proposed legislation. Jackson skillfully employed Presidential persuasion to bring appointments of friendly congressmen to committees and to whip wavering party members into line. As he campaigned against the BUS in 1832-33, Jackson claimed that only the Presidency was the true representative of the people. Finally he used the power of the Presidency to consolidate the party and to assert the President as the unchallenged party leader. With the end of the Bank War Jackson had transformed the character of the President from the prototype of a prime minister into an office of assertative leadership so necessary for the effective operation of democratic government.

This volume is indeed a fine study. The author vividly portrays the principals involved in the fight and superbly captures the drama of the struggle. He explains with considerable clarity the complexities of finance and politics. Though he essentially views the war from the cockpit of the White House, Remini has written a well-balanced and judicious account. Furthermore he supplies an extensive bibliography which includes the more recent scholarship. The Bank War will need no other history for some time.

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Dr. Oliver Perry Chitwood's contribution to West Virginia University's centennial in 1967, Richard Henry Lee: Statesman of the Revolution, bears the hallmark of a lifetime of study, teaching and writing on colonial history. A Virginian himself and a graduate of the College of William and Mary with a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University, he is now professor emeritus of history at West Virginia University.

Lee, the subject of this biography, might have written another "Gentle Art of Making Enemies," with his genius for turning his friends and their kinfolk into lifelong enemies. One might divide his life into three periods, his early political career in the Virginia House of Burgesses, his contributions through the Continental Congresses and the House of Burgesses to the Revolutionary War and his post-Revolutionary political career in the new Congress, all marred by quarrels.
Third of the six distinguished sons of Thomas Lee of Virginia, Richard Henry was born in 1733. At twelve, he studied in England at the academy immortalized by Oliver Goldsmith’s Vicar of Wakefield. His formal education, ended with his father’s death, was rounded out by European travel before return to Virginia. For the next four years after his arrival at the family’s beautiful “Stratford,” Richard Henry was given an opportunity granted too few men, four years to “loaf and invite his soul,” to read and think deeply before assuming adult responsibilities. Later he used the fruits of these free years in speeches that swayed men’s actions and decisions.

The years that followed his period of study were halcyon ones, saddened only by the death of his first wife, Anne Aylett, in 1768. A widower with four children, he married Mrs. Anne Pinckard, who had one child; there were five children to the second marriage. In his will he expressed his regard for these two women when he requested burial “between his dear wives.” It was during his early years of marriage at Stratford that he built his own home, “Chantilly.”

All six Lee brothers served in the Virginia Council. Richard Henry began his political career as a justice of the peace in Westmoreland County, a dignified office then charged with judicial duties and meeting with other justices once a month as a county court. Next step was to the House of Burgesses in 1758; to be a member was a high honor. Fellow Burgesses included George Mason, George Washington, Francis Lightfoot Lee and Thomas Ludwell Lee. Philip Ludwell Lee was a member of the Council.

Richard Henry Lee’s political career seemed well established until an occurrence that earned him the lifelong enmity of many patrician Virginians. While Lee was seated in the House of Burgesses, it was the duty of the popular speaker, John Robinson, to burn French and Indian war notes as they came in for redemption. Instead, he re-circulated the money by lending it to planters in financial straits. Lee, urged on by Patrick Henry, twice called for investigations; no irregularities were discovered. After Robinson’s death, there was a reported shortage of one hundred thousand pounds in loans. Lee’s enemies, resenting his campaign against a popular man, believed that now that the office of speaker and treasurer had been separated and a salary attached to the speakership, Lee wanted to be Speaker.

As time passed, Lee became increasingly outspoken against British policy. But in 1764 he made a serious mistake when without
much thought he briefly considered a collectorship of stamps as additional income, soon dropping the idea, to oppose the Stamp Act.

It was through the Stamp Act collectorship that he made enemies of George Mercer, fellow member of the Ohio Company. Mercer, in London to negotiate large grants of western land for the Ohio and the Mississippi Companies of Virginia, had accepted the stamp collectorship. In order to make a public example of Mercer, Lee self-righteously became the ringleader of a group that hanged Mercer in effigy in Montross on court day, and then published Mercer's "dying words" in the *Virginia Gazette*. Mercer on arrival in Virginia immediately renounced the stamp collectorship, but his father John and his brother James attacked Lee in the *Virginia Gazette*, exposing Lee's application for the position, and stating that George Mercer had been in Ireland when his friends had applied for and secured the position for him. Three more powerful enemies in Virginia, plus their friends and followers . . . .


September 5, 1774, saw the opening of the first Continental Congress with Lee a member. He held almost unbroken membership in both the House of Burgesses of Virginia and the Continental Congress, with periods of absence from the Congress to return to Virginia politics; he was especially interested in the defense of Virginia in such a way as to bolster over-all American military strategy and a sound organization of the new commonwealth. His main contribution in both bodies would seem to be his valuable service on committees, entailing endless paper work, meetings, reports to Congress; letters to generals, liaison work between General Washington and the Congress; correspondence with Americans at work in France; speeches (he was a polished, forceful orator), and pamphlets (he was an able, logical writer); and service on the Secret Committee of Six.

Probably the apogee of his career was his proposal to the Congress that "these united colonies are, and ought to be, free and independent states . . . ." But while the committee worked on the Declaration of Independence, Lee returned to attend the Virginia Convention "so as to take part in 'the formation of our new govern-
ment." By the time he reached Virginia, the Bill of Rights was a reality. Commented Dr. Chitwood: "If Lee ever harbored any deep regret over losing the authorship of America's best-known public document, he failed to reveal this in his extant correspondence."

In 1777 Lee was embroiled in another quarrel, this time with Silas Deane, when he offered the resolution for Deane's recall from France. Deane faced Congress in 1778, defending himself and belittling Arthur Lee. For a while Congress seemed almost to forget everything except the controversy. Deane brought his case to public attention in the Pennsylvania Packet on December 5, 1778, with an attack on four of the Lee brothers, Arthur, William, Francis Lightfoot, and Richard Henry. Now Richard Henry matched bitterness with bitterness. The controversy became "a virulent poison in the bloodstream of Congress . . . ." Unfortunately, people forgot the polished, charming Lee for the writer of vitriolic letters. Physically and spiritually depleted, Lee resigned from the Congress for a while, leaving his enemies unjustly accusing him of unfriendliness to France, only to return to the petty persecutions of his detractors in Virginia. Despite everything, he was very active in the Assembly, but he was not returned to Congress until 1784.

Both Patrick Henry and Richard Henry Lee declined membership in the Constitutional Convention in 1787; in fact, much to Washington's disgust, Lee's letters to influential friends had greater influence in Virginia than the Federalist papers, and his two pamphlets sold several thousand copies. Finally his opposition trickled away.

Lee was elected to the House of Delegates of Virginia in 1783, but 1784 found him still ill. "He had played a major role in the organization of the commonwealth government, but Virginia never made him governor." When he was returned to Congress in June 1784, the House elected him president on the twelfth ballot. No wonder his later political career was disappointing, for gout, colds, influenza, a carriage accident, and too much work over a stretch of years, had weakened him. The last big event in which he participated was the adoption of the Land Ordinance of 1785 and the governmental Ordinance of 1787. The tired, sick man died at "Chantilly" on June 14, 1794.

_Pittsburgh_ 

_Florence C. McLaughlin_