

**Caroline Trumbull Isham Lee (Mrs. William Henry Lee)
1852-1897**

Listed among the founders of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Minnesota, Mrs. William H. Lee was Caroline Trumbull Isham Lee. Caroline was born on 12 August 1852, the daughter of Ralph Isham and Anne Hayward Trumbull Isham. Born in Connecticut, she had moved with her family to Brooklyn, NY by 1860, where her father was listed as a clerk in a bank. By 1880, they had moved to Kingston, New York.

On October 27, 1881, Caroline married William H. Lee, a Minneapolis banker, in Kingston, NY. William was born in Hartford, CT, grandson of the founder of a drug company there, but had moved to Minnesota with his family as a child. He began his career as a messenger boy for the National Exchange Bank in Minneapolis at age 15. He continued in banking and became teller at Hennepin County Savings Bank in 1889, and remained with the bank throughout his career.

Caroline and William had one child, Roger Isham Lee, born in 1882. Roger followed in his father's footsteps and became a bank teller and cashier.

Caroline's brother Henry H. Isham, President of the Marietta, Cleveland and Colchester Railroad and heir to significant landholdings in New Jersey, left Roger a large bequest upon his death in 1922.

By 1939, Roger no longer had an occupation listed. He, his wife Caro, son Roger and daughter Frances lived in the same house at 2310 Blaisdell that they had in 1920.

Caroline was one of the founders listed at the initial meeting of the NSCDA in the State of Minnesota, but died less than a year after that first meeting, at the age of 45. She was descended from Jonathan Trumbull, his second great granddaughter, through his son David, grandson John, and great granddaughter Anne. She is descended from Jonathan's second wife, Faith Robinson.

Colonial Ancestor

Jonathan Trumbull (1710-1785) was born in Lebanon, Connecticut, grandson of his immigrant ancestor John Trumble. He graduated from Harvard in 1727 and afterwards, studied for the ministry in Lebanon, CT. After his brother died at sea in 1732, he joined his father's mercantile business.



Figure 1 Hennepin County Savings Bank, 1890s
Courtesy Hennepin County Library

He was a delegate to the general assembly starting in 1733, and was speaker of the house in 1739-40. Jonathan served as deputy governor from 1766-69 and became Governor of Connecticut Colony upon the death of Governor Pitkin in 1769. He served as Governor for 17 years, facing reelection each year, and served during the transition of Connecticut from colony to state, becoming the only Governor of both a colony and a U.S. State.



Figure 2 Jonathan Trumbull Sr. portrait painted by son John Trumbull

He threw Connecticut's support behind the Patriots in the Revolutionary War, and was known to be a friend and advisor to George Washington.

He was the first and only Colonial governor to support the Revolutionary War. Jonathan died in 1785 in his hometown of Lebanon, Connecticut.



Figure 3 Faith Trumbull painted by son John Trumbull

His wife, Faith Robinson Trumbull, was known as a generous benefactor of Revolutionary Patriots as well. The DAR struck a medallion as a part of its "Great Women of the American Revolution" series. The medal commemorates a story in which she was so moved by a call to help soldiers during a church service that she removed the cloak she wore and placed it on the altar as a donation.



Figure 4 DAR Medallion struck in Faith's honor

Resources

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