and speakers on the program. Grouped about the steps of the platform were the children and grandchildren of members of the Association, the girls wearing pastel-colored colonial costumes and the boys wearing white linen suits. They were, Tommy Obenchain, Betty Turner, Mark Lemmon, George Lemmon, Martin M. Crane III, Mary Virginia Prehn, Adele Chambers, Fanito Chambers, Kenneth Foree, Ernest Tuck Foree, Robert L. Foree, Jr., Louis Touchstone, E. H. Witt, Francis Carrington, Henry Exall, Jr., Betty May Exall, Dorothy Exall, Phyllis Exall, C. W. Newman, Jr., Patsy Newman, W. H. Clark III, Doris Irion, Virginia Phelps, Bobbie Phelps, Denys Slater, Fred Brannon, William Humlong, Margaret Humlong, Annie Crain, Jules E. Schneider III, Betty Lander, Betty Long, Charles Proctor and Joann Proctor.

At the base of the statue six flags, representative of six periods of the history of Texas, were held by Boy Scouts. Young ladies dressed in costumes of the periods stood beside the flags.

Three flags, the American, the Confederate and the Lone Star, made entirely of flowers, were presented to the President in behalf of the Park Board by, Marguret Talbot, Amelia Cristol, Francis Gordon, Marguret Sullivan, Jane Etheidge, Mary Murphy, Rose Nell Copley, Elizabeth Cullam, Beulah Bishop, Paggy Nesbitt, Marguret Wells, Helen Grayson, Marie Harris, Johanna Cristol, Henriette Gordon, Sarah Catherine Anderson, Beronica Sullivan, Jane Sloan, Meryl Murphy, Natalie Sprague, Sybil Yonack, Ester Haftor, Maurine Morton, Mary Francis Knowles, Rena Mary Gunn and Mary Ann Collins.

On the arrival of President Franklin D. Roosevelt the band played "Hail to the Chief," and the ribbons of the veil that covered the statue were handed to the President by Robert E. Lee IV, great grandson of General Robert E. Lee, who also presented Mrs. Roosevelt with a bouquet of cape-jasmines.

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Address of Acceptance on Behalf of the
City of Dallas

By Mayor George Sergeant

Madame President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This magnificent monument to General Robert E. Lee, the greatest soldier of all times, is gratefully accepted by me in behalf of the citizens of the City of Dallas. It shall stand here on this busy corner of our city as a perpetual memorial to the character, valor and achievements of this matchless leader of our own Lost Cause.

Introducing Mr. Proctor, Sculptor

By Mrs. Russell V. Rogers

Madame President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It now becomes my privilege to introduce to you the one whose artistic talent is responsible for this beautifully executed memorial.

I wish to pay a tribute, not only to Mr. Proctor's great genius as an artist, but also to his character as a gentleman, and to his patient endurance with a committee inexperienced in the work it had undertaken to do.

It seems that Mr. Proctor has embodied in this memorial something of his own idealism of life.

The fine expression in the face of General Lee, and the look of adoration in the face of the young soldier indicate this.

As the years come and go, this memorial will stand, not only as a tribute to General Lee, but also as a tribute to a distinguished sculptor's conception of life.

It gives me much pleasure to present to you Mr. A. Phimister Proctor.

Address by A. Phimister Proctor

Madame President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since sculpture has been my life work and not words, I will not bore you with many words. To begin with, I want to pay a tribute to President Roosevelt for the great work he has done for art in the United States. He is the first President to recognize painting and sculpture on a large and comprehensive scale. It is a great compliment to the committee and the statue that the President has so graciously unveiled it.

The ladies of the Lee Memorial Committee deserve great credit, unless they made a mistake in the choice of the sculptor,

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for the heroic work they have done in carrying through this project under almost insurmountable difficulties.

Right here I want to compliment the architect of the pedestal, Mr. Lemmon, for the beautiful design he has given the statue. I also want to pay tribute to the Park Board of Dallas and City authorities for securing funds for the pedestal.

Since the Lee committee began negotiations with me for the statue, I have made a very intensive study of General Lee's life and character. In all my studies of the subject, my wife's help and encouragement have made it possible for me to carry on. After several months of thought by day as well as wakeful nights, the vision that I sought began to crystalize.

