

Rothrock:

Life

Legacy

Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock



Joseph Trimble Rothrock

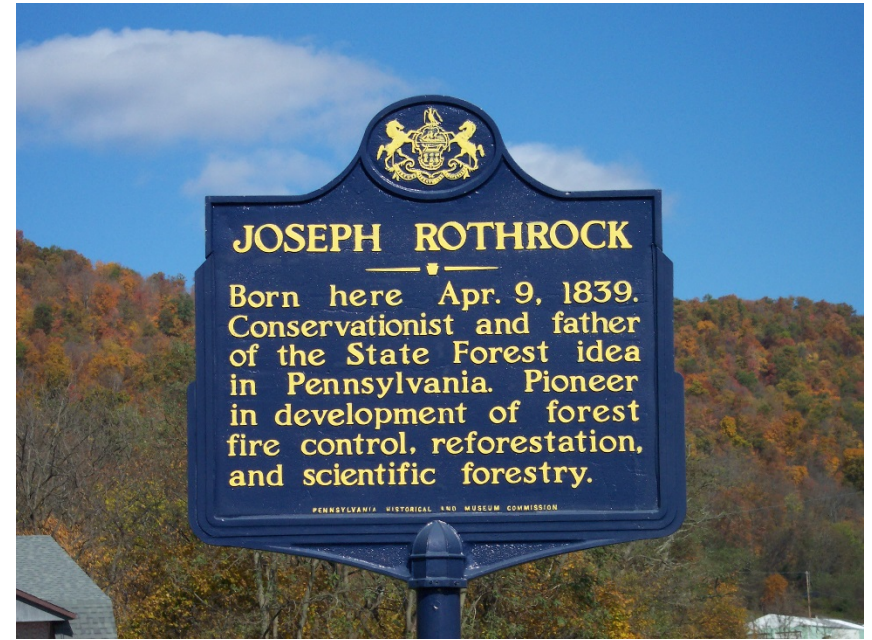
Born

April 9, 1839

The son of Dr. Abraham and Phoebe B Rothrock

McVeytown, Mifflin County, Pennsylvania

Native Pennsylvanian



Family



Married

Martha("Mattie") May

May 27, 1869

Five children:

Addison 1870

Henry (Harry) 1872

Howard [1874-77]

Elizabeth 1877

Martha May 1882

[died in infancy]

Education 1854-1868, 1880

Tuscarora Academy

Freeland Seminary (Ursinus College)

**Lawrence Scientific School, Harvard
University BS (1864)**

Asa Gray his major professor

University of Pennsylvania MD (1868)

University of Strassburg, 1880

Studies cryptogams with Anton DeBary

Civil War Interlude - 1862-1864



PATRIOT: SOLDIER

1862-1864

Enlisted as Private
Company D, 131st Regiment,
Pennsylvania Volunteers
Wounded at Antietam

Commissioned Captain
Company E, 20th Regiment,
Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry
Served in West Virginia

Post Civil War

1864

**Completes undergraduate degree at Harvard
Begins Medical School, University of
Pennsylvania**

Spirit of Adventure

1865-1866

- Botanist for the Collins Overland
Telegraph Expedition

Rothrock travels North into British Columbia

Flora of Alaska published as a Smithsonian Report

There is evidence his work was an important document influencing the Alaska purchase.

Pennsylvania
Agricultural
College (PSU)
1868-1869

Professor of
Human Anatomy,
Physiology,
Botany, and
Geology.

William A Buckhout
one of his students.



Joseph T. Rothrock, MD



Physician

1870 – 1872

**Practiced medicine in
Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania
Led effort to found hospital**

1873 – 1875

**Surgeon for Wheeler Expedition
West of 100th meridian**

1902

Began Mont Alto Sanatorium

Wheeler Survey

- 1872 Congress authorized an ambitious plan to map the portion of the United States west of the 100th Meridian.
- The main goal was topographic maps of the Southwest United States.
- “... note mineral resources, climate, geology, vegetation, water resources, and agricultural potential.”

Volume VI BOTANY

- “the most amazing task I ever undertook”
Rothrock was responsible for much of the writing and the catalog of over 1600 species: including 52 new species and 2 new distinct genera. All the species were described and classified by scientific name.

The report brought him international recognition as a man of science.

