

Washington and Lee University honored the memory of both great Virginians in deciding to open its doors to Negro students. General Lee is buried on the campus in Lexington, and the University still maintains the last office he used when he served as president of what was then Washington College. Something of Lee's spirit plainly survives in the University.

Before the Civil War, Robert E. Lee did not deceive himself about the nature of slavery. He regarded the peculiar institution as a "moral and political evil—a greater evil to the white race than to the black." In 1865, after he put his sword aside, Lee said, "I think it is the duty of every citizen in the present condition of the country to do all in his power to aid in the restoration of peace and harmony and in no way oppose the policy of the state or general government directed to that object."

So in contrast to Jefferson Davis—who remained an irreconcilable mourner of the lost cause—Lee gave his gifts to help build a new South. Until his death in 1870, he was president of Washington College. Certainly he would have applauded his school's decision to conform with American practice by dropping racial bars.

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Prof. Moger
brought this