



Rountree Family Papers (R0325)

Collection Number: R0325

Collection Title: Rountree Family Papers

Dates: circa 1819-1956

Creator: Rountree family

Abstract: The Rountree Family Papers contain photocopies of extracts from the diary of Joseph Rountree, 1819-1831, and the autobiography of William J. Rountree, circa 1910. There are also notes on the Rountree family by Frank Rountree, 1911-1912, Ruth Fowler Sherwood, 1947, and Joseph G. Rountree, 1956, with obituaries and birth-death records of family members.

Collection Size: 0.03 cubic foot
(1 folder)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at [The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla](#). If you would like more information, please contact us at rolla@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] *Rountree Family Papers* (R0325); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Rolla [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Rolla].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Springfield-Greene County Library District on November 10, 1987 (Accession No. RA0395).

Processed by: Processed by John Bradbury, August 26, 1988. Revised by Donovan Mefford, June 4, 2021.

Biographical Note:

The Roundtree family came to America from Northern Ireland about 1700. By 1800 family members were living in Virginia, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Joseph Roundtree was a native of North Carolina. He married Nancy Nichols there in 1806. In 1819 he moved to Maury County, Tennessee. He brought his large family to Greene County in southwestern Missouri in 1831, settling along Wilson's Creek where the town of Springfield grew up. Roundtree taught school at Springfield in the 1840s and was a justice of the peace and county court official during the 1850s. He was among the most prominent pioneers of Springfield, where he died in 1874. Joseph Roundtree's diary of travel from Tennessee to Missouri has been published, in part, in Fairbanks and Tuck, *Past and Present of Greene County, Missouri* (1915). Lucille Morris Upton cited the diary in newspaper articles on the history of Springfield.

William J. Roundtree began his autobiography in 1910 at the request of his son. William was a grandson of Joseph Roundtree by his fifth son, Almus Linnaeus Roundtree, and wife Delilah Mitchell. Almus was living in St. Louis in 1852 when he left for the California gold fields, never to return to Missouri. He left his son to be cared for by his grandfather. William spent the 1850s and 1860s in southwestern Missouri. His autobiography focuses on Greene County in its pioneer and Civil War periods. The memoirs provide many useful details concerning life on the frontier and during the war. William was too young for service in the armies until 1864, when he enlisted in the 16th Missouri Cavalry. He participated in operations against Sterling Price's Confederates in 1864 and the Plains Indians in 1865 before mustering out in October. William J. Roundtree was a resident of Lingle, Wyoming, when he died in 1934.

Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged in its original order.

Scope and Content Note:

These are extracts from the diary of Joseph Roundtree, 1819-1831, and the autobiography of William J. Roundtree, ca. 1910. There are also notes on the Roundtree family by Frank Roundtree, 1911-1912, Ruth Fowler Sherwood, 1947, and Joseph G. Roundtree, 1956, with obituaries and birth-death records of family members.

Joseph Roundtree (1782-1874) and his grandson, William J. Roundtree (1847-1934), are the primary authors and subjects of "The Roundtree Story" as presented in the family papers. The story was compiled by their descendant, Ruth Fowler Sherwood, in 1947 and was added to by later family members. The most useful portions of the story consist of accounts from the diary of Joseph Roundtree, 1819-1831, covering travel from North Carolina to Tennessee in 1819-1820, and from Tennessee to Missouri in 1830-1831.

The typescript included in the "Roundtree Story" contains some garbled chronology and misinterpreted names which will be obvious to most researchers.

The family story concludes with obituaries of William J. Roundtree, followed by vital records taken from a family bible. There are brief paragraphs written by William's son, Frank Roundtree, in 1911-1912, and information on the Texas branch of the Roundtree family, which was added to the story ca. 1956.

Container List:

Box 001 f. 1 Family papers, circa 1819-1956

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