Nana Rothrockii

Rothrock's fiddleleaf



Professor of Botany University of Pennsylvania



- January, 1877
Rothrock notified of his appointment to the Auxiliary Faculty of Medicine.
- 1880 sabbatical with Prof Anton DeBary Strassburg, Germany

Forest Issues in Pennsylvania

SITUATION

1860 - early 1900's

**Pennsylvania tops in lumber production
2.3 billion board feet in 1899**

**“Cut out - Get out” lumbering
impacts several million acres**

**Repeated fires and erosion
devastate landscape**

Quest for Forest Conservation Begins

AGITATION

1877

**Rothrock begins Michaux Forestry Lectures
with support of prominent citizens of
Philadelphia and funding by American
Philosophical Society**

1886

**Pennsylvania Forestry Association chartered.
Rothrock first President.**

Dr. Joseph Trimble Rothrock's concern for the Forests of Pennsylvania began as one of many voices.

He became “*THE VOICE*” of forestry in Pennsylvania.

Legislation

Bills to create a permanent Forestry Commission twice fail.

Then,

In 1893 Legislature authorizes and funds the gathering of statistics after a major effort by Rothrock to gain support of legislators.

Governor Pattison names Rothrock the botanist and Col. A. Harvey Tyson the engineer of a two person commission.

Documentation

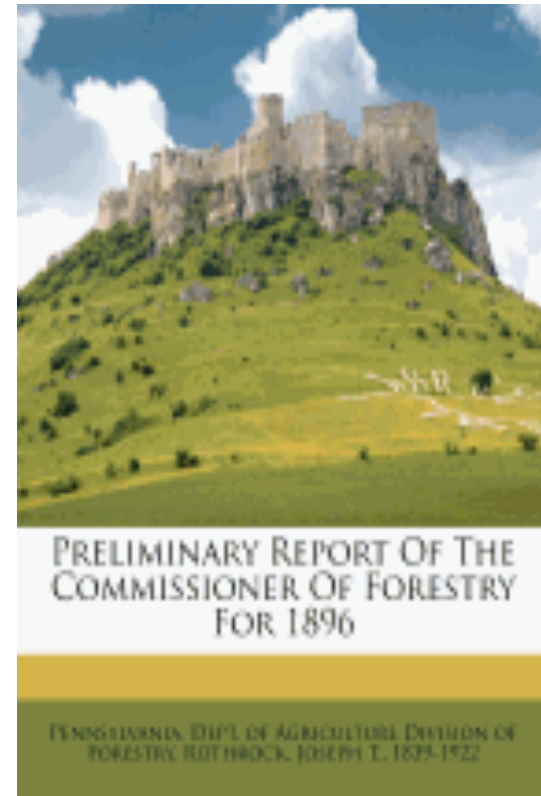
- Rothrock began the two-year task of visiting as much of the forest of northern and central Pennsylvania as time permitted.
- With his camera he documented the situation.



Report Findings

Rothrock was the principal author of a 361 page report with 44 full-page half tone illustrations depicting the forest devastation.

20,000 copies printed and circulated



Beginnings of Forest Policy

Three legislative acts follow the wide-spread public reception of the report findings:

- 1. An Act authorizing the creation of a permanent Commissioner of Forestry (1895)**
- 2. An Act to secure state forest reservation and provide for expenses thereof (1897)**
- 3. An act authorizing the purchase of unseated (uninhabited) land for the non-payment of taxes for the purpose of creating a state forest reservation (1897)**

Implementation

- **Rothrock appointed Commissioner of Forestry (1895-1904)**
- He served in that position consecutively for three governors .
- **Member Forestry Commission (1904-1913, 1917-1922)**



Administration

Land purchase:

**572,722 acres
acquired by 1902**

**750,000 acres by
1907**

1,130,000 by 1924

Fire Suppression:

