Col John Lee

Thomas Lee Smith
March 29, 1852
received April 6
Endorsed April

1655

Alexandria March 29th 1852

Col: John Lee

Dear Sir

Under cover herewith, I beg leave to have you, the extract from the will of Philip Lee, which you were kind enough to loan me, & for the use of which, I return you my thanks. If it would not too much increase my obligation, & your trouble, I would be much gratified to have copies of Mr Dawson papers - of Mr Campbells letter & the memo: made by you of the information derived from the lady in Georgetown. I think her name is Semples. If you will allow a copyist, who may be near you, to take copies of these papers, I will cheerfully pay his fee.

Since seeing you, I have more carefully considered the legal question connected with the land claim of Philip Richard Francis Lee. The transient impression, which I had expressed in conversation, at Dr Thomas's is entirely removed upon reflection. Under the English law of descents, upon the failure of issue the land passes equally, among collateral relations descending. Not the property goes to the collateral relations ascending. & I am satisfied, that by the principles governing the English law of descents, Richard Lee of Blenheim, was the heir at law of Philip Richard Francis Lee. But in this case, the first warrant was issued on the 21st of July 1784 to Richard Lee as at heir at law. He

MdHS 1974 [1591-1655]