

C Acock, Robert E. (c. 1799-1861), Papers, 1838-1866
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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Robert E. Acock contain correspondence, a Polk County plat, and legal papers pertaining to the Acock and Robinson families of Polk County, Missouri.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Mr. Ralph Churchill on 15 June 1978 (Accession No. 2166).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Robert Eaton Acock, III was born in Warren County, North Carolina, around the year 1799. His grandfather moved the family to Todd County, Kentucky, where Robert's father, Robert Acock, Jr., served as sheriff of Todd County in 1823. The 1830 census shows Robert E. Acock living in Todd County as a farmer with his wife, Margaret Walker Ewing Acock, and three children. By the late 1830s, however, Acock, his wife, and his then four children, moved to Polk County, Missouri. Acock's wife, Margaret, passed away sometime after 1840.

By 1850 Acock owned 1,900 acres of land, the cash-value of his farm totaling \$9,000, plus livestock, and by 1860, he owned 2,900 acres. Acock was very involved with the agriculture in and around Polk County and in 1858 he helped form the Polk County Agricultural and Mechanical Society, in which he was quite an active participant and judge. Acock also loaned money to those in and around Polk County.

Acock quickly stepped into the field of Democratic politics in Polk County. He stood for election and won five times. He represented Polk County for four terms in the state legislature (1838, 1840, 1852, and 1854) and served as state senator from the 18th district in 1842 and 1844. Acock's main political issues were interest rates, representation in the house, and internal improvement. Because he lent money to those around him, he naturally focused on the discussion surrounding interest rates at the time. Acock served as an elected delegate to the 1845 constitutional convention as a representative of the convention's 23rd district. In the 1845 constitutional convention, the topic of representation in the house was heavily discussed with Acock falling on the side of representation by population.

In December 1845 constitutional convention, Acock contracted the "typhus fever." The fever took a major toll on his health, one from which he never quite recovered. He returned to the House of Representatives for Polk County in 1852, at which point the topic of discussion was the North Missouri Railroad Bill, signed 18 December 1852. Acock was of the opinion that the railroad would better benefit and improve the conditions of Southwest Missouri than it would the North, but his opinion was overridden and the railroad bill was established for St. Louis, Missouri.

By 1858 Acock's health was failing and he removed himself from active politics by May of that year. In June 1858, Acock, by then a widower of fifteen years, wed his

second wife, Lucy C. McCulloch of St. Clair County, Missouri. Together they had one daughter around 1860.

Acock returned to politics in 1860 by attending the April 9th Democratic State Convention in Jefferson City. He attended as an anti-Douglas member and was, once fractions were calmed, awarded presidency of the convention. By the next day, 10 April 1860, Acock, who remained in poor health after the 1845 convention, conceded his duties due to exhaustion. On 15 March 1861, Acock succumbed to his illness and age.

FOLDER LIST

- f. 1-2 Polk County Circuit Court records, 1838-1850
- f. 3 Polk County deed record, 1851
- f. 4 Correspondence, power of attorney, Polk County plat, 1854-1866

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