**225,000 acres
burned 1896**

**44,495 acres
burned 1906**

**19,369 acres
burned 1907**

Preparing for the Future

Re-establish the forest

Train Foresters

1902

Established

Mont Alto Tree Nursery



State Forest Academy at Mont Alto

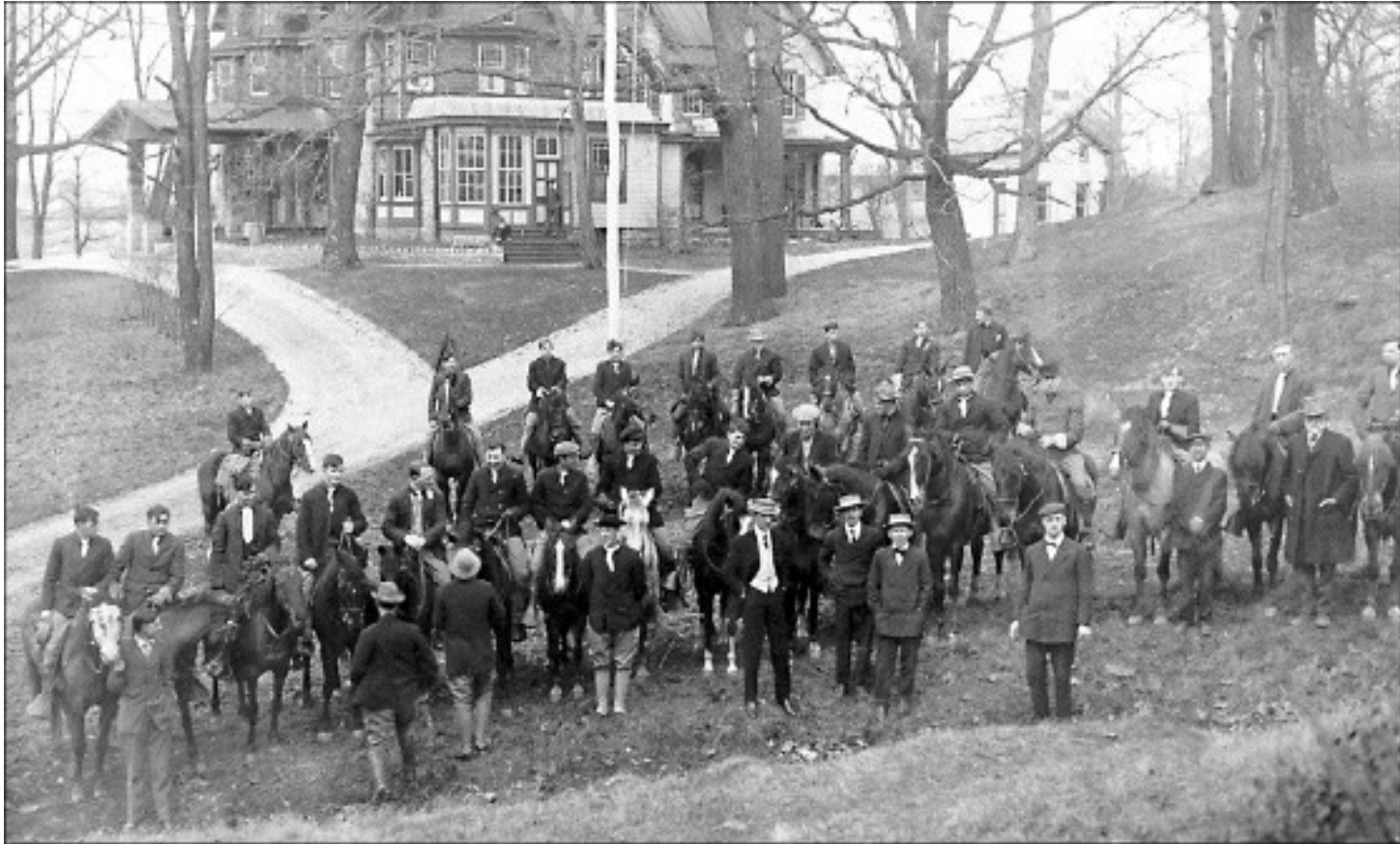
Mira Lloyd Dock



George H Wert



Mont Alto Students





RALPH ELWOOD BROCK
(1883-1959)

The first African American graduate of the Pennsylvania State Forest Academy here at Mont Alto and a member of the original class of 1906. A student & associate of Dr. J. T. Rothrock, Brock was Mont Alto State Forest Nursery superintendent until 1911 and then a successful consulting forester for public and private gardens and landscapes in New York City and Philadelphia.

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“end of the beginning”

Rothrock resigned as Commissioner of Forestry citing poor health in May, 1904. Robert Conklin was named his successor.