In all this time I have not been able to express in words the ideas I wanted to give "life" in my statue until a few days ago I read in a book by W. E. Woodward these lines (I quote): "General Lee believed that life had a purpose. To him duty was the sublimest word in the English language. One begins to think of him as not a person, but a force like God or electricity."

Address by Dr. George Bolling Lee

Introduced by Mrs. Russell V. Rogers

Madam President, Mrs. Rogers, Chairman of the Lee Memorial Committee of the Dallas Southern Memorial Association:

I wish to thank you for the invitation to myself, as grandson of General Robert E. Lee, my son as a great-grandson of General Robert E. Lee, my wife and my daughter, to attend these ceremonies on this auspicious occasion, and I regret that it was impossible for my wife and my daughter to be present, but my son and myself took a great pleasure in accepting your invitation to be here today.

I want to congratulate you on this beautiful statue of General Robert E. Lee. My son and I have taken part in many unveiling ceremonies in different parts of the country.

I can assure you that this handsome monument in bronze, is one of the greatest monuments that I have ever seen of General Robert E. Lee.

Moreover, so far as I know, this is the only monument of General Lee in which he is not the sole figure, with the exception of Stone Mountain Monument. That monument has not been completed yet. It is a very tremendous thing, including many Southern leaders and many soldiers.

The Lee Memorial Committee was very wise in choosing a soldier to accompany General Lee, as he was so often accompanied by soldiers in his campaigns in Virginia and elsewhere.

I want to read you a short letter from General Lee himself, and in this letter he will tell you, better than I can, his opinion of the Texans as soldiers, and if you will excuse me, I will give you, in General Lee's own words, his opinion of Texas soldiers:

"Headquarters Army of Virginia Near Martinsburgh,

September 21st, 1862.

General Louis T. Wigfall,

General:

I have not yet heard from you with regard to the new Texas Regiments which you promised to endeavor to raise for this army.

I need them very much. I rely upon those we have in all tight places, and fear I have to call upon them too often. They have fought grandly, nobly, and we must have more of them. Please make every possible exertion to get them in and send them onto me. You must help me in this matter; with a few more such regiments as those which Hood now has, as an example of daring and bravery, I could feel much more confidence in the result of the campaign.

Very respectfully yours,

R. E. LEE, General.

Official: C. S. VENABLE, Maj & A A G."

Introducing Congressman Hatton W. Sumners

By Mrs. Osce Goodwin

The speaker to be presented to you now needs no introduction, for he is widely known as the able representative of this district in Congress, as the Chairman of the important Judiciary Committee, as an outstanding constitutional lawyer, Mr. Hatton W. Sumners. He will introduce the principal speaker for the dedicatory exercises. Mr. Jesse Jones.

Introducing Honorable Jesse H. Jones

By Congressman Hatton W. Sumners

Madame President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are rapidly reaching a crisis when it will be determined whether the free institutions we cherish shall live or whether we shall go into a system such as some countries of Europe have gone into. One thing will determine it. If we are fit as a people to win through we will win. But no people unfit to govern shall win. It isn't written in the book of destiny that any but the greatest generation shall live through.

"I take great pleasure in presenting to this organization the Hon. Jesse Jones, Chairman of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation, who may be considered as the financial wizard of this Administration. He came into the picture at a time when the whole economic structure appeared to be tottering for the fall. Many things had to be done very quickly. He did them well. He had to do with the loaning of between ten and eleven billions of dollars, and it is my information from those in a position to know that the Federal Government will not lose on the total of these loans. He is to speak of General Lee and the crisis in which he served.

Address by Honorable Jesse H. Jones

*Madame Chairman, Members of the Lee Memorial Committee,
Mr. Sumners, Ladies and Gentlemen:*

First let me acknowledge the very flattering introduction of my life-long friend, your Congressman, Hatton Sumners. And I should like to add, that the President has no truer friend in the Congress than Hatton Sumners. And that we in Texas are deeply indebted to him for his timely assistance and strategy in preserving the three million dollar appropriation for our Centennial when a motion was offered on the floor of Congress to cut it in half. The Texas delegation, of which there is no more influential in Congress, chose Hatton Sumners to make the fight against this motion to cut our appropriation, and he did it successfully. And now, my friends, and particularly the members of the Lee Memorial Committee, let me say that no honor has ever come to me that has stimulated my sentiments, or aroused my Southern pride, as much as the privilege of taking part in this tribute to the South's great hero, Robert E. Lee, a man who, in the opinion of many world figures, was greater in defeat than most men are in victory.

