were nearly related to Capt: Philip Richard Francis Lee, a soldier in the Revolutionary war, and whose heirs, you are aware, are entitled to a tract, of very valuable land, in the Military bounty land district in Ohio. I have recently, by letter & personal application, had my attention called directly to this subject. and I write you, as I learn, that you have devoted much attention, to the investigation of the kinship of Philip Richard Francis Lee. & because I am strongly inclined to the opinion, that your family, & my own, are among his near blood relations. and that by some further perseverance these facts can be made to appear. Now his name does not appear in the will of my G. f. grandmother - the speaks of her brothers John - George - & Hanson &c and Thos: Lee Esq. (for: Lee I suppose of Md.) is one of the subscribing witnesses to her will. I have the evidence to prove who Philip Richard Francis Lee was - and where he lived - and I am in a course of correspondence, from which I expect to derive other valuable information. My impression is, that he was either the brother, or nephew of my f. grandmother. In a recent visit to Richmond, in looking into the evidence of the claim, I ascertained, that as late as the year 1845: warrants issued to Alice L. Hunt, Benjamin Carter, E. R. Carter, Elizabeth Dyson, and Sarah Fendall, as heirs of the late Philip R. F. Lee. for pastoral tracts of land. Most if not all of these parties, reside in Baltimore and I write by this mail, to Mr Carter (with whom I have a personal acquaintance) on the subject. The same evidence that established their kindship ought to have an important bearing on ours. The names in my mothers family, tend to impress me with the belief, that I may be connected with the parties named. as I had a sister called Alice Carter. The present claim for land is for a warrant of 4000. acres which issued as appears from the land books, in Washington, to Jo: Linn. in trust for the heirs of Philip Richard Francis Lee. Now you will perceive from the will of my f. grandmother. that her third husband was Col: Joseph Linn.

I have a very fine portrait of my f. grandmother which acquaintances, have remarked, as resembling some paintings at Carroll Hall.

I regret that I have no acquaintance at Annapolis, to whom I can refer, you for information as to myself. Should Robert I. Brent Esq. of Baltimore, a John Cousin Esq. be thereby at Annapolis, I beg leave to refer you to them - and should be glad to exchange views with you in reference to this valuable land claim.

Very respectfully
Your obt.
Francis Lee Smith

MdHS 1974 [1586-1092]