

Who was

**JOSEPH TRIMBLE
ROTHROCK**

?



The State Capitol in Harrisburg is a good place to begin our quest for answers



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

Five are appropriate to our discussion:

PATRIOT/SOULDIER

PIONEER/BOTANIST

SCIENTIST/PROFESSOR

PHYSICIAN

FATHER OF FOREST CONSERVATION

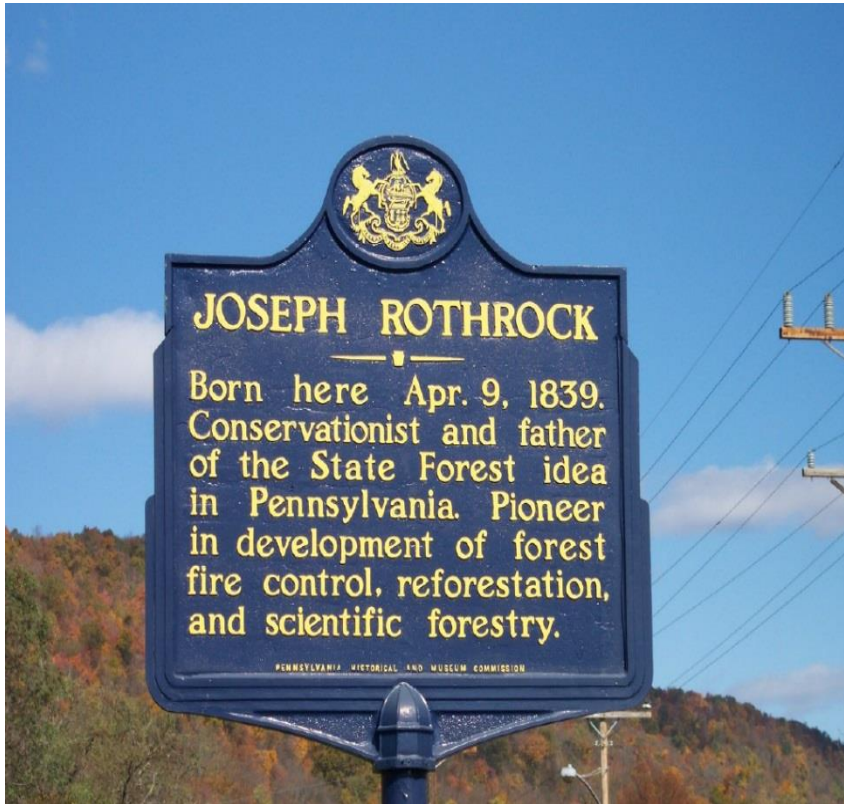
A native Pennsylvanian

The son of Dr. Abraham and Phoebe B.
ROTHROCK.

April 9, 1839

McVeytown, Mifflin County, PA

McVeytown



West Chester



Education 1854-1867, 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

PATRIOT/SOLDIER

1862-1864

Enlisted as Private

**Company D, 131st Regiment,
Pennsylvania Volunteers
Wounded at Fredericksburg**

Commissioned Captain

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

PIONEER/BOTANIST

1865 – 1866

Botanist for the Collins Overland Telegraph Expedition

***Flora of Alaska* published as a Smithsonian Report**

1873 – 1875

**Surgeon and Botanist for Wheeler Expedition
West of 100th Meridian**

- **Wheeler Report published by Smithsonian Institute**
Rothrock's plant collection and new species identification
recognized by international botanical community

Scientist/Professor

1868 – 1869

**Appointed Professor of Human Anatomy,
Physiology, Botany and Geology
at Pennsylvania Agricultural College (PSU)**

1877 – 1878

**Appointed Professor of Botany, Faculty of
Medicine, University of Pennsylvania**

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

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**

There were many voices expressing concern about the wide-spread destructive cutting of extensive areas of the forests in central and northern Pennsylvania.

Rothrock began to be one of those voices.

The Forest Land “skinned”



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.**

Legislation

After bills to create a permanent Forestry Commission twice fail

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

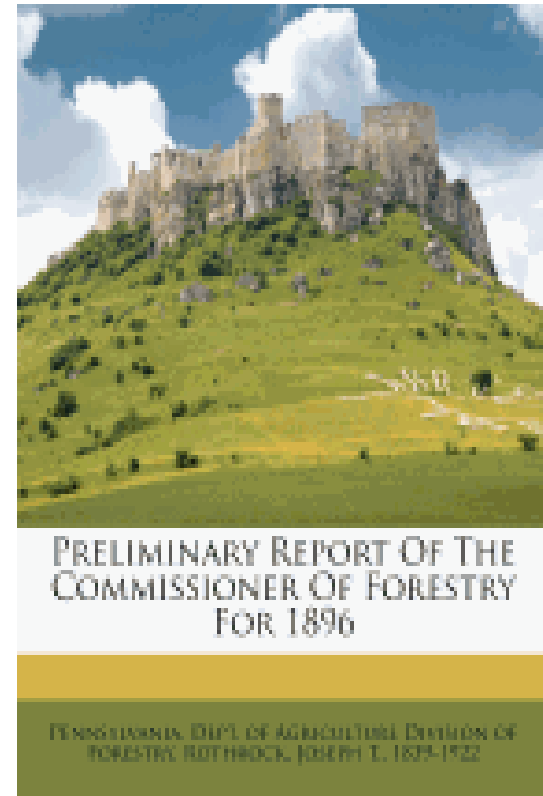
- Rothrock began the two-year task of visiting as much of the forest of northern and central Pennsylvania as time permitted.
- With his camera he documented the situation.



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)**
- **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



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.

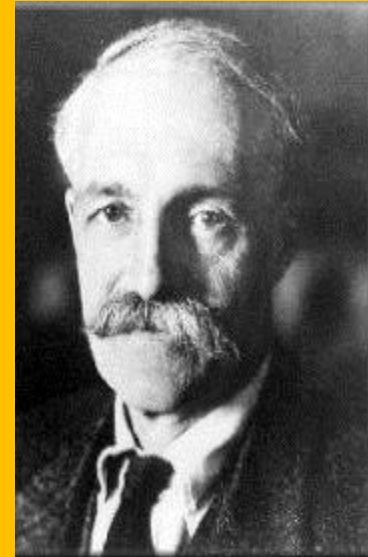
“Father of Forestry”

- Legacy: something that happened in the past or that comes from someone in the past.



Praise

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



Continuing Influence



Continuing Recognition

The Joseph T. Rothrock Conservation Award



The Crown Jewel

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



Answer to my question

- 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*