Great orators, great poets and great writers have told of the genius, the simple virtues, the high sense of citizenship, the unselfish patriotism and the benevolence, of the great chieftain of the Confederacy. But no orator or poet or writer has ever overpraised Robert E. Lee, so outstanding was he in war and in peace.

So much has been said and written about Lee that there is nothing new to add. But, like the story of love, it grows sweeter with the telling, especially as the temples begin to gray.

We are honored to have the President of the United States unveil this memorial. His presence here means much to all of us, especially to these women of the Lee Memorial Committee, whose efforts have made this monument possible. We appreciate your performing this rite, Mr. President, join-

ing with us of the South in this tribute to our great hero.

We know something of your admiration for Lee, and for Sam Houston, with whom Lee, then a Colonel in the United States Army, was associated as commander of the United States forces at San Antonio, during Houston's last term as Governor of our State.

These two great characters had much the same views with reference to secession; both were strongly opposed to it and did everything within their power to prevent war. Lee especially abhorred the thought of civil strife. He loved the United States Army, of which he had been a part for thirty years, yet he felt his first allegiance was to his native State, Virginia.

Seventy-one years ago, after four long years of bitter conflict, over principles for which both sides were willing to spill their blood, and to give their lives, Lee offered his sword to General Grant, under the apple tree at Appomattox. Grant knew Lee's mettle better than anyone. He knew the great man that he was, and the great soldier, and refused to accept his sword.

The men of the two armies who had faced each other across bayonets, met and fraternized. Lee's thoughts were of his loyal and hungry soldiers. Grant thought of them, too. "Let them take their horses; they will need them for spring plowing," said Grant.

Grant also permitted Lee's officers to retain their side arms, and provided some of his men with rations.

Grant went on to the White House, Lee to his boys at Washington College, at a salary of fifteen hundred dollars a year, and this the college was sometimes unable to pay him promptly.

There Lee remained for the last five years of his life, and made of this college a leading university, with a national influence.

As we look back on the life of Lee, nothing in all his career is more revealing of his greatness than these last days of

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comparative poverty, in which he contributed so much to rehabilitation. Offer after offer he refused. For the very use of his name he declined a king's ransom. His labor still belonged to the people.

With noble restraint, amidst all the bitterness of the early reconstruction period, he labored to erase the scars of war and to rebuild the physical and spiritual South. Animosity toward his adversaries was foreign to his nature, and the young men under his tutelage were molded to the task of reconstructing a great nation.

We of the South believe, and in this we are supported by the writers of history, that by any measure Robert E. Lee was the equal of any leader, civil or military, the world has ever known.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he was the outstanding officer of the United States Army, and no other man was thought of as its Commander for the approaching conflict. But would Lee take it? The North wondered! The South wondered! Lincoln made the offer. Lee's friends and associates for thirty years were in the Army of the Union.

He had distinguished himself in every post of assignment since his graduation with honors from the United States Military Academy, where he led the Cadet Corps as Senior Cadet Officer, and to which he was to return later as Superintendent with such marked success.

He had been a gallant soldier in the Mexican War. He had added to his fame in repressing Indian outbreaks and by other military feats in Texas from 1856 to 1861. He commanded at least six military posts in Texas, and was ordered to Washington by the War Department in February, 1861, arriving there only a few days before Lincoln took office.

Lee acted promptly on Lincoln's offer. He would not draw the sword against his native Virginia. He refused the command of the Northern Army and resigned his commission on April 20, 1861. Soon thereafter he accepted the commission of

Commander-in-Chief of the military and naval forces of Virginia. He had no other course.

In the four terrible years that followed, Robert E. Lee rode high the tide of victory, and drank deep the dregs of defeat. But defeat could not dim his luster. It continues to grow brighter.

