

POTOMAC NEWS, Wednesday, February 19, 1975, C-8

Lees, Lees, Lees, Lees: who was the first one?

Some people are confused when it comes to the geneology of the Lee family.

Was it Henry, Richard Henry, Robert E. or "Light Horse Harry" Lee who lived on Freestone Point?

Local historian and descendant of the Lee family, Eleanor Lee Templeton, after noting that her book "Arlington Heritage" is actually a compilation of articles that appeared in the Northern Virginia Sun, took a stab at the journalistic style for complicating matters recently, while speaking to a group of county residents.

"Chopping (copy) and not looking where they're (editors) chopping," she said, caused an article entitled "The Lees from Jamestown to Arlington" to say Thomas Lee was born of a 76-year-old woman whose husband had been dead 20 years.

Also confusing is a case in which one Lee successively

married a Lee cousin from Maryland, then a wife of a widow of another Lee and finally Mary, sister of Light Horse Lee (who was born on Freestone Point).

"Why did Lees marry their cousins?" asked Mrs. Templeton. "Not that they thought they were superior to anybody else. They just found each other interesting."

Other tidbits of local history from Mrs. Templeton included one about a tavern where Centreville stands today that had two large beds that each slept five on the second floor.

George Washington often stayed there, she said, and once in his diary recorded a story about a traveler who "stood it as long as he could and finally at 4 a.m. woke the man sleeping next to him and asked him to remove his spurs."

Another was the story of Rose Peters' tombstone dated 1690 that was taken

from near Minnieville to the Rippon Lodge cemetery.

It reads "In memory of Rose Peters who departed this life. She is gone, oh she is gone to everlasting rest, O Christ our blessed savior who loves sinners best," according to Mrs. Templeton.

"Rose's sins are not specified," Mrs. Templeton said, "but there was a Rose Peters escorted out of Middlesex County in 1685 because of conduct offensive to her neighbors.

"Well it's pretty obvious what Rose Peters was," concluded Mrs. Templeton, "but somebody thought enough of her to carve her a lovely tombstone and when I was working on a book I searched the whole area (cemetery) and couldn't find a single tombstone to a virtuous wife that went back that far."

For ACTION classifieds
Phone 221-2116