

Christiansburg Institute Museum & Archives

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

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Collection Number:	2021.11
Title:	Lee Family Collection
Repository:	Christiansburg Institute Museum & Archives
Processed by:	Jenny Nehrt, CIMA curator
Physical Characteristics:	1 folder
Creator:	Debbie Sherman-Lee
Language:	English

Abstract

The Lee Family Collection contains materials related to the Lee Family.

Biographical / Historical Note

Leonard Lee was born in Radford, VA in 1935. He attended Fred Wygal Elementary School and Christiansburg Institute, graduating when he was fourteen years old. He enrolled in Virginia State College at 17 years old. He completed a year before enrolling in Navy basic training in Tennessee. He was named honorman for achieving the highest grade point average in his enlisted class.

Lee married Elizabeth Hill on August 22, 1965. They had one son, John Christopher Lee.

Lee served as a jet fighter and a jet combat flying instructor. Flying F4 Phantom fighter jets was one of the most sought-after yet dangerous positions in the Navy. Its combat radius exceeded 900 miles and reached maximum speeds of over Mach 2.

On November 18, 1967, Lee was sent to Vietnam as part of Fighter Squadron VF-114, AKA "Aardvarks." Lee and Radio Intercept Officer Lt. Jr. Grade Roger Innes went on a bomber mission in Nge, North Vietnam on December 27, 1968. The search and rescue mission failed. In 1999, the Vietnamese government returned Lee and Inne's remains and they were buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Collection Description

The Lee Family Collection contains materials related to the Lee Family including; objects from Christiansburg Institute, photographs, and a book.

Arrangement Description

The collection is arranged in original archival order by creator.

Related Materials

Smokehouse Collection. Christiansburg Institute Museum & Archives. Christiansburg, VA.

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Donated by Debbie Sherman-Lee.

Subject Headings

- Christiansburg Industrial Institute--History.
- African Americans--Education--Virginia--Christiansburg--History.
- African Americans--Virginia--Montgomery County--History.
- African Americans--Virginia--Montgomery County--Biography.
- Montgomery County (Va.)--Biography.
- African Americans--Virginia--Pulaski County--History

Using the Collection

ACCESS STATEMENT

Collection is open and available for use.

RIGHTS STATEMENT

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PREFERRED CITATION

[ITEM DESCRIPTION], [BOX], [FOLDER], Lee Family Collection, 2021.11, Christiansburg Institute Museum & Archives, Christiansburg Institute, Inc., Christiansburg, VA.

Collection Inventory

Christiansburg Institute Mail Keys, undated

(5) CI Cafeteria Tokens, undated

A Boys' Life of Booker T. Washington', Jackson, 1922

Leonard Murray Lee, CII alum, U.S. Navy, undated

Navy Commander Leonard Murray Lee, CII alum, 1955