He continued many of his forestry interests and civic pursuits.

Rothrock died June 22, 1922 at West Chester

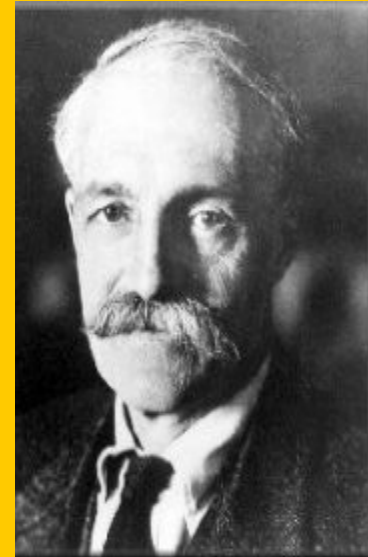
“Father of Forestry”

Legacy: something handed down from a predecessor.



Praise

- “for generations and generations the benefits which he (Rothrock) has conferred on his state will be reaped. . .”
 - Governor Gifford Pinchot, 1924



Walk down the Capitol Hallway toward the HOUSE Chamber

Along the hallway on the left side as you face the HOUSE CHAMBER you see a marble plaque dedicated in 1923 by the friends of Dr. Joseph T. Rothrock.



THE FATHER OF FORESTRY
IN PENNSYLVANIA



JOSEPH TRIMBLE ROTHROCK

1 8 3 9 : 1 9 2 2

PATRIOT: SOLDIER: PIONEER: FORESTER: BOTANIST: SPORTSMAN:
PHYSICIAN: EDUCATOR: AUTHOR: PUBLIC SERVANT: DISTINGUISHED
CITIZEN: LOVING HUSBAND AND FATHER: LEADER IN THE CONSER-
VATION OF OUR FORESTS AND STREAMS: B.S. LAWRENCE SCIENTIF-
IC SCHOOL HARVARD: M.D. UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA 1867:
FIRST STATE COMMISSIONER OF FORESTRY: MEMBER OF THE COM-
MISSION 1893 TO 1922: ONE OF THE FOUNDERS OF THE PENNSYL-
VANIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION: VICE PRESIDENT OF THE AMER-
ICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION: HONORARY MEMBER OF THE SO-
CIETY OF AMERICAN FORESTERS: FOUNDER OF THE STATE FOR-
EST ACADEMY AND OF THE MONT ALTO SANATORIUM: PROFESSOR
OF BOTANY AT PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE AND LATER AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA: MICHAUX LECTURER ON FORESTRY

HE EXEMPLIFIED THE TYPICAL TRAITS AND VIRTUES OF AMERICAN
MANHOOD: HE HAS LEFT US THE MEMORY AND EXAMPLE OF ONE WHO
EMBODIED IN HIS CHARACTER AND LIFE "WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE
TRUE: WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE HONEST: WHATSOEVER THINGS
ARE JUST: WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE PURE: WHATSOEVER THINGS
ARE LOVELY: WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE OF GOOD REPORT"

FROM HIS FRIENDS

This marble plaque
memorializes the numerous
contributions of the life of Dr.
Rothrock

PATRIOT: SOLDIER:

FORESTER: BOTANIST:

SCIENTIST: PROFESSOR:

PHYSICIAN: PUBLIC SERVANT:

LOVING HUSBAND AND FATHER:

FATHER OF FORESTRY IN PENNSYLVANIA

Continuing Recognition

The Joseph T. Rothrock Conservation Award



Continuing Influence





DR. JOSEPH T. ROTHROCK
1829 - 1902
BORN IN REYSTOWN
AC VIZ THE TOWNSHIP OF FORANOLD
IN PENNSYLVANIA
FOUNDER OF THE UNIVERSITY



The Crown Jewel

TODAY'S State Forest System of over 2 million acres under sustainable management.



FAMILY REMEMBRANCE

- He was “... a man of limitless energy and talent who lived life with intensity, but tempered his intensity with great kindness, humanity, and a sense of good humor.”

Joseph Trimble Rothrock III

This presentation prepared by
Joseph E. Barnard

Documentation and additional background
on Dr. Rothrock may be found in:

*FORESTRY PIONEER, The life of Joseph
Trimble Rothrock, by Eleanor Maass, 2003*