

**Cover Letter for Article Submission to HAUT Journal
by Brian Paul Kaess**

Hello,

November 10, 2025

I am pleased to submit my manuscript for consideration in HAUT Journal. My paper investigates the genealogical and historical ties between my Virginia ancestors and Confederate General Robert E. Lee (1807–1870). What was once thought to be a mere marital connection has proven to be a deeper kinship relationship, supported by evidence of personal encounters and familial networks during the American Civil War.

Through genealogical research, I demonstrate that several of my Virginia family members likely had direct contact with General Lee via hotel arrangements, friendships, and wartime interactions. Others may have crossed his path or received honorable mention during the conflict. These findings suggest that my ancestors' ties to Lee were not incidental, but rather part of a broader kith-and-kin relationship that shaped their historical experience.

Allow me to briefly introduce myself. I am a U.S. Disabled Veteran (10%) currently residing in Las Villas, Durango, Mexico, and a native of Chicago. I hold an A.S. in General Studies from Northern Virginia Community College and a B.A. cum laude in Philosophy from Northeastern Illinois University. My professional background includes work as a Clerk, High School Registrar, and ESL Instructor at Truman College, City Colleges of Chicago. I have also taught English in South Korea (Pusan and Ulsan), and served in both the U.S. Army and U.S. Marines, including duty in Cuba. As an ethnic German with language training in both German and Spanish, I bring an international perspective to my research. In addition, I am an amateur genealogist with a longstanding interest in tracing family histories and their intersections with major historical events.

I believe this paper will be of interest to HAUT Journal readers because it combines genealogical research with historical analysis, offering fresh insights into the personal networks surrounding one of America's most studied military figures. I respectfully request that you consider it for publication.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Brian Paul Kaess