Francis Lee Smith
March 16 1852
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Alexandria Va. March 16th 1852.

John Lee Esqr, of Frederick Md.

Dear Sir

The subject to which I propose, to refer in this letter, will I hope form a sufficient apology, for my writing you, without the pleasure of a formal acquaintance. You are I learn a member of the Legislature of Maryland & I therefore address you at Annapolis. I cannot better introduce what I have to say, than by telling you who I am. My great-grand mothers maiden name was Esther Lee. Her will you can readily refer to, in the office of the Register of wills, for Anne Arundel County, at Annapolis, in Liber W.T. No1. folio 711 &c. a copy of it is now before me. By her second husband, a Mr. Thompson, this Lady had two daughters, Alice Corbin, and Mary Lee. The former was married, to my grand father, Capt. John Hawkins, & the latter was married to Major Williams - both officers in the war of the Revolution. My grandfather at the time of his marriage, or shortly thereafter, removed from Charles or Prince George County Md. to this Town. and subsequently further into the interior of Virginia. My grand-parents left four daughters - the eldest of whom my mother was married to John A.W. Smith, of the County of Fauquier, in this State. My parents are dead many years since. I am by profession a practicing Lawyer in this Town. I beg you will excuse this personal history, but it seemed a necessary introduction to the point of this letter, which I now approach. For the last year, I have been under the impression, that my family

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