Lee has had many characterizations. One that I like was by Woodrow Wilson: "... a celebrated American general, a national character, who won his chief celebrity in the service of a section of the country, but who was not sectionalized by the service, is recognized now as a national hero; who was not rendered the less great because he bent his energies towards a purpose which many men conceived not to be national in its end."

Wilson also said of him: "... a man whom you remember, not as a man who loved war, but as a man moved by all the high impulses of gentle kindness. A man whom men did not fear, but loved; a man in whom everybody who approached him marked singular gentleness, singular sweetness, singular modesty,—none of the pomp of the soldier, but all the simplicity of the gentleman ... a gentleman who loved his fellowmen and sought to serve them by the power of love, and who yet, in serving them with the power of love, won the imperishable fame of a great soldier! A singular contradiction!"

Theodore Roosevelt said of him, "Lee will undoubtedly rank as, without any exception, the greatest of all the great captains that the English-speaking people have brought forth."

Lord Wolseley, the great British field marshal and writer of military histories, said of Lee, "He was the ablest general and, to me, seemed the greatest man I had ever conversed with."

From my office window in Washington I can look across the Potomac to the hills of Virginia and see a national shrine, second only in historic interest to Mount Vernon, the home

of George Washington, It is the famous old Lee Mansion in Arlington National Cemetery.

This old mansion, with its massive Doric portico and immense stone pillars dominating the Virginia hills, is visited by half a million people every year. It was in this home in the summer of 1831—five years before the Alamo and San Jacinto battles were fought—that Robert E. Lee married Mary Custis. And let it be said that no home was ever presided over by a kindlier or more gentle husband and father than was this Lee home. It was here thirty years later that Lee made his decision to go with the South. From these pleasant surroundings he plunged into the furnace of civil war.

When Congress voted funds to restore the Lee Mansion, the legislation carrying out this restoration included in part the following reference to Lee: "Whereas, the era of strife among the states has yielded to one of better understanding, and of a more perfect Union; and whereas, now, honor is accorded to Robert E. Lee as one of the great military leaders of history, whose exalted character, noble life, and eminent services are recognized and esteemed, and whose manly attributes of precept and example have been compelling factors in cementing the American people in bonds of patriotic devotion and action against common external enemies, . . . be it resolved, that the Secretary of War is directed to restore the Lee Mansion to the condition in which it existed immediately prior to the Civil War."

Today that home has been restored to such a home as it was when Southern chivalry and Southern hospitality found in it their highest development.

Seventy-one years have passed since Appomattox. Time has softened, if it has not entirely dissolved, the bitterness of that day. Issues that seemed big enough to divide a Union have disappeared. The boys who marched in the 60's have, for the most part, gone to the final bivouac. A gallant few of the Army of the South are now meeting in Shreveport. We

regret they cannot be present in person—we know they are here in spirit. Soon those remaining who followed Grant will have a reunion in Washington. . . .

I should like to see those remaining of the two armies meet here, together, before the final chapter is written, and there can be no more appropriate time or place than here in Dallas during our Centennial, upon the invitation of and as guests of our Centennial.

Today all sections claim a heritage of pride in Robert E. Lee. He was an American of the finest stock and of a nation which, although young, we like to feel is the leading nation of the world. We are glad there is no longer any North or South, nor East or West, insofar as the unity of our people rests.

The decision of Lee to go with the South, notwithstanding his position in the Army of the United States, clearly marks his character. He must have known better than anyone that the likelihood for success lay with the North. Expediency and chance of almost certain success, and the probability of later becoming the nation's first citizen, as did Grant, could not outweigh the fact that in the last analysis he belonged to Virginia and the South, and he knew it.

The luster of Robert E. Lee will shine brighter from generation to generation. He gave us an example of the noblest traits of man—righteousness, fidelity, gentleness, humility, and the courage to do what he conceived to be right. Long will live the memory of Robert E. Lee, and people everywhere join with you here in Dallas, you women of the Lee Memorial Committee, who, through a labor of love, have made possible this lasting manifestation of high regard for this noble character.

We lift our eyes to meet yours, Robert E. Lee, as you look down upon this gathering of your own people, assembled to pay you homage, and we consecrate ourselves to emulate your ideals.

LEE MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

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